



17TH EDITION OF THE BELIZE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL 6 – 9 November, 2024

RULES AND REGULATIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Organizers:

The 2024 Belize International Film Festival (BelizeIFF) is being organized by Fer De Lance Productions Ltd. in collaboration with industry, educational and strategic development partners. These include the University of Belize, ÉPICES Film School, Greenlight Media, Los Tipos, Nokturnal Studio, Channel 5 Belize, Belize Global Media, 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 select group of filmmakers and educators whose guidance have been critical to the Festival over the years including: Estrella Hendrickson, founding member of the International Film and TV School (ICTV), San Antonio de Los Banos, Cuba; Denise Williams Watts, Global Director of Original Content, Creative Services & Production, Apple Music; Cristina Venegas, Associate Professor, Department of Film and Media Studies, University of California Santa Barbara and Ambassador Shabazz, Diplomat, Lecturer, Chief Strategist; Innovation, Development & Implementation. The Festival Founder and Creative Director is Belizean producer, Suzette Zayden.

2. Objectives:

The Belize International Film Festival aims to nurture appreciation for cinema, and support its development 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 cinema** through i) the development of industry workshops and university level film courses in the region, ii) the creation of artist residences 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 socio-economic partners needed to create opportunities that will incentivize 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 and pitch their projects to potential partners and investors who can help 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.**

3. Funding:

Funding for BelizeIFF 2024 is provided through a combination of cash and in-kind donations from local and international corporate sponsors and industry partners.

BELIZEIFF 2024

BelizeIFF 2024 is not an online festival.

4. Dates and Venue:

The 17th Belize International Film Festival is currently scheduled for Nov. 6-9, 2024 in Belize.

An official Opening Ceremony will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 6th at the University of Belize's Belmopan Campus. The official Closing Awards Ceremony will be a pre-edited virtual event aired live on Belize's Channel 5 TV and simulcast on FB/YouTube after the close of the Festival.

(Festival Schedule will be available closer to Festival Dates)

5. Film Categories:

BelizeIFF 2024 has 6 competitive categories, 4 of which are open to international submissions. The **Student Film category** is *regional submissions only* and the **Music Video category** is *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 -)

Open to live-action or animated films between 5 to 15 min in length.

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.

Note: 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.

Note: To be eligible 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: June 30, 2024

6. Fees:

a) Submission Fees

No entry fees are required to submit to the 2024 Belize International Film Festival.

b) Screening Fees

BelizeIFF is a BIG small festival with limited resources. We do not charge submission fees likewise we do not expect to pay for screening fees. If you are submitting your film with the expectation of a screening fee, should

it be selected to participate in the festival, it is best to not submit at all.

7. Film Eligibility:

a) To be eligible for competition, submitted film must have been produced or released between 1st Jan. 1st, 2022 and 30th June 2024. Films released before Jan. 1st, 2022 may be invited to be a part of the Official Selection but out of competition.

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.

8. 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.*

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

Please use the digital application form provided to submit your work. **Do not send any PWs on the digital form.** Instead send links and any applicable Passwords for screeners on Vimeo, YouTube or any other digital platform directly to us at belizeiffsubmissions@gmail.com.

If the screener is not available on these viewing platforms, you can also submit the film via links Google drives and Dropbox. We 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

Specifications are:

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) A max of 2 films from any one country are usually selected in each category; however, exceptions may occur from time to time.

d) Festival organizers occasionally invites certain films to participate.

e) The list of films making up the Official Selection will be announced early September 2024 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 2024 will be screened max 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 in November, 2024. 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.

JURY & WINNERS

13. Jury

An international Jury of three chooses the winners for the feature length and short narratives as well as the feature length and short documentary submissions as well as the student films. The Music Video Category Jury is selected by our international advisor. Ms. Denise Williams Watts of Apple Music.

Jury members are typically chosen to represent perspectives from North America/Europe, the Caribbean, Latin America or Africa. Jurors differ from year to year but repeats may occur on occasion.

14. Winners

Winners in the six (6) listed Categories will be announced during the Closing Ceremonies tentatively scheduled for mid November, 2024. 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. *This award is not obligatory and is presented at the discretion of the Jury only. To be considered the film must meet all the following eligibility criteria:*

Belizean Film Criteria:

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

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

22. 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: belizeiffilmfestival@gmail.com