



12TH EDITION OF THE BELIZE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL November 9th – 12th, 2017

RULES AND REGULATIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Organizers:

The Belize International Film Festival is organized by the Film and Media Arts Unit (FMAU) of the Institute of Creative Arts (ICA), a department within Belize's National Institute of Culture and History (NICH). Its International Advisory Board consists of Estrella Hendrickson, Head of Informatics & Communications, International Film and TV School (EICTV), San Antonio de Los Banos, Cuba, Manu Savani, President of Gala Global Inc., Denise Williams Watts, Head of Video Production Apple Music | iTunes at Apple Music and Cristina Venegas, Associate Professor, Department of Film and Media Studies, Interim Director Carsey-Wolf Center, University of California Santa Barbara. Key partners include the Belize Film Commission (BFC) and the Belize Audiovisual Industry Association (BAVIA). The Festival Director is Suzette Zayden, a Belizean filmmaker and the Coordinator of NICH's Film and Media Arts Unit at the Institute of Creative Arts.

2. Objectives:

The Belize International Film Festival aims to stimulate film and audio-visual production in

Belize and its surrounding region by:

a.) Showcasing international independent films that provide BIFF audiences with an insight into the cultural diversity and social realities of other countries. *We view this as essential to the promotion of tolerance and understanding of other cultures in an increasingly globalized world.*

b.) Producing an annual symposium that educates about the motivations behind the making of certain films, how films are crafted and how to get films distributed worldwide. During the 2-day symposium, Filmmakers with participating films and other specially invited industry professionals share personal experiences via master classes and/or panel discussions.

c.) Facilitating a Central America and Caribbean Film Market within the festival aimed at distributors or other festivals looking to pick up films from this region.

d.) Creating and nurturing film clubs in Belize year – round with a specific focus on high school and tertiary level institutions with the aim of inspiring a new generation of filmmakers. These clubs will screen films from the BIFF archives for educational purposes only and at no charge.

e.) Providing access to basic, intermediary and/or professional courses in filmmaking year-round courtesy of volunteer filmmakers who

contribute their time to this BIFF endeavour or via links with international film schools.

3. Funding:

Seed funding for each edition of the Belize International Film Festival comes from the National Institute of Culture and History, the cultural arm of the Government of Belize. The event is further assisted with cash and in kind donations from corporate sponsors and industry partners.

BIFF 2017

4. Dates and Venue:

The 12th Belize International Film Festival will take place on Nov. 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th, 2017 in Belize City. The Festival will officially open on Thursday Nov. 9th and close on Sunday, Nov. 12th 2017 in Belize City. Various preview events will be planned leading up to the Festival's official opening. Select films from BIFF 2017 will have encore screenings at no cost in community spaces across the country of Belize within one month after the official close of the festival. The Festival Headquarters is the FMAU office currently located at the NICH Admin Building, Cor. Regent St. and Rectory Lane, Belize City, Belize.

5. Film Categories:

Film entries to BIFF 2017 can be submitted in any of the following categories:

1. Feature Narrative (70 min +)
2. Short Film (15 min & under)
3. Feature Documentary (50 min +)
4. Short Documentary (30 min & under)
5. Music Video (5 min + under)

a) Any filmmaker from any country worldwide can compete in the first four categories: providing they meet eligibility and duration requirements.

b) Only Belizean filmmakers at home or in the Diaspora can submit work for the **Music Video Category**. The Music Video must be directed by a Belizean director for a Belizean artist and filmed in Belize.

6. Film Eligibility:

a.) To be eligible for competition, submitted film must have been produced or released between Jan. 1st, 2015 – April 30th, 2017. Films released before Jan. 1st 2015 may be selected as part of the Official Selection but will not be eligible for an award.

b.) All non-English films must be in their original language with English subtitles or dubbed in English.

c.) Previously entered films are not eligible.

d.) Exceptions to any of the above will be at the discretion of Festival Director only.

AWARDS/PRIZES

7. Film Awards Description

i) Best Feature Narrative

This Award recognizes the Best feature length narrative in Competition.

ii) Best Short Film

The Award recognizes the Best Short Film in Competition.

iii) Best Feature Documentary

The Award recognizes the Best feature length Documentary in Competition.

iv) Best Short Documentary

The Award recognizes the Best Short Documentary in Competition.

v) Best Music Video

This Award recognizes the Best Music Video by a Belizean director (*must be a national*) for a Belizean Artist. The video must have been shot in Belize.

vi) Best Environmental Film

This Award recognizes the best Film (Narrative or Doc) with a focus on the environment or climate change.

vii) Most Notable Belizean Film

This Award recognises a film within the Official Selection that shows originality, creativity and innovation and meets the following criteria:

- Where two of these positions are credited to Belizean national(s): (Director, Writer or Producer)
- Where 80% of the film has been filmed on location in Belize
- Where the storyline reflects a Belizean reality or experience.
- Where there is a significant Belizean presence (60%) in cast and crew.

NOTE: This Award is presented at the jury's discretion.

8. Prizes

a.) All films on the OFFICIAL SELECTION list will receive a certificate of participation;

b.) All Winning films receive a BIFF Conch Shell Trophy and a winner's certificate. (Duplicate certificates can be provided if there is more than one producer). Some awards may carry a cash prize from specific sponsors, but not all do.

TROPHY DESCRIPTION

The BIFF Conchshell Trophy is a hand-sculpted masterpiece in ziricote wood, a very rare and exotic tropical hardwood with unique grain lines that grows in Belize. The BIFF Award may not be reproduced or used in any commercial manner unless prior permission has been obtained from BIFF.

FILM SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Deadline: April 30th, 2017

9. Who Can Submit?

Only a film's authorized agent can submit a film to the Festival. A signed declaration indemnifying the Festival from any 3rd Party Claims is required on the entry form.

10. How Many Submissions?

More than one film from any one individual, company or organization can be submitted for consideration. Each film however, should be submitted separately accompanied by its own signed entry form.

11. Entry Fees?

No entry fees are required to submit to the 2017 Belize International Film Festival.

12. Formats?

Submission Format: We will only be accepting online submissions to the 2017 BIFF. If the film is not available via Vimeo or other means, please submit the film via dropbox or an alternative method in any of the following formats:

MPEG (.mpg, .mpeg, .mp4), AVI, Quicktime (.mov),

Screening Format:

Films selected as part of the Official Selection will be asked to resubmit a link to a downloadable hi-res HD version

of the film. (PREFERRED).
If there is no higher version available to send than the screener, please indicate if a Blue Ray Disc is also available. Though we may not require it, also indicate if a DCP is available on the entry form.

SUBMISSIONS CHECKLIST

13. What to Submit?

Send all submissions to info@belizefilmfestival.com

- a) Completed & signed Entry form.
- b) Link to film with password
- c) Link to film trailer
- d) Word document that contains
 - short synopsis (approx. 120 words)
 - director's bio (approx. 100 words)
- e) Hi Res movie poster
- f) Three (3) Hi res Photos or stills from the film
- g) Director's photo
- h) Any additional publicity materials if available

14. Publicity / Press

If publicity info submitted along with entry is lacking, Festival will be authorized to

- a.) select clips from participating films for promotional use.
- b.) use photos or posters of the film from the Internet or elsewhere either in place of or in addition to materials submitted.

c.) The festival will not be held responsible if any incorrect information is entered in any of its publicity materials or festival catalogue.

15. Shipping/Returns

- a) All materials submitted to the Festival are done so at the expense of the sender unless instructed otherwise by Festival.
- b) Festival does not accept COD shipments.
- c) Festival is not responsible for the return of any films delivered to the office unless arrangements were made in writing prior to submission
- d) BIFF will retain a copy of all films submitted for its archives.

THE PROGRAM

16. The Official Selection

- a.) A Selection committee approved by Festival Organizers chooses the Official Selection.
- b.) Preference will be given to films showcasing cultural diversity.
- c.) Only 2 films from any one country are usually selected in each category; however, exceptions may occur from time to time.
- d.) Festival organizers can and do invite select films to participate in any of the festival categories.
- e.) The OFFICIAL SELECTION list will be posted on the Festival website by the end of July, 2017.
- f.) Decisions of the selection committee are final.

17. Screening:

All films selected to participate in BIFF 2017 will be screened 2x. One time during the festival dates and the other in public spaces during the encore presentations scheduled to take place within one month after the official closing of the Festival on Nov. 13th, 2017. Opening Film may screen 3x.

18. Jury

An international jury invited by the Festival Organizers chooses the winners for the Film Awards.

f.) Winners will be announced during Closing Ceremonies on Sunday, November 12th, 2017. A list of the winners will be posted on the Festival website shortly after.

CONDITIONS

19. Conditions of Acceptance of Entry:

- a) Participation in the Belize International Film Festival implies acceptance of these rules and regulations by the producer or representative for films
- b) In cases of dispute of interpretation of the regulations of participation, Festival organizers have final say.
- c) Festival will not be held liable for any misprints in their printed materials.

For more information please refer to our Official sites:

www.belizefilmfestival.com

FaceBook: BELIZE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Email: info@belizefilmfestival.com

BELIZE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

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