



13TH EDITION OF THE BELIZE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

November 8th – 11th, 2018

RULES AND REGULATIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Organizers:

The **Belize International Film Festival (BelizeIFF)** 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, former Head of Informatics & Communications, International Film and TV School (ICTV), San Antonio de Los Banos, Cuba, Manu Savani, President of Gala Global Inc., Denise Williams Watts, Head of Video Production AppleMusic | 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 appreciation and production in Belize and its surrounding regions with the following actions:

- a) Showcase international independent films to give BelizeIFF audiences a window into the cultural 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) Encourage industry networking via an annual symposium held during the festival. *The symposium features jurors, specially invited guests and participating filmmakers who share personal experiences via master classes and/or panel discussions.*
- c) Partner with schools at secondary and tertiary levels for competitions, internships, lecture series, and a basic production workshop with the aim of inspiring a new generation of filmmakers.
- d) Conduct year round workshops geared towards developing the skills and marketability of industry workers to international levels so they can confidently compete in a growing film marketplace.

3. Funding:

Seed funding for each edition of **BelizeIFF** comes from the National Institute of Culture and History, a statutory body that is 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 2018

4. Dates and Venue:

The 13th Belize International Film Festival will officially open on Thursday Nov. 8th and close on Sunday, Nov. 11th, 2018 at the Bliss Centre for the Performing Arts in Belize City. Each film will screen 1x there and the second screening will take place at either of the following events:

- 1) **Media Launch** on Friday, Sept 14th, 2018,
- 2) **Preview Night** on Wednesday, Nov. 7th, 2018 or
- 3) **Encore presentations** to be held at various community spaces across the country of Belize within one month after the official close of the festival.

The administrative headquarters for the 2018 BelizeIFF Headquarters is the office of the Film and Media Arts Unit of ICA-NICH currently located at the NICH Admin Building, Cor. Regent St. and Rectory Lane, Belize City, Belize.

5. Film Categories:

Film entries to BIFF 2018 can be submitted in any of the following categories:

1. THE HUMAN CONDITION (Narratives 60 min + or Documentaries 50 min +)

Films focusing on the characteristics, events, and situations composing the essentials of human existence such as birth, growth, emotionality, aspirations, conflict, mortality, etc.

2. SHORTS

(Narratives 15 min & under)

We want to see great films, no matter the budget or genre. Only condition is to keep your film to 15 min or under.

3. GREEN GLOBE

(Any length narrative or documentary)

Films about environmental issues facing our planet that focus on bringing awareness or finding solution; climate change, sustainable living, human impacts of flora and fauna etc.

4. COLLECTIVE MEMORIES

(Any length narrative or documentary)

Films about events, places and people who have collectively shaped the history of the Caribbean, Central American and Mexico into what it is today.

5. *MUSIC VIDEO

(5 min & under)

Open only to music videos directed by a Belizean national for a Belizean musical artist and filmed on location in Belize. We are looking for music videos with a storyline that accurately reflects the message and mood of the song with a unique visual style.

*Note: All categories except **Music Video** is open to filmmakers from anywhere in the world, as long as they fit the category description and eligibility requirements.

6. Film Eligibility:

- To be eligible for competition, submitted film must have been produced or released between Jan. 1st, 2016 and May 31st, 2018. Films released before Jan. 1st, 2016 may be selected as part of the Official Selection but will not be eligible for an award.
- All non-English films must be in their original language with English subtitles.
- Previously selected films are not eligible.
- Exceptions to any of the above will be at the discretion of Festival Director only.

AWARDS/PRIZES

7. Certificates

- All films chosen to be a part of the OFFICIAL SELECTION will receive a certificate of participation.
- All winning films will receive a BIFF Conch Shell Trophy and a winner's certificate. Duplicate certificates can be provided upon request. 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.

8. Announcement of Winners

Winners will be announced during the Closing Ceremonies scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 11th, 2018 at which time trophies will be given to the producers of the BEST FILM in the following categories.

- THE HUMAN CONDITION
- SHORTS
- GREEN GLOBE
- COLLECTIVE MEMORIES
- MUSIC VIDEO

Additional Trophies will be given to the

vi) MOST NOTABLE BELIZEAN FILM

Presented at the discretion of the Jury, the Most Notable Belizean Film Award recognizes a film within the Official Selection that shows originality, creativity and innovation and meets the following criteria:

- Has a Belizean Director, Writer or Producer credited to the project.
- Has significant Belizean creative involvement in both cast and crew (51%+).

- Where 60% of the film was shot on location in Belize

vii) MUSIC IN FILM ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Presented by the Music Ambassador of Belize to a Belizean musical artist whose work has been featured prominently in the audiovisual industry of Belize.

FILM SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Deadline: May 31st, 2018

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 2018 Belize International Film Festival.

12. Formats?

Submission Format: We will only be accepting online submissions to the 2018 BIFF. If the film is not available via Vimeo or Youtube, please submit the film via drop box or an alternative method in any of the following formats:

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

Screening Format:

Films selected for the Official Selection will be asked to resubmit a link to a downloadable hi-res HD version of the film. (PREFERRED). If no higher version is available to send digitally other than the screener, please indicate if a Blue Ray Disc is also available.

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 with:
 - Short synopsis
(*approx. 120 words*)
 - Director's bio
(*approx. 100 words*)
- e) Three (3) Hi res Photos or stills from the film
- f) Director's photo
- g) Hi Res movie poster (300dpi)
- h) Any additional publicity materials available (EPK etc.)

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 announced at the Festival's Media Launch on Sept. 14th, 2018 and posted on Facebook and the Festival website immediately after.

- f.) Decisions of the Selection Committee are final.

17. Screening:

All films selected to participate in BIFF 2018 will be screened 2x. One time during the festival dates and the other either as preview or encore presentations scheduled to take place within one month after the official closing of the Festival on Nov. 11th, 2018. Any additional screenings will be cleared with the film rights owners first.

18. Jury

An international jury invited by the Festival Organizers chooses the winners for the Film Awards. Jury members change from year to year.

CONDITIONS

19. Conditions of Acceptance:

- 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: submissions@belizefilmfestival.com

BELIZE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
c /o National Institute of Culture and History (NICH)
Cor. Rectory Lane & Regent St., P.O. Box 1204, Belize City,
BELIZE, Central America
Tel: (501) 227-0811 (Ext. 226 or 227)