



BFI LONDON FILM FESTIVAL

2016

in partnership with
AMERICAN EXPRESS

OPEN SUBMISSIONS

Deadline for receipt of online submission forms and film screeners:

- **Short films (40 mins or less)** - 10 June 2016
- **Feature length films (more than 40 mins)** – 17 June 2016

Please fill in all required fields in the online submission form if you wish to submit your film for consideration for the 60th BFI London Film Festival (5-16 October 2016). Please also complete the PayPal payment form, which you will be directed to after completing the submission form.

Submission form links

For **UK** shorts and feature submissions, please complete the online form and PayPal payment [here](#).

For **International** shorts and feature submissions, please complete the online form and PayPal payment [here](#).

Please note films will not be considered without completion of the correct online form and confirmation of successful payment. Please read the Regulations carefully before submitting.

Fees

For UK features or short films please see point 9 of the regulations for information regarding 'UK production' classification. The fees for films submitted are as follows:

- **fee for International feature films**
 - Early Bird is £45 if received by 27 May 2016, 17.00GMT
 - £60 if received between 28 May - 17 June 2016, 17.00GMT
- **fee for International short films**
 - Early Bird is £20 if received by 27 May 2016, 17.00GMT
 - £30 if received between 28 May - 10 June 2016, 17.00GMT
- **fee for UK feature films**
 - Early Bird is £25 if received by 27 May 2016, 17.00GMT
 - £40 if received between 30 May - 17 June 2016, 17.00GMT
- **fee for UK short films**
 - Early Bird is £15 if received by 27 May 2016, 17.00GMT
 - £20 if received between 28 May - 10 June 2016, 17.00GMT

Viewing screener for selection consideration

On completion of your online submission form and confirmation of successful payment, you will be sent a confirmation email containing delivery instructions for DVD screener (if you have not already provided a password protected online link).

Secure online screening link

We can accept features or shorts via a secure online viewing link with password. Please ensure that your password stays active until the end of August. We cannot accept digital files for download or sent via email.

DVD screeners

While we prefer online screening links, we can accept features and shorts on any region DVD. Please ensure there is sufficient postage when sending submissions as we will be unable to retrieve any package with insufficient postage. Viewing material should be insured by the sender and sent via airmail or courier (at the sender's expense) to the Festival Office address in your submission form confirmation email. Packages must be post-marked (or delivered by courier) on or before the deadline to be eligible for consideration. We cannot accept (or return) late submissions.

Please ensure the following information is included when you send your screener: -

- Online submission confirmation email
- English Title / Original Title
- Director's name
- Country of Production
- Running Time
- **Full contact details** including postal address, telephone number and email address.

Other formats

Under certain circumstances and by prior arrangement we can also view Beta SP and DigiBeta (Pal or NTSC) and work on 35mm. If you do not have an online screener or DVD and would like to submit your film in one of these formats please contact us.

Notification of selection decisions

The programme is finalised between July and September. You will hear from us by mid September at the latest, normally by email. If your contact details change during this period please let us know so that we may update our records.

For queries, please email:

Festival Programme team
BFI Exhibition Department
lffsubmissions@bfi.org.uk
+44 (0)207 815 1305

(Please do not send email film submissions to this address, you must complete the online submission form)



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REGULATIONS

1. The BFI London Film Festival is presented by the British Film Institute.
2. The BFI London Film Festival is an annual event based at the Southbank and other central London venues. It runs for 12 days and wherever possible each film is presented at least twice and up to four times.
3. Programming decisions are made at the discretion of the BFI Head of Festivals and the programming team.

Feature Film Eligibility

4. **All feature films screened in the festival must be at least UK Premieres. Prior theatrical, UK Festivals, television screenings, internet transmission or DVD releases in the UK of feature length films disqualify them from entry.** For Competition films, preference will be given to European, International and World premieres.
5. Exceptions to the UK Premiere rule for feature films may be made for UK Productions but only if:
 - (a.) The UK Premiere has taken place in the nation of origin, in which case the LFF screening must be its second UK screening. This exception does not apply to Competition and Gala sections, or to films originating from England, where the UK Premiere rule applies. All exceptions are at the discretion of the BFI Head of Festivals.
 - (b.) The UK Premiere has taken place at BFI Flare: London LGBT Film Festival, in which case the LFF screening must be its second UK screening. This exception does not apply to Competition and Gala sections, where the UK Premiere rule applies. Films originating from anywhere in the UK (including England) that premiere at BFI Flare: London LGBT Film Festival will remain eligible for LFF consideration however selection for BFI Flare: London LGBT Film Festival does not automatically guarantee selection at LFF and film representatives must indicate interest in being considered for both Festivals. All exceptions are at the discretion of the BFI Head of Festivals.

6. Entries must have been produced within 18 months prior to the festival start. Films that have screened before the previous BFI London Film Festival at international festivals are ineligible for open submission.

Short Film Eligibility

7. Short films may be any style or form (eg. narrative, animation, documentary, etc) that have a running time of 40 minutes or less, and have been produced within the last 18 months.
8. There are **no premiere or prior screening restrictions for short films**. Shorts may have been broadcast on television or the internet, released via any home video outlet, and/or publicly screened anywhere in the world and still remain eligible for consideration by the Festival. **While there is no premiere rule for films screening within the main programme, we do prioritise UK, European and World Premieres for our Short Film Competition.**
9. **UK Productions** - To be eligible for consideration as a UK feature or short, in the first instance, the film must have been made by a UK Film Production Company (FPC) which is registered with Companies House and has been certified as a British film under either:
 - a. The Cultural Test (Schedule 1 to the Films Act 1985)
 - b. One of the UK's official bilateral co-production treaties; or
 - c. The European Convention on Cinematographic Co-production

This is consistent with overall BFI policy. Please consult the following link for further information: - <http://industry.bfi.org.uk/qualifying>. For short films, the company does not need to be registered, but the film should at least be wholly capable of qualifying as a British film. The festival will accept as 'British' features not produced by a registered production company but which are primarily self-financed, entirely shot in the UK and by a British director.

The IWC Schaffhausen Filmmakers Bursary Award in association with the BFI is a £50,000 award to benefit an outstanding British writer, director, or writer/director whose first or second feature film premieres at the BFI London Film Festival. For more details about the Award, please see www.bfi.org.uk/lff/iwc-schaffhausen-filmmakers-bursary-award-association-bfi and click through to the FAQs.

For clarity, resident British writers, directors and/or writer/directors with a first or second feature premiering in the BFI London Film Festival will still be eligible for the IWC Schaffhausen Filmmaker Bursary Award if the film is a non-UK production. Filmmakers which are otherwise eligible and which are entered through open submissions will have the opportunity to formally submit an application for the IWC Schaffhausen Filmmaker Bursary Award once the film is invited to the Festival.

10. All films in a language other than English must be subtitled in English, unless dialogue or commentary is unnecessary for comprehension and appreciation.
11. Exhibition materials of officially selected films will be insured by the BFI and any shipping costs incurred in getting the film to the BFI London Film Festival will be covered by the Festival

12. No cuts or changes to any film will be made by the Festival management for any reason.
13. Excerpts from films will only be shown on all media for promotional purposes if permission is obtained from the producer / rights holder, as detailed on Official Selection forms received once a film has been officially selected.
14. All information with regard to press and industry viewing permissions are detailed on Official Selection forms received once a film has been officially selected. You may also be contacted by our press and industry teams in these instances.
15. In the event of your short or feature being officially selected, you will be required to supply a fully compliant DCP. If you are unable to do this, the BFI can create one for you at an additional cost. Full details will be supplied with the Official Selection form.
16. The BFI London Film Festival is open to the public. A substantial number of accredited national and international press, TV and film buyers and distributors also participate.
17. Official or professional national organisations and individuals may submit features and short films to the Festival. Open submissions for short films submitted for our consideration should arrive no later than, or be postmarked by, 10 June 2016; feature films no later than 17 June 2016, and must be shipped as per instructions on the email received after submitting your online submission form.
18. National film agencies and institutes or film schools submitting multiple films may contact the Programme department by email, to request special dispensation regarding fees to: lffsubmissions@bfi.org.uk.
19. Please note it is not possible for us to return any DVDs sent to us through open submissions.
20. Submission of a film represents agreement with the regulations set forth here.
21. Due to the amount of submissions we receive, it is BFI London Film Festival policy not to offer comments or reasons for films not selected for the programme.

CONTACT

For any general queries about submissions, please contact:-

Festival Programme team
BFI Exhibition Department
lffsubmissions@bfi.org.uk
+44 (0)207 815 1305