



16TH EDITION OF THE
BELIZE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
22nd June – 1st July, 2023

RULES AND REGULATIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Organizers:

The 2023 Belize International Film Festival (BelizeIFF) is being organized by Fer De Lance Productions Ltd. in collaboration with industry, educational and strategic development partners from Belize and the surrounding region. These include the University of Belize, ÉPICES Film School, Greenlight Media, Los Tipos, Nokturnal Studio, Channel 5 Belize, KV Events Planning, Belizean Gal Trading, Belize Fixer, Belize Exotic Adventures, Belize Soul Project, Vantage and the Belize American Chamber of Commerce.

The BelizeIFF International Advisory Board is made up of a special group of filmmakers and educators whose guidance have been critical to the Festival over the years: 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. The Festival Founder and Creative Director is Belizean producer, Suzette Zayden.

2. Objectives:

The Belize International Film Festival aims to nurture the growth of film and audio-visual appreciation and production in Belize and its surrounding regions with the following actions:

a) **Expose audiences to films from around the globe** whose storylines offer them a window through which they can observe the social and cultural realities of other countries and draw their own conclusions. *We view this as essential to the promotion of tolerance and understanding of other cultures in an increasingly globalized world.*

b) **Stimulate the production of Caribbean and Central American films** through i) the development of industry workshops and university level film courses in the region, ii) the creation of spaces that enable visiting filmmakers / actors to share their films and transfer knowledge via Q & A sessions and public speaking forums; and, iii) engagement with like-minded partners able to attract the fiscal incentives needed to motivate emerging talent in the region.

c) **Facilitate collaborations through networking platforms** during the festival. These include official festival events and informal social mixers, all of which provide great opportunities to participants to hone their networking skills, pitch their projects and possibly land partners and investors to make their project a reality.

d) **Increase the visibility and viability of Belize and the rest of the region as active players in the world screen industry** by inviting international press to cover the event.

3. Funding:

Funding for BelizeIFF 2023 is provided through a combination of cash and in-kind donations from local and international corporate sponsors and industry partners.

BELIZEIFF 2023

BelizeIFF 2023 will NOT be an online festival.

4. Dates and Venue:

The 16th Belize International Film Festival will take place from June 22 to July 1, 2023 in Belize's Cayo District. The official Opening Ceremony will take place on Thursday, June 22nd in Belmopan and the official Closing Awards Event will take place on Saturday, July 1st, 2023 in San Ignacio. *(Venues TBA closer to Festival date.)* Films will be screened both in Belmopan and San Ignacio. *(Festival Schedule will be available closer to Festival Dates)*

5. Film Categories:

BelizeIFF 2023 has 6 competitive categories, 4 of which are open to international submissions except for **Student Films** (*regional submissions only*) and **Music Video** (*Belize submissions only*).

a) **CATEGORY LIST**

COMPETITIVE (International)

- 1. Feature Narrative (70 min +)**
- 2. Feature Documentary (50 min +)**
- 3. Short (15 min -)**
- 4. Short Doc (30 min -)**

COMPETITIVE (Regional Only)

- 5. Student Film (15 min -)**

COMPETITIVE (Belize Only)

- 6. Music Video (5 min -)**

b) **CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS**

1. Feature Narrative (70 min +)
Films that embrace the human condition, spirit and all stages of life. Storylines with cultural interaction(s) preferred.

2. Feature Documentary (50 min+)

Films about people, places and events that have impacted the lives of others or the environment around them and contributed towards shaping the world into what it is today.

3. Short (15 min -)

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

4. Short Doc (30 min +)

Films about people, places and events that have impacted the lives of others or the environment around them and contributed towards shaping the world into what it is today.

5. Student Film (15 min -)

This category welcomes short student films of all genres, live action or animated. *Conditions: This category is only open to short films produced by students of recognized film schools or programs in the Caribbean and Central American Regions who are currently enrolled or enrolled at the time of the film production. To check if your school qualifies, email us.*

6. Music Video (5 min -)

Music videos with a storyline that accurately reflects the message and mood of the song with a unique visual style. *Conditions: The Music Video must feature a Belizean musical artist, be directed by a Belizean national and filmed entirely on location in Belize.*

FILM SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Deadline: March 31, 2023

6. Fees:

a) Submission Fees

No entry fees are required to submit to the 2023 Belize International Film Festival.

b) Screening Fees

BelizeIFF is a BIG small festival with limited fiscal resources. We neither charge submission fees nor typically pay screening fees. If your film is being submitted with the expectation of a screening fee if it becomes an 'Official Selection', please advise of

this when submitting entry form. This will be taken into account by the selection committee and may affect your chances of becoming a part of the Official Selection.

7. Who can submit?

Only a film's authorized agent can submit a film to the Festival.

Condition: A signed film entry form that indemnifies the Festival from any 3rd Party Claims regarding film's submission to the Festival.

8. Film Eligibility:

a) To be eligible for competition, submitted film must have been produced or released between 1st Jan. 1st, 2021 and 31st March 2023. Films released before Jan. 1st, 2021 may be selected as part of the Official Selection but will not be eligible for an award.

b) All non-English films must have English subtitles OR dubbed in English.

c) Films previously selected for past official selection at past BelizeIFF festivals are not eligible.

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

10. Formats

a) Submission Format

We accept links to film screeners on Vimeo, YouTube or any other digital platform you are using. If the screener is not available on these viewing platforms, you can submit the film via links to screeners in Google drives and Dropbox. We can also accept films sent via WeTransfer in any of the following formats: **MPEG (.mpg, .mpeg, .mp4), AVI, QuickTime (.mov).**

b) Festival Screening Format

Films selected for the Official Selection will require a link to a downloadable hi-res digital version that matches the following film file formats:

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

11. 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 from time to time invite specific films to participate in any of the festival categories.

e) The list of films making up the Official Selection will be announced May 2023 and listed on the Festival website www.belizefilmfestival.com along with our social media platforms.

f) The Decisions of the Selection Committee are final.

12. Screening:

All films selected to participate in BelizeIFF 2023 will be screened 2x.

One time during the festival dates and the other either as part of preview or encore presentations scheduled to take place within 3 months after the official closing of the Festival on July 1, 2023. Any additional screenings will be cleared with the film rights owners first.

Important: All winning films will be showcased 1x more during our Best of the Fest Encore Presentations to take place during Belize's September Celebrations.

JURY & WINNERS

13. Jury

An international Jury of three is invited to choose the winners for the films in the Competitive Sections except for the Music Video category. Jury members are typically chosen to represent perspectives from North America/Europe, the Caribbean,

Latin America or Africa. The jurors differ from year to year but repeats may occur on occasion. The jurors for the Music Video competition are typically chosen upon the advice of our International Advisory Board member specializing in music videos production.

14. Winners

Winners in the Six Listed Categories will be announced during the Closing Ceremonies scheduled for Saturday, July 1, 2023. Awards will be given for:

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

Additional awards may also be given out from time to time including but not limited to:

7. Most Notable Belizean Film

This award recognizes a film within the Official Selection that shows originality, creativity and innovation as well as promise.

Belizean Film Criteria: 1. Has a Belizean Writer, Producer or Director. 2. Employed over 50% Belizeans for cast and crew. 3. Filmed 75% on location in Belize. 4. The story is set in Belize.

This award is not obligatory and is presented at the discretion of the Jury only. To be considered the film must meet the following eligibility criteria:

CERTIFICATES /AWARDS / PRIZES

15. Certificates

All certificates are distributed via email

- a) **Official Selection Certificates** are given to all films chosen to be a part of the Official Selection.
- b) **Winner Certificates** are awarded to all films that have won at the Festival.

16. Laurels*All Laurels are distributed via email*

- a) **Official Selection Laurels** are sent to all films chosen to be a part of the Official Selection
- b) **Winner Laurels** are awarded to all films that have won in the Festival.

17. Trophies.

All winners will receive the famous BelizeIFF Conch Shell Trophy

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.

Trophies will be mailed to winners who are not present at the festival, or will be presented to designated representatives.

18. Additional Awards

Additional awards, if any, will be announced closer to the Festival Date or at the Closing Awards Ceremony.

SUBMISSIONS CHECKLIST

19. What to Submit?

Email the following items to 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.)
- 10) Student films must be accompanied by copy of Student ID showing current enrollment or signed letter from school confirming enrollment at the time of film production.

20. 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.

21. 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

21. 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 visit our Official media sites or contact us at the addresses below.

www.belizefilmfestival.com

Facebook: **BELIZE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL** IG● Twitter: **@BelizeIFF**

Submissions: belizeiffsubmissions@gmail.com Info: belizeiffestival@gmail.com