



14TH EDITION OF THE BELIZE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

November 6th – 10th, 2019

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 (EICTV), San Antonio de Los Baños, 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 Founder and Director is Suzette Zayden, a Belizean filmmaker and the Director of the Film and Media Arts Unit for the Institute of Creative Arts within NICH.

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 from around the globe to BelizeIFF audiences that create windows into the social

realities of these countries as well as highlight cultural similarities or differences. *We view this as essential to the promotion of tolerance and understanding of other cultures in an increasingly globalized world.*

b) Showcase new Caribbean and Central American films to our home audiences so they can be inspired with images of themselves on screen as well as to invited filmmakers, distributors and press to increase awareness of the growth of emerging Caribbean and Central American Cinemas. c) Facilitate transfer of knowledge between visiting filmmakers and festival attendees via Q & A sessions after film screenings, industry presentations, and panel discussions on best practices.

d) Encourage networking through targeted social activities during the festival. e) Inspire youth to consider film, digital media and animation as possible career options via presentations to schools as well as with school visits by visiting filmmakers. f) Conduct year-round workshops geared towards developing productions skills as well as increasing the quality of the Belizean and regional product to international levels in order to be able to compete confidently in the international 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 2019

4. Dates and Venue:

The 14th Belize International Film Festival will officially open on Wednesday, Nov. 6th and close on Sunday, Nov. 10th, 2019 at the Bliss Centre for the Performing Arts in Belize City (unless otherwise advised). Each film will screen 2x. Once during the dates of the Festival in Belize City and the second screening will take place either at the **BelizeIFF Preview Event** on Friday, Sept 13th, 2019 or during our **Encore Presentations** which are public screening events held at various community spaces across the country of Belize typically within one month after the official close of the festival.

The administrative headquarters for the 2019 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, Central America.

5. Film Categories:

BelizeIFF 2019 has 7 categories divided into two Competitive sections and one Non-Competitive. Anyone, anywhere can submit films in the International Competitive and Non-Competitive sections. The section labelled Competitive (Belize Only) are for Belizean productions but carry additional conditions that should be read before submitting (See Category Descriptions for additional conditions).

CATEGORY LIST

COMPETITIVE (International)

1. Feature Narrative (70 min +)
2. Short (15 min -)
3. Documentary (60 min + / 60 -)

COMPETITIVE (Belize Only)

4. Music Video (5 min -)
5. Branded Entertainment (1-10 min)

NON-COMPETITIVE SHOWCASE

6. Green Globe (Environment)
7. Animation (Children)

CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS

1. Feature Narrative (70 min +)

Films that embrace the human condition, spirit and all stages of life. Comedy and drama that highlight cultural interaction preferred.

2. Short (15 min or less)

We want to see great narrative films, no matter the budget or genre, as long as its 15 min or under.

3. Documentary (60 min + or -)

Films about events, places and people who have collectively shaped the world into what it is today. Films from or about the Caribbean, Central America and Mexico especially welcomed

4. Music Video (5 min & under)

Music videos with a storyline that accurately reflects the message and mood of the song with a unique visual style. Conditions: Directed by a Belizean national, Artist must be a Belizean national and the video must have been filmed entirely on location in Belize.

5. Branded Entertainment

(1-10 min) A new category open to creative Belizean productions made for specific market brands. Conditions: Filmed entirely on location in Belize and demonstrate exceptional production and post production skills.

6. Green Globe

(Any length narrative or documentary)

Film showcase about environmental / climate change issues facing our planet. Preference is for films that focus on bringing awareness, and/ or finding solutions for sustainable living preferred.

7. Animation (Any length)

Film showcase of kid friendly animation films from around the globe meant to inspire a new generation of digital filmmakers.

FILM SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Deadline: May 31st, 2019

6. Entry Fees

No entry fees are required to submit to the 2019 Belize International Film Festival.

7. 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.

8. Film Eligibility:

a) To be eligible for competition, submitted film must have been produced or released between Jan. 1st, 2017 and May 31st, 2019. Films released before Jan. 1st, 2017 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 selected films are not eligible.

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

9. 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. You cannot re-submit a film that had already been chosen as part of the Official Selection for a previous year.

10. Screening Fees

BelizeIFF is a BIG small festival with limited fiscal resources. We do not typically pay screening fees. If your film is being submitted with the expectation of a screening fee if selected, please advise of this when submitting entry form as this will be taken into account by selection committee and most definitely affect your chances of becoming a part of the Official Selection.

11. Formats

Submission Format: Only emailed submissions will be accepted for 2019 BelizeIFF. If the film is not available via Vimeo or Youtube, please submit the film via drop box or an alternative digital delivery 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. This is our preferred screening format. If this is not possible please indicate if a Blue Ray Disc is also available. We are not able to accept DCP at this time.

THE OFFICIAL SELECTION

12. 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 list of films making up the Official Selection will be announced to Press by the end of September 2019 and listed after on the Festival website www.belizefilmfestival.com and Facebook @BelizeIFF after.

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

13. Screening:

All films selected to participate in BelizeIFF 2019 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. 10th, 2019. Any additional screenings will be cleared with the film rights owners first.

14. Jury

An international Jury of 3 chooses the winners for the Film Awards in the Competitive Sections with one Music Video Juror who works with the Festival Music Video Advisor. The Jury members are typically chosen to represent North America/Europe, Caribbean and Latin American. They are usually different from year to year but repeats may occur on occasion.

CERTIFICATES/ AWARDS / PRIZES

15. Certificates/Awards/Prizes

a) All films chosen to be a part of the BelizeIFF 2019 Official Selection will receive a digital OFFICIAL SELECTION garland, a certificate of participation and a copy of the Festival Catalogue listing the film.

b.) All winning films will additionally receive a digital BEST FILM garland, a winner's certificate and the famous BelizeIFF Conch Shell Trophy. Some categories may carry additional awards from specific sponsors but not all do. Additional awards will be announced closer to the Festival Date or at the Closing Awards Ceremony.

Trophy Description

The BelizeIFF Conch Shell 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 BelizeIFF Award may not be reproduced or used in any commercial manner unless prior permission has been obtained from BelizeIFF.

16. Winners

Winners will be announced during the Closing Ceremonies

scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 10th, 2019 at which time trophies, certificates and any other awards will be given to the producers of the BEST FILM in the following categories.

1. **Best Narrative Film**
2. **Best Short Film**
3. **Best Feature Documentary**
4. **Best Short/Medium Documentary**
5. **Best Music Video**
6. **Best Branded Entertainment Film**

Additional Trophy to be presented at the discretion of Jury and Festival organizers can include but not limited to:

7. Most Notable Belizean Film

The Most Notable Belizean Film Award recognizes a film within the Official Selection that show originality, creativity and innovation. This award is not obligatory and is presented at the discretion of the Jury only. To be considered the film must meet the following 3 criteria:

1. **Either a Belizean Director, Writer or Producer credited to the project.**
2. **Significant Belizean creative involvement in both cast and crew (51%+).**
3. **At least 60% of the work filmed on location in Belize.**

SUBMISSIONS CHECKLIST

17. What to Submit?

- Email the following items to submissions@belizefilmfestival.com
- 1) Completed & signed entry form.
 - 2) Link to film with password
 - 3) Link to film trailer.
 - 4) Short synopsis
(*approx 120 words*)
 - 5) Three (3) Hi Res Photos or stills from the film
 - 6) Hi Res movie poster (300dpi)
 - 7) Director's photo
 - 8) Director's bio
(*approx 100 words*)

9) Any additional publicity materials available (EPK etc.)

18. 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.

19. 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) BelizeIFF will retain a copy of all films submitted for its archives.

CONDITIONS

20. 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 or email us

www.belizefilmfestival.com

Facebook: BELIZE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Email: submissions@belizefilmfestival.com

BELIZE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

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