



# 15<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF THE BELIZE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL November 5<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### 1. Organizers:

The 2021 Belize International Film Festival (BelizeIFF) is organized by the Office of the Belize Film Commissioner and Fer De Lance Productions. Its International Advisory Board consists of Estrella Hendrickson, former Head of Informatics & Communications, International Film and TV School (EICTV), San Antonio de Los Banos, Cuba, Denise Williams Watts, Head of Editorial Video Content at Apple Music, Cristina Venegas, Associate Professor, Department of Film and Media Studies, University of California Santa Barbara. Albert Xavier, Independent filmmaker and Producer / Creative Director at infinity filmworks. Industry partner is the Belize Audiovisual Industry Association (BAVIA). The Festival Founder and Director is Belizean film producer, Suzette Zayden.

#### 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:

Funding for the BelizeIFF comes from cash and in-kind donations from local and international corporate sponsors and industry partners.

### BIFF 2021

#### 4. Dates and Venue:

Due to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, the 15th Belize International Film Festival will be an online event that will open on Friday, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> and close on Sunday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The Official Selection will be divided into 10 programs, each of which will be available to the audience for 24 hours each.

#### 5. Film Categories:

BelizeIFF 2021 has 6 competitive categories All categories are open to international films except for the Music Video Category which is for Belize only.

#### CATEGORY LIST

##### COMPETITIVE (International)

1. Feature Narrative (70 min +)
2. Feature Documentary (50 min +)
3. Shorts (15 min -)
4. Short Documentary (30 min -)
5. Animated Shorts (15 min -)

##### COMPETITIVE (Belize Only)

6. Music Video (5 min -)

#### 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. Feature Documentary (50 min +)

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

##### 3. Shorts (15 min or less)

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

##### 4. Short Documentary (30 min -)

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

##### 5. Animated Shorts

We welcome all animated films, whether traditional or computer-

generated (CGI) from around the globe meant to inspire a new generation of digital filmmakers.

#### **6. Music Video (5 min or less)**

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.

### **FILM SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

**Deadline: Sept. 25, 2021**

#### **6. Entry Fees**

No entry fees are required to submit to the 2021 Belize International Film Festival.

#### **7. Who can submit?**

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

#### **8. Film Eligibility:**

a) To be eligible for competition, submitted film must have been produced or released between Jan. 1st, 2018 and Sept. 25, 2021. Films released before Jan. 1st, 2018 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. Fees (Submission & Screening)**

BelizeIFF is a BIG small festival with limited fiscal resources. We do not charge submission fees nor do we 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 may affect your chances of becoming a part of the Official Selection.

#### **11. Formats**

**Submission Format:** Only films accompanied by signed film submission forms will be accepted for the 2021 BelizeIFF. If the film screener 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 forward a link to a downloadable hi-res digital version of the film that matches the following film file formats compatible with for our online platform.

**FILE SIZE: 1920 x 1080p h.264 @Mbps**

**FILE TYPE: .mp4 and/or .mov**

**AUDIO CHANNEL: Stereo AAC**

**SIZE: less than 10GB**

### **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 on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 and listed on the Festival website

[www.belizefilmfestival.com](http://www.belizefilmfestival.com) along with our social media platforms.

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

#### **13. Screening:**

The Official Selection will be divided into 10 programs, each of which will be available to the audience for 24 hours each. All films selected to participate in BelizeIFF 2021 will be screened a maximum of 2x. The first time during the festival dates and the other as part of an encore presentation of select films that will be screened after the official close of the festival. 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. Two jurors choose the Music Video Award. 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 2021 Official Selection will receive by email a png file of the OFFICIAL SELECTION garland, a certificate of participation and a pdf copy of the 2021 Festival Catalogue listing the film.

b.) All winning films will additionally receive via email, a png file with BEST FILM garland and a winner's certificate. 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.

#### **16. Winners**

Winners in the Six Submission Categories will be announced during the Closing Ceremonies scheduled for Sunday, Nov. 14, 2021. Awards will be given for:

1. **Best Feature Film**
2. **Best Feature Documentary**
3. **Best Short Film**
4. **Best Short Documentary**
5. **Best Animation**
6. **Best Music Video**

Also announced will be:

**7. Most Notable Belizean Film**

The Most Notable Belizean Film Award recognizes a film within the Official Selection that shows 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 [belizeiffsubmissions@gmail.com](mailto:belizeiffsubmissions@gmail.com)

- 1) Completed & signed entry form.
- 2) Link to film screener 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 physical 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](http://www.belizefilmfestival.com)**

Facebook: BELIZE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Twitter and IG: @BelizeIFF

Submissions: [belizeiffsubmissions@gmail.com](mailto:belizeiffsubmissions@gmail.com)

General Info: [belizefilmfestival@gmail.com](mailto:belizefilmfestival@gmail.com)