

2015 Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival

Submissions Guidelines

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

About the Festival:

The Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival, the largest film event in the region and a 501(c)(3) non-profit, celebrates its 34th year in 2015. Returning to Minnesota April 9-25, 2015, this diverse and highly anticipated celebration of independent cinema annually showcases more than 250 international, national, and local independent films, and welcomes the attendance of more than 150 filmmakers and artists from around the world. The vast majority of these films would never be discovered in the region outside of their participation in the Festival.

Historically lauded for being one of the world's finest showcases of Scandinavian films, the Festival has grown to incorporate an eclectic lineup of World, US, and Regional Premieres from more than 65 countries annually, and provides filmmakers with a platform to test their films on an astute, genuine and responsive audience of more than 40,000.

The Festival presents the following awards:

EMERGING FILMMAKER:

This juried competition recognizes new and up-and-coming filmmakers from around the world for their achievements in narrative filmmaking. A cash prize is awarded to the film that demonstrates standout excellence in creativity, storytelling technique, and innovation in the narrative form.

To qualify:

- The film must be the director's debut or second feature
- The film must be a feature length narrative
- The film must not have US distribution at the time of selection

DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION:

The juried Documentary Competition recognizes national and international documentary filmmaking that exemplifies the very best in presentation, diversity, innovation, and powerful storytelling. A cash prize is awarded to the chosen film.

To qualify:

- The film must be a feature length documentary
- The film must not have US distribution at the time of selection

MINNESOTA MADE AWARDS:

All films submitted as Minnesota Made are entered into competition and submission fees are waived for qualifying submissions. Awards are given for Best Minnesota Made Narrative Feature, Documentary Feature, Short Documentary, and Short Narrative.

To qualify:

- A combined 50% or more of production and postproduction on the film must have taken place in Minnesota
- The film must be a Minnesota premiere

AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARDS:

Audiences cast their votes in the categories of Best Narrative, Documentary, Short Narrative, Short Doc, Minnesota Made Narrative, Minnesota Made Documentary, Minnesota Made Short Doc, and Minnesota Made Short Narrative.

The 2015 Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival will include, but is not limited to, the following programs:

- Special Presentations
- Cine Latino
- Culinary Cinema
- World Cinema
- Documentaries
- New American Visions
- Late Nights
- Childish
- Images of Africa
- Shorts Programs

2015 Deadlines and Fees

	Deadline	Short	Feature	MN
10/6/2014	Early	\$30.00	\$45.00	\$0.00
11/3/2014	Regular	\$45.00	\$60.00	\$0.00
12/1/2014	Late	\$60.00	\$75.00	\$0.00
1/5/2015	Extended	\$75.00	\$90.00	\$30.00

GENERAL RULES

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE 2015 FESTIVAL:

1) Films completed after to July 1, 2013 are eligible for consideration for the 2015 Festival.

2) Minnesota Premieres are required of all U.S., International, and Minnesota Made Feature-length submissions. Feature-length films that have been previously publicly screened within the state of Minnesota are not eligible for submission.

3) Feature-length submissions must not have been broadcast or televised, or be publicly available in their entirety online prior to their date of exhibition in the Festival.

Please note: Short films are exempt from any premiere status and may be available online. This may, however, result in a lower priority amongst other submitted films.

4) Foreign language (non-English) submissions must be available in their original language and soundtrack with English subtitles.

5) Films that have been submitted for consideration in previous years are eligible for submission for 2015 Festival consideration only if they have undergone extensive changes and reapply as a new submission.

6) The Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul reserves the right to determine eligibility of any work submitted.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

The following submission requirements must be met before a submission can be considered. Submission materials will not be returned.

1) Completed submission form (online).

2) Submission Fee. Payment is accepted through online submission platform or via money order made out to The Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul. Submission fees are waived for films submitting as Minnesota Made by the Early, Regular, and Late deadlines. No other waivers will be granted.

3) Submissions must include an online (Vimeo preferred) or DVD (Region 0 or 1) screener. Vimeo links to online screeners should be included in the Withoutabox Cover Letter.

Please note: Changing the password to a private online screener may make the submission unviewable, and therefore disqualified. The Festival will attempt, but is under no obligation, to contact the applicant for an updated password.

4) Hard copy DVD submissions must be shipped, prepaid, and postmarked by the applicable deadline; submitted in paper sleeves (no jewel or plastic cases please); and marked in permanent ink with the following information: Film Title, Withoutabox Tracking Number, Run Time. Hard copy DVD submissions should be sent to: Attn: Submissions, MSP International Film Festival, 125 SE Main St., Ste 341, Minneapolis, MN 55414

Please note:

- i) Do not attach labels directly onto hard copy DVD submissions – this may render your submission unplayable.
- ii) It is highly advised that you test your DVD submission in a standard DVD player prior to submitting. Any unviewable DVD may be disqualified. The Festival may attempt, but is not obligated, to contact the applicant for a new copy.
- iii) If you wish to have your physical submissions returned you must provide a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your submissions materials. All other rejected submissions will be recycled in a secure manner.

REQUIREMENTS FOR FILMS SELECTED FOR EXHIBITION:

1) Feature Length Films:

- i) Must be available for exhibition in one of the following formats: DCP (preferred), HDCam, or Blu-ray.
- ii) Three additional DVD copies must be immediately sent to the Festival's offices for press requests.
- iii) Exhibition copies must be delivered to the Festival office by March 26, 2015.

2) Short Films:

- i) Must be available as DCP (preferred), ProRes, H.264, or similarly low compression/high quality format/codecs to be compiled onto a digital shorts reel.
- ii) Files must be sent to the Festival office immediately upon notification of acceptance on a hard-drive, thumb drive, or be made available for download. The Festival does not provide an FTP site for file transfer.

3) General:

- i) An Electronic Press Kit with high-resolution production stills, trailers, official synopsis, filmmaker bios, promotional

postcards and posters should be sent to the Festivals offices for marketing purposes.

ii) Exhibition Copy Shipment: The film must be shipped prepaid, insured, and properly packaged. The Festival does not assume liability for damage to prints due to improper packaging or other reasons. All films while in our possession will be insured against loss and damage while participating in the event.

iii) Ship to Mailing Address:

MSP International Film Festival

125 SE Main Street, Suite 341

Minneapolis, MN 55414

iv) The Festival reserves the right to place accepted works in the appropriate program.

v) The Festival reserves the right to remove a film from the festival program for any reason or for no reason and shall not be liable for any refund or claims of any kind arising out of such removal.

vi) Accepted films may be screened between 1-4 times, at the discretion of the Festival.

vii) Screenings will take place at official festival venues, including, but not limited to: St. Anthony Main Theatre, Northrop Auditorium's Best Buy Theater, and Rochester Galaxy 14 Cine.

NOTIFICATIONS:

Submission notification will be sent on or around February 27, 2015.

Terms and Conditions

I, the authorized representative of the project being submitted (hereafter called the "Film") acknowledge that I am duly authorized, on my own behalf and on behalf of all other persons or entities who have any ownership rights or interests in or relating to the Film (hereafter called the "Film's Owners") to submit to the Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival. I warrant and agree, on behalf of myself and each of the Film's Owners, that the Film is being submitted voluntarily and without promise or inducement, and that the submission of the Film neither imposes nor creates any obligation or responsibility on the part of the Minneapolis St. Paul International Film Festival or The Film Society of Minneapolis St. Paul (hereafter called The Festival) to accept the Film for inclusion in The Festival, to exhibit the Film at The Festival, to acknowledge the submission of The Film, or to return the submission copy of The Film or associated submission materials to me or others. I shall indemnify and hold harmless The Festival from and against any and all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, and expenses (including but not limited to attorney's fees, and costs of the court) which may be incurred by reason of any claim involving copyright, trademark, credits, publicity, screening, and loss of or damage to the screening videos entered. I have paid and will pay in full all license fees, clearance fees, and other obligations, of any kind, arising from or associated with the exhibition of the Film at or in connection with The Festival. I understand that The Festival reserves the right to waive or adjust any requirements outlined herein. I understand that I am not entitled to any refund or damage claims of any kind if my film is unable to screen due to technical or operational difficulties or if my film needs to be rescheduled, delayed, or removed from the program for any reason. By clicking "Submit Now" below I warrant that I have read, understood, and accept all aforementioned regulations and requirements pertaining to submission to The Festival.