



NaFF Screenwriting Competition Overview 2016

The Nashville Film Festival (NaFF) Screenwriting Competition runs through midnight January 8, 2016. It is an international competition, welcoming screenwriters from around the world to compete in all categories, except the Tennessee Screenwriter Category, which is reserved for in-state writers. The awards presentation will be held at the 47th Nashville Film Festival, April 14 - 23, 2016.

Select winning scripts will be offered to celebrated industry executives and studios. The 2015 line-up included: Blossom Films, Nicole Kidman's Academy-Award nominated production company (*Rabbit Hole*); noted casting director, Laray Mayfield (*House of Cards*, *Benjamin Button*); Sycamore Pictures CEO Ben Nearn (*Black Swan*, *The Way, Way Back*), Rich Peluso, Senior Vice President of AFFIRM Films, the faith/family and inspirational label of Sony Picture Entertainment (*Soul Surfer* and *Courageous*); famed limit-breaking director/producer Harmony Korine (*Spring Breakers*), and Lewis Bogach, Emmy-winning Vice President of CMT, and more.

Feature Categories and Awards

- Grand Jury Prize: \$2,000
- Drama - \$500
- Comedy - \$500
- Action/Adventure - \$250
- Family/Animation - \$250
- Historical - \$250
- Inspirational - \$250
- Music Inspired - \$250
- Science Fiction - \$250
- Thriller/Horror - \$250
- TN Feature Screenplay \$250

Shorts Categories and Awards

- Grand Jury Prize: \$1,000
- Drama - \$250
- Comedy - \$250
- Action/Adventure - \$250
- Family/Animation - \$250
- Historical - \$250
- Inspirational - \$250
- Music Inspired - \$250
- Science Fiction - \$250
- Thriller/Horror - \$250
- Tennessee Screenwriter - \$250
- Young Screenwriter - \$250



Teleplay Categories and Awards

- 30 Minute Pilot - \$250
- 60 Minute Pilot - \$250

Winners and Runners-Up are awarded at NaFF. All finalists win two Gold All Festival Laminates valued at \$798 and semi-finalists win one Silver All Festival Laminate, valued at \$250.



Screenwriting Competition FAQ's

1. *When is the NaFFSC?* The NaFFSC opens for entries on June 1, 2015 and closes January 8, 2016. Events for screenwriters run concurrently with the Nashville Film Festival, April 14 – 23, 2016.

2. *What is unique about entering NaFF?* NaFF is one of the top international screenwriting and film competitions, that takes place in one central location over 10 days. NaFF is an Academy Award Qualifying Festival in its 47th year and, as such, it draws the highest level filmmakers and writers from around the world. Semifinalists and finalists win festival laminates. As a result, the networking opportunity at NaFF is unsurpassed. Many screenwriters meet filmmakers, agents, and other industry pros who have a direct, positive impact on their careers. In addition, winning scripts are passed on to agents and production houses.

3. *When and where are the awards announced?* Awards are announced at the Nashville Film Festival Awards Ceremony, Friday, April 22.

4. *What events are planned for the screenwriters?* Screenwriters may attend panel presentations, films, the VIP Tent, screenwriter awards ceremony and closing night party.

5. *Who are the jurors?* The jurors are top-level film industry pros. See our web-site for our latest listing. Jurors are subject to change due to events outside of NaFF's control.

6. *What networking opportunities are available?* Numerous screenwriters and filmmakers from all over the world come to NaFF. It's one of the few great places to hang out with people in the industry.

7. *Do Semifinalists win a pass?* Yes. They win a NaFF Silver Laminate valued at \$250, allowing access to all events (including opening and closing night parties and films @ \$5, a savings of \$7 off regular film ticket prices.)

8. *Do Finalists win a pass?* Yes. They win two NaFF Gold Laminates allowing access to all events (including opening and closing night parties and free films.)

9. *What are the judges looking for?* NaFF is searching for scripts with commercial potential based on four key categories: premise, story, character, and dialogue.

10. *Do you accept entries from outside the U.S.?* Yes. All entries must be written in English.

11. *What is the Nashville Film Festival?* NaFF is an annual, ten-day extravaganza named one of "25 festivals worth the entry fee" by MovieMaker Magazine and voted one of the Top 5 Film Festivals in the U.S. by the Brooks Institute. Now in its 47th year, the Festival is proud to bring the world to Nashville through a celebration of the diversity of the human spirit expressed through the art of film.

12. *Can I submit a script in multiple categories?* Yes. An entry fee is required for each category.

13. *What qualifies a script for the Tennessee Screenplay categories?* The writer must either have been born in Tennessee or currently reside in Tennessee. The entrant is responsible for the authenticity of this claim and any inquiry regarding that authenticity.

14. *Are there qualifications for scripts in any of the genre categories?* We leave it up to the writers to choose the categories. No scripts will be disqualified based on category submission.

15. *Do you accept adaptations?* Yes. Permission to adapt an original work must be submitted as the first page in the screenplay PDF.

Nashville Film Festival

161 Rains Avenue

Nashville, TN 37203

615-742-2500

www.nashvillefilmfestival.org

Contact: Josh Escue, Competition Manager

josh@nashfilm.org



Screenplay Competition Rules

Call for Entry:

6/1/2015 - 1/-08/2016

Deadlines:

Early Bird - 7/31

Late - 11/30

Extended - 1/08

Fees:

All fees are per entry, per category. Fees are submitted online. No waivers. No Refunds.

Features & Teleplays: \$30/\$40/\$50

Shorts: \$20/\$30/\$40

Young Screenwriter: \$10/\$20/\$30

Format:

All entries must be written in English and submitted as a PDF file less than 5 MB, size 12 Courier font, standard industry format. Title of script only on title page; no author name. Pages should be numbered. MovieMagic Screenwriter, Final Draft, or Celtx are suggested software programs.

Feature Categories and Awards:

Grand Jury Prize: \$2,000

Drama - \$500

Comedy - \$500

Action/Adventure - \$250

Family/Animation - \$250

Inspirational - \$250

Historical - \$250

Science Fiction - \$250

Thriller/Horror - \$250

TN Feature Screenplay \$250

Shorts Categories and Awards

Grand Jury Prize: \$1,000

Drama - \$250

Comedy - \$250

Tennessee Screenwriter - \$250

Young Screenwriter - \$250

Teleplay Categories and Awards

30 Minute Pilot - \$250

60 Minute Pilot - \$250

The NaFF Screenwriting Competition offers NaFF Festival Laminates to semifinalists and finalists in all categories. Semifinalists win a NaFF Silver Laminates, valued at \$250. All finalists win two NaFF Gold Laminates worth \$399 each.

All short category winners and runners-up receive an exclusive NaFF Hatch Show Print Certificate, in addition to their festival laminates.

1. Eligibility: The Nashville Film Festival (NaFF) Screenwriting Competition accepts screenplays and teleplays that have not been sold and are not currently under option prior to 4/16/2016.
2. Judges Decisions Final: Awards and selections of NaFF are final.
3. Complete Works: NaFF considers all entries to be complete and will not accept any revisions or additional pages once the screenplay or teleplay has been submitted. Do not submit a script for a feature that is under 40 pages with a notice: "to be continued."
4. Multiple Categories: Entrants may submit the same entry to more than one category. Each category entered requires an entry fee for that category.
5. Copyright: All entrants are encouraged to register their screenplays with the Writers' Guild of America, East or West: www.wgaeast.org/script_registration, or www.wga.org/registration/index.html.
6. Refunds: Submissions are final. NaFF does not issue refunds.
7. Exclusions: NaFF employees, including seasonal staff, board members, sponsors, and their immediate families, are not eligible to submit in any category.

8. Original: All entries must be original works by the applicant.

9. Coauthors: If a screenplay has more than one author, it is up to the authors to decide how many authors to list on the application and who will be the primary contact e-mail.

10. Withdrawal from Categories: NaFF does not allow changes to the categories after submission. All submissions are final.

11. Multiple Authors Award Divisions: NaFF awards are made per entry, not per author. Therefore, groups of authors associated with one entry are responsible for the division of awards, including laminates. NaFF does not assume responsibility for arrangements with regard to laminate or cash divisions.

12. English: All entries must be submitted in English.

13. Formatting Standards: Please format your screenplay according to the sample screenplay reference on our website. MovieMagic Screenwriter, Final Draft, or Celtx are suggested programs. Use 12 point Courier font. Pages must be numbered.

14. Submissions: Only online. No mailed or emailed entries are accepted.

15. Pages:

- Feature Scripts: 80 – 130 pages (approx.)
- Short Scripts: 40 pages (or fewer)
- Teleplay: 45-65 pages (approx.)

16. Title Page: Include title only on title page. The author's name should not appear on the title page or anywhere on the script, to preserve anonymity and fairness.

17. Not Accepted: novels, short stories, stage plays, treatments, synopses, reality show concepts, scripts for existing TV series, work that is not original.

18. The Readings: In the opening rounds, the first 30 pages are read. Beginning with Round 3, each script is read in full.

19. The Judges: In early rounds, experienced, trained NaFF script-readers evaluate scripts. In later rounds: industry pros. NaFF's finalist jury consists of producers, production executives, professional screenwriters, literary agents, and managers.

20. NaFF Screenwriting Competition Criteria: 10-point scale in 10 categories under four headings: premise, story, character, dialogue. Premise: who & what the story is about, setting, primary action. Story: arrangement of events & scenes, flow of dramatic tension. Characters: distinctiveness, relationships. Dialogue: feel, sound, relationship to storyline.

21. Disqualifications: Submissions are not disqualified for minor formatting errors (title page, software, length.)

22. Notifications: Each submission will receive a confirmation email once payment is processed. We will notify semi-finalists and finalists by mid-March.

23. Feedback: Upon request after the festival, writers may receive the readers' evaluations of their scripts. Evaluations are sent during May and June, only.

24. Young Screenwriters: To enter, applicant must be 19 or under on April 15, 2016. Young screenwriters are discouraged from submitting features and are subject to all NaFF Competition Rules.

Disclaimers

1. The submitter recognizes that the Nashville Film Festival its judges and readers, herein called NaFF, have files that are replete with ideas and stories for theatrical motion pictures and television programs and that new ideas for motion pictures and television programs are constantly being submitted to NaFF. Submitter recognizes that many stories and ideas are similar and often different stories and ideas are related to one or another more common underlying themes.

2. The submitter agrees to indemnify NaFF against any and all claims, expenses, losses, or liabilities that may be asserted against NaFF in connection with the Material or any use thereof, including, without limitation those arising from any breach of the warranties and promises given by the submitter.

3. The submitter releases and discharges NaFF from any and all claims and demands and will not assert, maintain or assist any party in asserting or maintaining any claims or demands against NaFF in connection with the Materials, including, any and all claims for libel, rights of publicity, theft or misappropriation of

ideas or trade secrets, or infringement of copyright and other intellectual property rights.

4. The submitter agrees to warrant that he/she is the sole owner and author of the described material or has the official representation of the co-author, and has the full right and authorization to submit the material to NaFF.

5. The submitter agrees that any part of the material which is not novel or original and not legally protected may be used by NaFF without any liability on NaFF and that nothing shall place NaFF in any different position with respect to such non-novel or non-original material by reason hereof.

6. NaFF shall not be under any obligation with respect to the submitted material except as may later be set forth in a fully executed written agreement between submitter and NaFF.

7. The submitter has retained a copy of the Material and agrees that NaFF shall not be obligated to return the Material to the submitter. The submitter releases NaFF from all liability if the Material is lost, misplaced, stolen or destroyed.

8. The submitter acknowledges that NaFF is under no obligation to use the Material in any manner and further represents and warrants that the Material is original, that the submitter has the right and authority to submit the Material to NaFF on the foregoing terms and conditions, each and all of which shall be binding on the submitter, his/her agents, heirs, successors, licensees and assigns.

Contact:

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