

Shadow and Act Digital Filmmaker Showcase

Official Rules

General:

The Shadow and Act Digital Filmmaker Showcase is a year round online film competition designed to (i) demonstrate the existence of filmmakers of color globally that are creating original, artistically inspired, culturally relevant work that could never come from the mainstream; (ii) create a year round platform for introducing audiences to the new body of work coming from this group; (iii) promote more interaction between filmmakers and viewers; (iv) highlight the use of the latest generation of HD cameras and (v) persuade viewers that digital streaming is a viable way of consuming high-quality cinematic content.

The Showcase season consists of six (6) qualifying rounds of sixty (60) days each and one final round. (except for the inaugural season, which will have five (5) qualifying rounds of various lengths and a final round). Start and end dates for each round of a season will be announced before that season begins. (except for the inaugural season, which will have varying start dates to accommodate the development of both the Shadow and Act platform on the Indie Wire platform and the Shadow and Act Films website)

A minimum of five (5) films must be submitted before a qualifying round can be initiated. If less than five films are submitted, they are carried over until the next qualifying round.

Description of Prizes /How to Win:

The winning entry of a qualifying round is awarded (i) a cash prize of US\$1,000, payable to the owner of the copyright of the film or his/her designee and (ii) automatic entry into the final round.

The winner of the final round receives an additional cash prize of US\$4,000. If two or more films are tied with the same number of votes in the final round, the winner will be the film that garnered the highest number of total votes during the season. In addition to naming a winner of the final round, there shall also be a special prize of \$1,000 awarded to the film, from those films that did not win a qualifying round, that received the highest number of total votes during the season (hereinafter referred to as the "Most Popular Film Award").

The winners of each qualifying round, final round and the Most Popular Film Award are based on voting by viewers. Viewers are allowed to vote once for a particular film in each qualifying round and in the final round. Viewers are allowed to vote for multiple films in each round when recording their votes. If two or more films are tied with the same number of votes in any qualifying round, the winner will be determined by a jury of three judges selected by Shadow and Act Films from among the contributors to the Shadow and Act blog on the IndieWire Network. The film selected by at least 2 of the aforementioned judges will be the winner of that round.

Winners of any qualifying or final round have a period of six (6) months from the date they are announced as winners to claim their prize(s). If prizes remain unclaimed after that period, the announced winners will be disqualified and the film with the next highest number of votes will be awarded the unclaimed prize.

Submission Guidelines:

There is no maximum number of films that can be submitted for a qualifying round, except that Shadow and Act Films, at its sole discretion, may impose a limit for a specific qualifying round and carry over excess entries to the next round. Individual filmmakers may not submit more than two (2) films per season and no more than one (1) film per qualifying round.

Qualifying films can be of any genre but must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible for submission:

- Must have running times of no longer than twenty (20) minutes, except that Shadow and Act Films, at its sole discretion, may accept a film with a longer running time in order to meet the five (5) film minimum to initiate a qualifying round.
- Must be shot and mastered in HD. (although exceptions may be made for films that, in the judgment of Shadow and Act Films, stand out artistically)
- Must have a protagonist of African descent or have themes that reflect the African Diaspora experience.
- Must not contain any pornography.
- Must be subtitled in English if it is shot in another language.
- Must have a copyright owner that is over eighteen (18) years of age.

Films financed by Shadow and Act Films, LLC, CEI Media Partners, LLC or any of their affiliates or by any future sponsors of the Showcase may not be submitted.

Submissions will be open from the date a season is announced until the deadline announced for the final qualifying round for that season (generally 5 business days before the beginning of the final qualifying round). Therefore, the qualifying round a film will be entered in will depend on the date of its submission. Films that do not win a qualifying round are automatically carried forward into the next qualifying round unless the copyright owner gives prior notice to Shadow and Act Films that he/she no longer wishes to participate in the Showcase.

There is no submission fee.

Films will be streamed exclusively on the Shadow and Act Films website during the first 10 days of a qualifying round. Thereafter, films may be syndicated to a network of affiliated websites and digital platforms to expand their potential audience and build a fan base for participating filmmakers.

Reserved Rights:

Notwithstanding the rules and submission guidelines summarized herein and in order to ensure a fair competition, maximize its investment in bandwidth and meet the objectives of the Shadow and Act Digital Filmmaker Showcase, Shadow and Act Films hereby reserves the following rights:

- The managing members of Shadow and Act Films shall have the right to reject any submission, if, in their judgment, the film does not meet a minimum standard of technical achievement, with such criteria being determined by the managing members in their sole discretion (this right to be referred to as the “Quality Control Clause”);
- The managing members of Shadow and Act Films shall have the right to reject any submission, if, in their judgment, the film is not artistically-inspired nor culturally relevant, with such criteria being determined by the managing members in their sole discretion;
- The managing members of Shadow and Act Films shall have the right to restrict the distribution of content to any website or digital platform if, in their sole judgment, such distribution is not consistent with the objectives of the Shadow and Act Digital Filmmaker Showcase;
- The managing members of Shadow and Act Films shall have the right, at its sole discretion, to impose a limit on the number of new entries that may compete for a specific qualifying round and arbitrarily chose which new entries are included in that round. In the event such right is invoked, those new entries not selected will be carried forward into the next qualifying round, or, if the right is invoked for the final qualifying round, such new entries will be carried forward into the next season. Films that have already competed in a qualifying round without winning shall not be subject to the invoking of this right.
- The managing members of Shadow and Act Films shall have the right, at its sole discretion, to temporarily suspend any round of the Shadow and Act Digital Filmmaker Showcase to resolve any technical problems that arise which affect the presentation of the participating films or the voting system used to select the winning films.
- The managing members of Shadow and Act Films shall have the right, at its sole discretion, to amend, delete or otherwise change the official rules of the Shadow and Act Digital Filmmaker Showcase at any time during any season for any reason. Please check this page periodically to make note of any changes.

The decision by the managing members of Shadow and Act Films after invoking any of these reserved rights shall be final and not be subject to any appeal, dispute, arbitration or adjudication.

How To Submit:

To submit a film, submitters should e-mail the following information to rodney@shadowandactfilms.com:

1. Title
2. Director’s name
3. Cast
4. Synopsis

5. Crew
6. Year of Production
7. Total running time
8. The format for your master
9. Name, address, phone number and e-mail address of the person submitting the film; please indicate the relationship to the film of the person submitting.

Upload the film to vimeo.com (or any other video sharing site that gives you the ability to control access to it) and send us the access info. (url and password) so that we can view the film to ensure it meets the submission criteria.

If the film is deemed acceptable by the managing members of Shadow and Act Films, submitters will be contacted to ascertain chain of title and sign a release acknowledging and agreeing to the grant of a non-exclusive license to digitally distribute the submitted film on the Shadow and Act Films' website and its network of affiliated websites and digital platforms. At that time, specs for the digital file we need to stream the film will be provided.

Contact Information:

For questions about these rules and any other matter concerning the Shadow and Act Digital Filmmaker Showcase, please contact:

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