

About our festival

Mirror Mountain Film Festival brings the best in independent, alternative and underground cinema to Canada's capital. We are a diverse and inclusive festival that welcomes all types of films and all types of people to share in the collective cinema experience. Our mission is to promote unique and original creative voices from the Ottawa-Gatineau region and from around the world. Mirror Mountain showcases innovative, groundbreaking and unconventional films in a wide variety of genres, including drama, documentary, animation, experimental, horror, sci-fi, fantasy, dance and music videos. In addition to film screenings, the festival features engaging, community-oriented activities such as live performances, hybrid media presentations, interactive exhibits, parties, panel discussions, Q&A sessions and more. Our events aim to connect filmmakers both with audiences and with one another, and to support artists through educational and professional development opportunities.

Fees & deadlines

All prices are listed in Canadian dollars (CAD)

Submissions open

March 9 2026

Earlybird deadline: July 27 2026

Shorts \$12

Medium length \$24

Feature length \$36

Regular deadline: December 21 2026

Shorts \$20

Medium length \$32

Feature length \$44

Final deadline May 17 2027

Shorts \$26

Medium length \$38

Feature length \$50

Notification date

June 28 2027

Festival dates

August 27 - 29 2027

Why should I submit?

1. Free festival pass for all filmmakers who submit

Everyone who submits a film to Mirror Mountain, regardless of whether or not it is selected, gets a free pass to attend the entire festival.

2. Free to submit for local filmmakers

Films of any length can be submitted for free if they were shot and / or edited within a 125 km radius of Ottawa. This area includes Gatineau, Maniwaki, Mont Tremblant, Montebello, Hawkesbury, Cornwall, Potsdam, Brockville, Smiths Falls, Perth, Renfrew, Arnprior and more.

3. Free submissions for alumni

If you directed a film that was officially selected to screen in a previous edition of Mirror Mountain, you can submit again at no cost.

4. Your money back

If your film is officially selected to screen in the festival, we'll reimburse your original submission fee.

5. Fewer restrictions

We have no premiere or completion date requirements. Your film is still eligible even if it has screened in the Ottawa region before, has distribution, has been broadcast on television, or is available to view online.

6. We pay artist fees

If your film is officially selected to screen in the festival, you will also receive an artist fee to thank you for letting us screen your work.

7. Stay in the loop

After you submit your film, you'll get a notification from the festival to confirm we've received your application. Later, you'll receive a notification informing you of the results, regardless of whether or not your film was selected.

8. Awards for winning filmmakers

Awards are given out in several categories after the completion of the festival. Award winners receive a certificate and a selection of prizes donated by our sponsors.

9. Canadian Screen Award-qualifying

Mirror Mountain is an official qualifying festival for the Canadian Screen Awards as selected by the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television.

10. Friendly and alternative atmosphere

As a community of filmmakers and artists, we strive to cultivate a vibrant and

welcoming atmosphere where creators and audience members from diverse artistic and cultural backgrounds can come together and grow through shared work and conversation.

Awards & Prizes

At the next edition of Mirror Mountain Film Festival, awards will be given out in the following categories:

BEST DIRECTOR
BEST SCREENPLAY
BEST PERFORMANCE
BEST SOUND
BEST LOCAL FILM

All selected films are automatically in consideration for awards in all relevant and appropriate categories. Award winners receive a certificate and a selection of prizes donated by our sponsors.

For more information on award sponsors, prizes, previous winners and nominees, visit: mirrormountainfilmfest.com/archive

Rules & Terms

Please read all of the rules carefully before submitting.

What we accept:

Mirror Mountain accepts any genre of film, including drama, comedy, documentary, experimental / avant-garde, animation, thriller, horror, sci-fi, fantasy, cult, underground, musical, dance, poetry / spoken word, music video and more. Our programming prioritizes innovative and alternative approaches to those genres, with an emphasis on unique and personal creative expressions. Submissions are reviewed by a jury of experienced filmmakers and local arts and culture professionals.

Our commitment to diversity:

The festival welcomes submissions from diverse filmmakers from all backgrounds, including, but not limited to, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirited and non-binary filmmakers, POC and Indigenous filmmakers, persons with disabilities, and diasporic and transcultural filmmakers.

Submission requirements:

- A short film is defined as any film less than 18 minutes, including credits.
- A medium length film is defined as any film between 18 and 60 minutes, including credits.

- A feature length film is defined as any film longer than 60 minutes, including credits.
- All submitted films with dialogue must either be in English, or accompanied by English subtitles.
- Films may originate from anywhere in the world.
- There are no premiere requirements. Your film may have screened in the Ottawa region before.
- There are no date-of-completion requirements. Your film can date from any year.
- Films that have distribution, have been broadcast on television, or are available to view in full online, are still eligible for submission.
- Works-in-progress are accepted, but filmmakers are advised to only submit completed work.
- You must be the copyright holder of the film and its soundtrack, or have obtained permission to use copyrighted materials in any part of your work. You may be asked to supply documentation supporting your claim. Works that consist of parody, satire and critical review are excepted under Canadian copyright law.
- Mirror Mountain does not accept film submissions sent by email or physical submissions sent by post.
- Do not send a press kit or other support material unless requested.
- If your film is selected, you will be expected to submit a minimum of 3 high-resolution still images and a high-quality QuickTime H.264 file screening copy of your film by no later than July 13, 2027, or your film may be withdrawn from the program. Filmmakers are responsible for ensuring that their QuickTime file is in good working order.

Fees & payments:

- Submission fees are non-refundable.
- Waivers and discounts on submission fees are not offered.
- You may submit multiple films in a single year, but you must pay the full submission fee for each film.
- Film submissions of any length are free if your film was shot and / or edited within 125 km of Ottawa. You may be asked to provide documentation supporting your claim.
- Film submissions of any length are free if you are the director a film that was officially selected to screen at a previous edition of Mirror Mountain.

Festival rights & responsibilities:

- Mirror Mountain is not responsible for non-functional preview copies / screeners, including broken links, passwords and subtitles.
- Mirror Mountain is under no obligation to watch updated preview copies / screeners. The jury will only review submissions once.
- Mirror Mountain reserves the right not to select any material they deem inappropriate for any reason.
- Mirror Mountain reserves the right to remove any film from the festival program at any time.