

SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

SUBMITTING TO THE 2012 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

1) WHEN ARE THE SUBMISSION DEADLINES AND WHAT ARE THE FEES?

EARLY SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

U.S. & INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS

Monday, August 15th, 2011 - \$35 ENTRY FEE

U.S. & INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS & DOCUMENTARIES

Monday, August 15th, 2011 - \$45 ENTRY FEE

OFFICIAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

U.S. & INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS

Friday, September 2nd, 2011 - \$50 ENTRY FEE

U.S. & INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS & DOCUMENTARIES

Friday, September 2nd, 2011 - \$75 ENTRY FEE

LATE SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

U.S. & INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS

Friday, September 23rd, 2011 - \$75 ENTRY FEE

U.S. & INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS & DOCUMENTARIES

Monday, September 26th, 2011 - \$100 ENTRY FEE

These are the dates that films must arrive at our office in Los Angeles. They are NOT postmark deadlines. We handle all submissions fairly and equally, regardless of which deadline you choose. Late deadline submissions are processed and screened in exactly the same manner as early and official deadline submissions are-- the only difference is the higher submission fee. We encourage you to submit as early as possible!

Please note that your film MUST arrive at our office no later than the deadline for which you have registered. For example, if you pay \$50 to register your Short Film for the Official Submission deadline and we receive it after September 2nd, you will be prompted to make an additional payment of \$25 in order to bring your account up to date. We will not view your film until this payment is received. For this reason, it is suggested that you mail your film to us well in advance of the deadline for which you have registered!

2) WHAT ARE YOUR SUBMISSION CATEGORIES AND HOW DO I CHOOSE THE RIGHT ONE FOR MY FILM?

Each year, we select 110-120 Feature Films and 75-85 Short Films to play in one of 11 Festival programs. However, you may not submit your film directly to any one specific program. Instead, you must select from one of six submission categories, listed below:

U.S. NARRATIVE FEATURE FILMS:

Any narrative work of fiction with a running time of 50 minutes or more, including films that are shot in a "mockumentary" style. In order to qualify as a U.S. Narrative Feature Film, the submitted project must be either scripted or improvisational fiction, and at least half of the project's financing must originate from within the United States. Only films that are World Premieres are eligible for our U.S. Dramatic Competition program, but U.S. Narrative Feature Films that have previously played at up to two other festivals anywhere in the world are still eligible for one of our out-of-competition programs.

U.S. DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILMS:

Any non-fiction film with a running time of 50 minutes or more, NOT including entirely scripted or improvised fictionalizations of actual events. If your documentary contains some dramatization of actual events, you may submit in this category, but we will ultimately decide which program is best suited for your project, if accepted. In order to qualify as a U.S. Documentary Feature Film, at least half of the submitted project's financing must originate from within the United States. Only films that are World Premieres are eligible for our U.S. Documentary Competition program, but U.S. Documentary Feature Films that have previously played at up to two other festivals anywhere in the world are still eligible for one of our out-of-competition programs.

INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURE FILMS:

Any narrative work of fiction with a running time of 50 minutes or more, including films that are shot in a "mockumentary" style. In order to qualify as an International Narrative Feature Film, the submitted project must be either scripted or improvisational fiction, and more than half of the project's financing must originate from outside of the United States. International Narrative Feature Films that have been exhibited theatrically, broadcast on television, released on DVD or screened at any Film Festival outside of their country of origin are not eligible to submit to the Institute for Festival consideration, though we reserve the right to include in our Festival program International Narrative Feature Films that have previously been exhibited outside of their country of origin.

INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILMS:

Any non-fiction film with a running time of 50 minutes or more, NOT including entirely scripted or improvised fictionalizations of actual events. If your documentary contains some dramatization of actual events, you may submit in this category, but we will ultimately decide which program is best suited for your project, if accepted. In order to qualify as an International Documentary Feature Film, more than half of the project's financing must originate from outside of the United States. International Documentary Feature Films that have been exhibited theatrically, broadcast on television, released on DVD or screened at any Film Festival outside of their country of origin are not eligible to submit to the Institute for Festival consideration, though we reserve the right to include in our Festival program International Documentary Feature Films that have previously been exhibited outside of their country of origin.

U.S. SHORT FILMS:

Any narrative or documentary film of U.S. origin with a running time of less than 50 minutes. In order to qualify as a U.S. Short Film, at least half of the submitted project's financing must originate from within the United States. Short Films have no premiere requirements or prior screening restrictions-- they may have had any number of public theatrical exhibitions, been released on DVD, and may have been broadcast on television or the internet and still retain eligibility.

INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS:

Any narrative or documentary film of International origin with a running time of less than 50 minutes. In order to qualify as an International Short Film, more than half of the submitted project's financing must originate from outside of the United States. Short Films have no premiere requirements or prior screening restrictions-- they may have had any number of public theatrical exhibitions, been released on DVD, and may have been broadcast on television or the internet and still retain eligibility.

3) WHAT ARE THE FESTIVAL PROGRAM CATEGORIES AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH?

The Sundance Film Festival is comprised of five Competition program categories and seven non-competition program categories, listed in separate sections below. You may not submit your film directly to any specific category! If your film is accepted into the Festival, our Programming team will decide which of the Festival program categories it will play. Please be aware that these may vary from year to year, so the information listed below is subject to change at any time.

At the core of our Festival program are our competition categories. Films that are selected to be in one of these five program categories are eligible for Jury Prizes in their respective section:

U.S. DRAMATIC COMPETITION (16 U.S. Narrative Feature Films):

For over 20 years, the U.S. Dramatic Competition has offered a first look at groundbreaking new voices in American independent film. Fueled by fierce creativity and vision, these 16 films are guaranteed to leave a lasting impact on the next generation of cinema.

Films must be **WORLD PREMIERES** in order to be considered for this program. If your film has screened at any other film festival, been released on DVD, broadcast on television or the internet, or had a public theatrical screening anywhere in the world, it is not eligible for this program. In order to qualify, the submitted project must be either scripted or improvisational fiction, have a total running time of 50 minutes or more, and at least half of the project's financing must originate from within the United States. Films selected to play in this category will compete against one another for jury prizes and an audience award.

U.S. DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION (16 U.S. Documentary Feature Films):

From human rights to popular culture, these 16 films confront the subjects that define our time. Stylistic diversity and rigorous filmmaking distinguish these new American documentaries.

Films must be **WORLD PREMIERES** in order to be considered for this program. If your film has screened at any other film festival, been released on DVD, broadcast on television or the internet, or had a public theatrical screening anywhere in the world, it is not eligible for this program. In order to qualify, the submitted project must be a non-fiction documentary subject ("mockumentaries" do not qualify), have a total running time of 50 minutes or more, and at least half of the project's financing must originate from within the United States. Films selected to play in this category will compete against one another for jury prizes and an audience award.

WORLD CINEMA DRAMATIC COMPETITION (12-14 International Narrative Feature Films):

From all corners of the globe, these emerging filmmaking talents offer fresh perspectives and inventive styles. We present these exceptional works as a way to honor the independent spirit in filmmakers everywhere.

Submissions must be INTERNATIONAL PREMIERES in order to be considered for this program. If your film has screened outside of its country of origin, whether at a film festival or other public theatrical exhibition, it is not eligible for this program. It is also ineligible if it has been released on DVD or broadcast on television or the internet in any country. In order to qualify, the submitted project must be either scripted or improvisational fiction, have a total running time of at least 50 minutes, and more than half of the project's financing must originate from outside of the United States. Films selected to play in this category will compete against one another for jury prizes and an audience award.

WORLD CINEMA DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION (12-14 International Documentary Feature Films):

Made by some of the most courageous and extraordinary filmmakers working today, these films from around the world poignantly examine issues that range from the personal to the universal.

Submissions must be INTERNATIONAL PREMIERES in order to be considered for this program. If your film has screened outside of its country of origin, whether at a film festival or other public theatrical exhibition, it is not eligible for this program. It is also ineligible if it has been released on DVD or broadcast on television or the internet in any country. In order to qualify, the submitted project must be a non-fiction documentary subject ("mockumentaries" do not qualify), have a total running time of at least 50 minutes, and more than half of the project's financing must originate from outside of the United States. Films selected to play in this category will compete against one another for jury prizes and an audience award.

SHORTS COMPETITION (80-90 U.S. & International Short Films):

Limited only by runtime, and driven by innovation and experimentation, short films transcend the rules of conventional storytelling. From cutting-edge animation to the best in Native and documentary cinema, these Shorts Programs call out filmmaking's most original imaginations.

All short films are selected to play before features or in one of eight Shorts Programs, and all accepted shorts are eligible for awards in our Shorts Competition. Short Films must have a total running time of less than 50 minutes, including credits. There are no premiere or prior screening restrictions for short films. Shorts may have been released on DVD, broadcast on television or the internet, and/or publicly screened anywhere in the world and still remain eligible for our Shorts Competition. U.S. Films selected to play in this category will compete against one another for the Jury Prize In Short Filmmaking. International films selected to play in this category will compete against one another for the Jury Prize In International Short Filmmaking.

Films selected for the following Festival program categories will screen out of competition, so the eligibility requirements are generally not as strict. In most cases, non-competition films do not need to retain any sort of premiere status, and are allowed to have screened at up to two other film festivals before Sundance:

SPOTLIGHT (10-12 U.S. & International Feature Films):

The Spotlight category is a tribute to the cinema we love. Regardless of where these impressive films have played throughout the world, the Sundance Film Festival is thrilled to light a marquee for them. We are confident you'll love them, too.

In order to qualify for this out-of-competition category, films are not required to retain any sort of premiere status, and are allowed to have screened at up to two other film festivals prior to Sundance. However, they may not have been released on DVD or broadcast on television or the internet in their entirety.

NEXT (8 U.S. Narrative Feature Films):

Films selected for this category stretch a low budget to create big art. $< = >$ (less than equals greater than) is our speak for the creativity that limited resources can inspire. Although these films share a Festival category, there is nothing categorical about them. By nature, they embody the spirit of indie filmmaking.

Films must be WORLD PREMIERES in order to be considered for this program. If your film has screened at any other film festival, been released on DVD, broadcast on television or the internet, or had a public theatrical screening anywhere in the world, it is not eligible for this program. In order to qualify, the submitted project must be either scripted or improvisational fiction, have a total running time of 50 minutes or more, and at least half of the project's financing must originate from within the United States. Films selected to play in this category will compete against one another for the "Best of NEXT Audience Award."

PREMIERES (14-18 U.S. & International Feature Films):

The Premieres program showcases some of the most highly anticipated dramatic films of the coming year. Catch world premieres and the latest work from established directors at the Sundance Film Festival before they create a splash at local theatres.

Acceptance into this out-of-competition category is by invitation only, but films that are selected must maintain a U.S. or World Premiere status.

DOCUMENTARY PREMIERES (8-10 U.S. & International Feature Films):

Reflecting the growing impact and popularity of documentaries in our world today, the Documentary Premieres section furthers our commitment to this important form of storytelling. Expect to see the debut of new docs about big subjects from established filmmakers.

Acceptance into this out-of-competition category is by invitation only, but films that are selected must maintain a U.S. or World Premiere status.

PARK CITY AT MIDNIGHT (8-9 U.S. & International Feature Films):

A treat for true cinephiles and casual filmgoers alike, this out-of-competition section presents an eclectic mix of horror, sci-fi, over-the-top comedies, surreal tales, explicit animation, and bizarre stories that defy categorization. Raucous, rowdy, and rebellious; softies need not enter!

Films selected for this section do not need to retain any sort of premiere status, and are allowed to have screened at up to two other film festivals before Sundance. However, they may not have been released on DVD or broadcast on television or the internet in their entirety.

NEW FRONTIER FEATURES (5-6 U.S. & International Feature Films):

The New Frontier category celebrates experimentation and the convergence of film, art, and new media technology as an emerging hotbed for cinematic innovation, highlighting work that pushes the limits of traditional aesthetics and structures of filmmaking.

Films selected for this out-of-competition category do not need to retain any sort of premiere status, and are allowed to have screened at up to two other film festivals before Sundance. However, they may not have been released on DVD or broadcast on television or the internet in their entirety.

FROM THE COLLECTION (2 U.S. & International Feature Films):

Rediscover classic works of independent cinema as the Sundance Film Festival presents films from the vaults of the Sundance Collection at UCLA. A unique archive devoted to preserving indie film, the Collection exists not only to save important works that would otherwise disappear but also to make them accessible to new audiences and show them as they were intended to be seen: on the big screen. Formed in partnership with the UCLA Film and Television Archive and growing through the support of donor companies and individual filmmakers, the Collection now contains more than 800 films.

Acceptance into this out-of-competition category is by invitation only. Open submissions will not be considered for this program.

4) WHAT IS THE DEFINITION OF THE TERM “PUBLIC THEATRICAL SCREENING”?

As outlined in Item #3 above, your feature-length film is ineligible for many of our Festival Program Categories if a prior “public theatrical screening” has occurred or will occur before January 19th, 2012. This doesn’t mean that you may not submit your film, but it does limit the number of Program Categories it is eligible for. A “public theatrical screening” is defined as any screening of your completed film to which members of the general public may purchase or otherwise obtain tickets, whether at a film festival or any other public screening. If you hold a work-in-progress screening of your film in order to raise completion funds, this does not count as a “public theatrical screening.” However, the version of the film you submit to us must be significantly different than the one that was screened as a work-in-progress. Test screenings held for the purpose of obtaining feedback are also considered to be work-in-progress screenings. A private, invite-only screening of your completed film will also not be considered as a “public theatrical screening,” even if the invited guests were required to purchase tickets in order to attend.

Although feature-length films that have previously screened elsewhere are still eligible for submission to many of our out-of-competition categories, we do prefer to play U.S. feature films that are world premieres and international feature films that have not yet screened outside of their country of origin, so we reserve the right to use premiere status in our decision-making process. We have no such requirements for Short Films, which may have had any number of prior screenings and still remain eligible.

5) HOW DO YOU DETERMINE WHETHER A FILM IS CONSIDERED U.S. OR INTERNATIONAL?

In almost all cases, this is determined by the primary source of the film's funding. If 50% or more of the film’s financing came from sources within the United States, it qualifies as a U.S. Film. If more than 50% of the film’s financing came from international sources, it qualifies as an International Film. Please select your submission category based on the primary source of financing, but we do reserve the right to make a final judgment call based on a number of other factors, such as the primary shooting location, language(s) spoken in the film, and the nationalities of key members of a film’s cast and crew.

6) HOW DO YOU DISTINGUISH SHORT FILMS FROM FEATURE FILMS?

Films with running times of less than 50 minutes are classified as Shorts. Films that are 50 minutes or longer are classified as Features. You should select your submission category based on what the final projected running time of the film will be, including credits. We have no minimum or maximum length restrictions-- all we ask is that your film be submitted on a single DVD.

7) IF MY FILM INCLUDES NON-ENGLISH DIALOGUE, DO YOU REQUIRE ENGLISH SUBTITLES?

We require that all films that contain non-English dialogue include on-screen English subtitles. A translated list of dialogue on paper is not sufficient! If your film is mostly in English and you intend to intentionally leave out subtitles for any non-English dialogue included in the film, you do not need to provide subtitles for those particular sections.

8) WHAT IS YOUR PREFERRED FORMAT FOR SUBMISSION?

Films should be submitted to us on a single DVD-R or DVD+R disc, and we would prefer that they be sent in a simple paper CD/DVD sleeve in order to cut down on waste. Once we receive your DVD, the case or sleeve will be recycled, so it doesn't matter what type of packaging you use to submit your disc. DVDs must be compatible with standard set-top DVD players-- do not simply burn a quicktime or AVI file to a disc as data. Please ensure that your disc plays in a standard DVD player before it is mailed to us! We will also accept submissions on dual-layer discs (DVD-R Dual Layer or DVD+R Dual Layer), but if you choose to submit your film in that format, please include a standard DVD-R or DVD+R disc as a backup. Please be sure to include both your Withoutabox tracking number and the title of your film directly on the face of your DVD. It is also very helpful for us if you write your tracking number clearly on the front of your envelope.

9) CAN I SEND YOU MY DVD IN PAL FORMAT, OR DO YOU ACCEPT NTSC ONLY?

It is highly preferred that you send us an NTSC, Region 1 or region free (Region 0) DVD when submitting to us, but we will also accept PAL and SECAM formats as well. If you are sending a DVD that has a region code other than 0 or 1, and/or a format other than NTSC, please mark this CLEARLY on the face of the disc and on the DVD sleeve or case.

10) CAN I UPLOAD MY FILM INSTEAD OF SENDING A DVD?

Yes, but you must use the Secure Online Screener system available to you within your Withoutabox account. We will not accept a link to your film on Vimeo, YouTube or any other video streaming or download site.

11) DO YOU ACCEPT SUBMISSIONS ON VHS OR ANY OTHER FORMAT?

No. Films must be submitted on either a standard DVD-R/DVD+R or DVD-R/DVD+R Dual Layer disc, or via the Withoutabox Secure Online Screener system. For the purposes of reviewing your initial submission, we cannot accept Blu-Ray, VHS, Beta, Mini-DV, HD-CAM, 16mm, 35mm or any other format not referenced in items 15, 16, and 17 above. If your film is accepted into the Festival, we will contact you regarding the formats we accept for projection.

12) WHY DON'T YOU ACCEPT SUBMISSIONS ON BLU-RAY?

Although we have accepted both Blu-Ray and HD-DVD formats in the past, it has proven to be more efficient to use to one standardized format for viewing submitted films. For that reason, we ask that you do not submit a physical disc in any format other than DVD-R, DVD+R, DVD-R Dual Layer, or DVD+R Dual Layer. You may not submit discs that will only play in a Blu-Ray player.

13) CAN I ARRANGE A SCREENING OF MY FILM INSTEAD OF SENDING A DVD?

No. We can only screen submitted films on DVD or via Withoutabox's Secure Online Screener system.

14) WHAT SHOULD I INCLUDE WITH MY SUBMISSION?

After you have completed the online application, all we need from you is a single copy of your film. In an effort to cut down on waste, we ask that you do not send printed press or promotional materials to us-- we will not keep anything in your package except for your DVD. Even the case it is sent in will be recycled, so there is no need to spend time creating artwork for your case. We would prefer that you send your film in a small clamshell case, jewel case, or paper DVD sleeve. Quite often, films sent to us in standard size retail DVD cases will become dislodged during shipping, resulting in scratched, unplayable discs. Please refrain from taping your disc to any surface, as tape residue may also render your disc unplayable. Our preferred method of packaging is a medium (approximately 6" x 9"), bubble padded envelope. This is not a requirement, but it does help make the process run more smoothly. It is not necessary to wrap your DVD in bubble wrap and mail it to us in an oversized box. Doing so will only make it more difficult for us to process your film once it is received.

Please do not use a paper label on your disc! There are many different variables with stickers and paper labels that could render your disc unplayable-- a permanent marker (such as a Sharpie) will work just fine. Discs with text or graphics printed directly on the surface are also acceptable. Please write or print your film's title and tracking number directly on the face of the disc, like below:



All submissions should be mailed to us at the address below. Please be sure to write your Withoutabox tracking number somewhere on the front of your envelope!

2012 Sundance Film Festival Submissions
Tracking #: (write your tracking number here!)
8530 Wilshire Blvd., 3rd Floor
Beverly Hills, CA 90211

15) HOW OLD CAN MY FILM BE AND STILL QUALIFY FOR SUBMISSION?

Any film submitted for 2012 Festival consideration must have been completed in either 2010 or 2011. If your film was completed prior to 2010, it is no longer eligible for submission. If your film's production took place prior to 2010 but your final cut was not completed until 2010 or 2011, your film is still eligible.

16) MY FILM WAS REJECTED LAST YEAR. CAN I RE-SUBMIT?

Yes, but only if it has changed significantly. We are not interested in seeing the same cut again-- it should be a complete reworking of the previous version that was submitted to us. If you are in doubt, it probably hasn't changed enough.

17) WILL YOU NOTIFY ME IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE MY FILM?

Due to the volume of submissions we receive, we are unable to contact each applicant individually if we do not receive his or her film. It is your responsibility to make sure that your package makes its way to our office. Once your film has been marked as received in our system, you will be able to log into your Withoutabox account and see that it has been marked as such. Alternately, you may also include a self-addressed, stamped postcard, which we will mail back to you once your submission has been processed. Due to the volume of submissions we receive (10,297 films for 2011 Festival consideration), we ask that you allow up to one month for us to process your submission once it has been mailed. If your film has still not been marked as received within this period of time, contact us at programming@sundance.org for further instructions.

18) WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO GET MY DVD TO PLAY?

We will make every effort to play your DVD, but in the event that we are unable to view your film, we will attempt to contact you to request another copy using the primary contact information that you provided on your application. However, there is no guarantee that we will get your replacement disc in time, and we must give preference to those who sent in a working copy to begin with. For this reason, we ask that you make absolutely sure that your DVD plays all the way through BEFORE you submit it to us! We reserve the right to disqualify any film whose initial submission was deemed unplayable unless the disc was broken in transit. If your disc is cracked when we receive it, we will contact you for a replacement copy.

19) CAN I SUBMIT A NEWER CUT OF MY FILM AFTER I'VE ALREADY SUBMITTED AN EARLIER VERSION?

Although we have accepted replacement cuts of previously submitted films in the past, this has proven to cause a great deal of confusion throughout the screening process. For that reason, we ask that you do NOT send in replacement cuts after your initial submission has been received by us. You may check the status of your film at any time by logging into your account at www.withoutabox.com. If it has been more than a month since you sent in your film and it still isn't marked as received on Withoutabox, please contact us at programming@sundance.org and we will let you know whether or not you need to send it in again. We reserve the right to disqualify any film that we receive multiple versions of, without refund of any or all submission fees. If you register for the early deadline and you do not have a final cut ready to send to us before that deadline passes, you may either send us your rough cut or pay the extra fee to send it in by the official or late deadline due dates. **WE WILL ONLY VIEW THE FIRST CUT OF YOUR FILM THAT WE RECEIVE!**

20) IF MY FILM HAS AIRED ON TELEVISION, MAY I STILL SUBMIT IT?

If your film is a short (less than 50 minutes in length), it is still eligible even though it has been broadcast on television. If your feature-length film (50 minutes or longer) had one or more nationwide television airings in one or more countries, that particular cut is NOT eligible for submission. However, it may be submitted if the version that aired on TV is significantly different from the one you wish to submit. For example, a documentary that aired in an hour-long TV slot may still be submitted if a longer cut is created for the purposes of theatrical distribution. Though we reserve the right to make a final determination on any given film's submission eligibility, those that were broadcast locally or regionally and did not receive a nationwide television broadcast in any country are still eligible to submit the same cut that was broadcast.

21) CAN I SUBMIT MY FILM WITH A TEMPORARY MUSIC TRACK?

Temp tracks, scratch music, and temp scores are perfectly fine for your submission, but please include a list of missing or temporary elements directly on-screen before the film begins.

22) CAN I SUBMIT MY FILM AS A ROUGH CUT?

A large percentage of the films submitted to us every year are unfinished versions with incomplete or temporary sound, missing scenes, no credits or titles, unfinished effects, etc. However, it does need to be complete enough for us to be able to make a decision. If you expect that your final version will be 90 minutes long, it's probably not a good idea to send us a 45 minute rough cut. Whenever possible, you should provide an on-screen description of missing scenes or elements as placeholders within the continuity of the film.

23) DO I REALLY HAVE TO REGISTER MY FILM ONLINE?

All submissions must be issued a unique Tracking Number in order to be recognized by our system. The only way to get a Tracking Number is to fill out the online application at www.sundance.org/submissions or by logging into your existing account at www.withoutabox.com. Unregistered submissions will not be viewed! If you are having trouble with the online form, please e-mail us at programming@sundance.org and we will be glad to help guide you through the process.

24) AM I REQUIRED TO OBTAIN RIGHTS CLEARANCE FOR MUSIC OR OTHER COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL INCLUDED IN MY FILM?

From a legal standpoint, you must clear all copyrighted material included in your film before you can publicly screen it. However, Sundance does not check to ensure that you have obtained clearance for these materials at any point during the application process, nor will we be held responsible for any inclusion of uncleared materials in your film. It is the sole responsibility of the entity submitting the project to secure permission from the copyright holder of the material in question, whether it is music, stock footage, or any other elements that could violate an existing copyright. Films that are accepted into the Festival must sign a waiver stating that materials used in the film do not violate any existing copyright. Quite often, rights holders offer reduced rates for festival films, so you should contact them directly to avoid any possible rights infringements.

25) DO I NEED TO MEET A MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT IN ORDER TO SUBMIT A FILM?

No, we encourage filmmakers of all ages to submit their work. However, we do not have any separate categories or programs specifically related to young or student filmmakers. All submitted films will compete against each other for available slots in each program. If you are under the age of 18 and your film is accepted, we will require express written permission from your parent or legal guardian before we are able to screen your film.

26) HOW MANY FILMS MAY I SUBMIT?

You may submit as many films as you'd like, but you only need to create one account. Upon doing so, you may fill out individual applications for multiple films. We do not offer reduced rates in fees for multiple submissions. If you submit three films, you must pay the submission fees for all three of them. Please do not submit multiple projects on the same DVD. If we receive a submission with multiple films on one disc, we will only consider the first film included.

27) WHAT IF MY CONTACT INFORMATION OR ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT MY SUBMISSION CHANGES AFTER I'VE FILLED OUT THE APPLICATION?

You may log into your account at www.withoutabox.com at any time to update or revise your application. We will use the public contact information from your application to contact you regarding problems with your submission and to notify you of your acceptance status, so please ensure that this information is always kept up-to-date.

28) WHEN WILL I FIND OUT IF MY FILM WAS SELECTED?

We will contact you via e-mail during the first week of December. Please make sure that the e-mail address you provided on your application will be operational at that time. If your e-mail address changes after you've filled out the application, please log into your account and update it. We will not be held responsible for any failed delivery of notification status! If you haven't heard from us by December 7th, please contact us at programming@sundance.org for an official notification.

29) IF MY FILM IS ACCEPTED, WHAT PROJECTION FORMATS DO YOU ACCEPT?

If your film is selected, you must provide either a film print in 16mm or 35mm format, or digital video in Sony HDCAM format. These are the ONLY formats we accept. For 35mm film prints, we screen 24fps with an aspect ratio of 1.37, 1.66, 1.85, or 2.39/Scope. We accept sound formats of mono, stereo, Dolby SR and Dolby SRD (Dolby Digital). For 16mm, we will only accept prints in a 1.37 aspect ratio with mono optical sound. If you choose to send a Sony HDCAM tape (most accepted films screen in this format), it must be formatted to 1080i/59.94 or 1080p/23.98psf. We do not accept HDCAM tapes in any other format! Our video projection is full frame 1.78 aspect ratio (16x9). If your video is 4x3, 1.85, 1.66, or 2.35/2.39/Scope you must have it pillarboxed or letterboxed during the lab transfer to allow it to be screened at 16x9 without any image distortion. For HDCAM sound, we require LTRT or stereo mixed tracks on channels 1 & 2. All of our theaters are equipped with Dolby Pro Logic. Please note that these specifications are subject to change each year.

30) DOES IT MATTER IF MY FILM IS LOW BUDGET AND DOESN'T FEATURE ANY CELEBRITIES?

We depend on new talent and new filmmakers to uphold our mission as a Festival of discovery. If your film is received in time, your account is paid in full, and there are no playability issues with your DVD, YOUR FILM WILL BE SCREENED in its entirety and given the same initial level of consideration as any other film that is sent to us. It doesn't matter if you have an agent, manager, or publicist-- we screen all films equally and fairly, regardless of who you know. Discovering new talent and interesting voices is our main priority.

31) IS THERE A SCREENPLAY COMPETITION AT THE FESTIVAL?

We do not currently have a screenplay competition, nor do we accept screenplay submissions. Completed feature films that are accepted into our narrative competition program categories are eligible for a screenwriting prize, but we do not have a screenplay competition at the Festival. Please visit www.sundance.org for more information about our non-festival programs that do accept written materials.

32) WHAT TYPES OF FILMS ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? WHAT STANDS OUT?

We celebrate the independent spirit of interesting and original storytelling. Diverse voices and films that push the limits of style and narrative also excite us, but there is no single aesthetic that we look for over any other. We are mainly looking for great films and interesting points of view.

33) IF MY FILM IS NOT CHOSEN, MAY I SPEAK WITH A PROGRAMMER FOR NOTES OR FEEDBACK?

Unfortunately, no. With more than 10,000 film submissions expected this year, it simply isn't viable for us to correspond with each applicant individually. Don't be discouraged if your film isn't accepted-- we view far more worthy films each year than we have room to play.

34) IF I FILL OUT THE ONLINE APPLICATION AND NEVER SEND MY FILM TO YOU, CAN I GET A REFUND OF THE APPLICATION FEE?

No. The application fee is non-refundable. If you don't expect to send the film in within the current deadline window, please wait until the next available deadline window to fill out the application.

35) WHERE DOES MY SUBMISSION FEE GO?

Sundance Institute is a non-profit organization that provides many different programs and initiatives for film and theatre writers, directors, actors, producers, and composers. Fees from Festival submissions help fund programs such as these, and also help us keep the submissions process thorough and democratic. We strive to process every package promptly and view every film with an attentive and unbiased eye. For more information about Sundance Institute's many programs, please visit us at www.sundance.org.

36) WHEN DOES THE 2012 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL TAKE PLACE?

The Festival will take place in Park City, Utah on January 19th – 29th, 2012. We hope to see you there!