



sundance film festival

January 21–31, 2016

Submitting to the 2016 Sundance Film Festival

1) When are the submission deadlines and what are the fees?

The following deadlines are the dates by which we must receive your film. They are NOT postmark deadlines. We must receive your digital upload or physical disc by the deadline date for which your film has been registered! All submissions are handled identically, 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 submission fee. We encourage you to submit your film as early as possible to take advantage of lower submission fees.

Early Submission Deadline:

U.S. and International Short Films:
Monday, August 3, 2015 - \$40 entry fee

U.S. and International Feature Films:
Monday, August 10, 2015 - \$60 entry fee

Official Submission Deadline:

U.S. and International Short Films:
Monday, August 24, 2015 - \$60 entry fee

U.S. and International Feature Films:
Monday, August 31, 2015 - \$80 entry fee

Late Submission Deadline:

U.S. and International Short Films:
Monday, September 21, 2015 - \$80 entry fee

U.S. and International Feature Films:
Monday, September 28, 2015 - \$110 entry fee

Again, your film MUST arrive at our office no later than the deadline date for which you have registered. For example, if you pay \$60 to register your Short Film for the Official Submission deadline and we receive it after August 24th, you will be prompted to make an additional payment of \$20 in order to bring your account up to date. We will not view your film until this payment is received. Please allow up to 48 hours for processing of digital video uploads. If you are sending us a physical disc, we suggest that you mail it to us well in advance of the deadline for which you have registered.

2) What are the submission categories and how do I choose the right one for my film?

Each year, we select 120-125 Feature Films and 60-80 Short Films to play in one of 13 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 of U.S. origin 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 screened at up to two other festivals anywhere in the world are still eligible for our out-of-competition programs. U.S. Narrative Feature Films that have been or will be exhibited publicly at one or more non-festival screenings, broadcast or streamed on television or the Internet, or released via any home video or other public distribution platform (Blu-ray, DVD, video on demand, etc.) before January 31st, 2016 are not eligible for any of the Institute's Festival programs.

U.S. Documentary Feature Films:

Any non-fiction film of U.S. origin 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 screened at up to two other festivals anywhere in the world are still eligible for our out-of-competition programs. U.S. Documentary Feature Films that have been or will be exhibited publicly at one or more non-festival screenings, broadcast or streamed on television or the Internet, or released via any home video or other public distribution platform (Blu-ray, DVD, video on demand, etc.) before January 31st, 2016 are not eligible for any of the Institute's Festival programs.

International Narrative Feature Films:

Any narrative work of fiction of international origin 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 previously screened at any festival outside of the film's country or countries of origin are not eligible to submit to the Institute for Festival consideration. International Narrative Feature Films that have been or will be exhibited publicly at one or more non-festival screenings, broadcast or streamed on television or the Internet, or released via any home video or other public distribution platform (Blu-ray, DVD, video on demand, etc.) before January 31st, 2016 are not eligible for any of the Institute's Festival programs.

International Documentary Feature Films:

Any non-fiction film of international origin with a running time of 50 minutes or more, with the exception of 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 previously screened at any festival outside of the film's country or countries of origin are not eligible to submit to the Institute for Festival consideration. International Documentary Feature Films that have been or will be exhibited publicly at one or more non-festival screenings, broadcast or streamed on television or the Internet, or released via any home video or other public distribution platform (Blu-ray, DVD, video on demand, etc.) before January 31st, 2016 are not eligible for any of the Institute's Festival programs.

U.S. Short Films:

Any narrative fiction or documentary film of U.S. origin with a running time of less than 50 minutes, including credits. 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 to retain eligibility. U.S. Short Films may have been screened at any number of public theatrical exhibitions in the world, broadcast or streamed on television or the Internet, or released via any home video or other public distribution platform.

International Short Films:

Any narrative fiction or documentary film of international origin with a running time of less than 50 minutes, including credits. In order to qualify as an International Short Film, at least 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 to retain eligibility. International Short Films may have been screened at any number of public theatrical exhibitions in the world, broadcast or streamed on television or the Internet, or released via any home video or other public distribution platform.

3) What are the festival programs and eligibility requirements for each?

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

At the core of our Festival program are our competition programs. Films that are selected to be in one of these six programs are eligible for jury and/or audience awards in their respective sections:

U.S. Dramatic Competition (16 U.S. Narrative Feature Films):

Presenting the world premieres of 16 feature films from the United States, the Dramatic Competition offers festivalgoers a first look at groundbreaking new voices in American independent film, 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 been screened or released in any country prior to January 31st, 2016, whether at a film festival, a ticketed public theatrical exhibition, broadcast or streamed on television or the Internet, or released via any home video or other public distribution platform (Blu-ray, DVD, video on demand, etc.), 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):

16 world premiere American documentaries that illuminate the ideas, people, and events that shape the present day. From human rights to popular culture, these films confront the subjects that define our time.

Films must be WORLD PREMIERES in order to be considered for this program. If your film has been screened or released in any country prior to January 31st, 2016, whether at a film festival, a ticketed public theatrical exhibition, broadcast or streamed on television or the Internet, or released via any home video or other public distribution platform (Blu-ray, DVD, video on demand, etc.), 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 International Narrative Feature Films):

These 12 films from emerging filmmaking talents around the world offer fresh perspectives and innovative styles. We present these exceptional works as a way to honor the independent spirit in filmmakers everywhere.

Films must be INTERNATIONAL PREMIERES in order to be considered for this program. If your film has screened or will screen outside of its country or countries of origin prior to January 31st, 2016, whether at a film festival or other ticketed public theatrical exhibition, it is not eligible for this program. Films that have been or will be broadcast or streamed on television or the Internet or released via any home video or other public distribution platform (Blu-ray, DVD, video on demand, etc.) in any country prior to January 31st, 2016 are also ineligible. 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 program will compete against one another for jury prizes and an audience award.

World Cinema Documentary Competition (12 International Documentary Feature Films):

Made by some of the most courageous and extraordinary filmmakers working today, these 12 films from around the world poignantly examine issues that range from the personal to the universal.

Films must be INTERNATIONAL PREMIERES in order to be considered for this program. If your film has screened or will screen outside of its country or countries of origin prior to January 31st, 2016, whether at a film festival or other ticketed public theatrical exhibition, it is not eligible for this program. Films that have been or will be broadcast or streamed on television or the Internet or released via any home video or other public distribution platform (Blu-ray, DVD, video on demand, etc.) in any country prior to January 31st, 2016 are also ineligible. 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 program will compete against one another for jury prizes and an audience award.

NEXT (8-10 U.S. Narrative Feature Films):

Pure, bold works distinguished by an innovative approach to storytelling populate this program that will shape a “greater” next wave in American cinema. 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 been screened or released in any country prior to January 31st, 2016, whether at a film festival, a ticketed public theatrical exhibition, broadcast or streamed on television or the Internet, or released via any home video or other public distribution platform (Blu-ray, DVD, video on demand, etc.), 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 program will compete against one another for the NEXT Audience Award.

Short Film Competition (60-80 U.S. & International Short Films):

Driven by innovation and experimentation, the Shorts Programs showcase filmmaking’s most unique and original voices with cutting-edge animation and the best in short form dramatic and documentary cinema.

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 Short Film Competition. In order to qualify, 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 publicly exhibited, broadcast, streamed, or released via any home video outlet in any country and still remain eligible for our Short Film Competition. All short films screened at the Festival are eligible for the Short Film Grand Jury Prize. Short films also compete for jury prizes within their respective categories (U.S. Fiction, International Fiction, Non-Fiction, and Animation).

Films selected for the following seven Festival programs will screen out-of-competition, so the eligibility requirements are generally not as strict. With the exception of the Premieres and Documentary Premieres categories, 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 January 31st, 2016:

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

Regardless of where these impressive films have played throughout the world, Spotlight is a tribute to the cinema we love. We are confident you’ll love them, too.

Films considered for this out-of-competition program are not required to retain any sort of theatrical premiere status, and may have screened at up to two other film festivals or ticketed public theatrical exhibitions in any country prior to January 31st, 2016. Films that have been or will be broadcast or streamed on television or the Internet or released via any home video or other public distribution platform (Blu-ray, DVD, video on demand, etc.) prior to January 31st, 2016 are not eligible for this program. In order to qualify, submitted projects must have a total running time of at least 50 minutes.

Park City at Midnight (8 U.S. & International feature films):

An eclectic mix of horror, sci-fi, over-the-top comedy, explicit animation, and bizarre stories that defy categorization. These unruly films will keep you edge-seated and wide awake.

Films considered for this out-of-competition program are not required to retain any sort of theatrical premiere status, and may have screened at up to two other film festivals or ticketed public theatrical exhibitions in any country prior to January 31st, 2016. Films that have been or will be broadcast or streamed on television or the Internet or released via any home video or other public distribution platform (Blu-ray, DVD, video on demand, etc.) prior to January 31st, 2016 are not eligible for this program. In order to qualify, submitted projects must have a total running time of at least 50 minutes.

New Frontier Features (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 considered for this out-of-competition program are not required to retain any sort of theatrical premiere status, and may have screened at up to two other film festivals or ticketed public theatrical exhibitions in any country prior to January 31st, 2016. Films that have been or will be broadcast or streamed on television or the Internet or released via any home video or other public distribution platform (Blu-ray, DVD, video on demand, etc.) prior to January 31st, 2016 are not eligible for this program. In order to qualify, submitted projects must have a total running time of at least 50 minutes.

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

The Premieres program showcases some of the most highly anticipated dramatic films of the coming year. Catch 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 program is by invitation only, but films that are selected must maintain World Premiere status and have a total running time of at least 50 minutes.

Documentary Premieres (8-10 U.S. & International Documentary Feature Films):

Renowned filmmakers and documentary films about far-reaching subjects comprise this program that highlights our ongoing commitment to this important form of storytelling.

Acceptance into this out-of-competition program is by invitation only, but films that are selected must maintain World Premiere status and have a total running time of at least 50 minutes.

Sundance Kids (2-3 U.S. & International Feature Films):

Created to reach the youngest generation of independent film fans, our Sundance Kids program showcases films that will appeal to younger and older alike. Programmed in collaboration with Tumbleweeds, Utah's premier film festival for children and youth.

Films considered for this out-of-competition program are not required to retain any sort of theatrical premiere status, and may have screened at up to two other film festivals or ticketed public theatrical exhibitions in any country prior to January 31st, 2016. Films that have been or will be broadcast or streamed on television or the Internet or released via any home video or other public distribution platform (Blu-ray, DVD, video on demand, etc.) prior to January 31st, 2016 are not eligible for this program. In order to qualify, submitted projects must have a total running time of at least 50 minutes.

Sundance Collection (1-2 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 program is by invitation only, but films that are selected must have a total running time of at least 50 minutes. Open submissions will not be considered for this program. Only films that are a part of the Sundance Collection at UCLA will qualify for Festival inclusion.

4) How do you distinguish short films from feature films?

Films with total running times of less than 50 minutes (including credits) are classified as shorts. Films with total running times of 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. We have no minimum requirement for short films or maximum running time restrictions for feature films. The only requirement is that your film may not exceed the 10GB file size limit for digital uploads, or it must fit on a single disc when submitting a hard copy via one of our other accepted formats (Blu-ray, DVD, or dual-layer DVD).

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 primary shooting location, language(s) spoken in the film, and/or the nationalities of key members of a film's cast and crew.

6) 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.

7) What is the definition of the term “ticketed public theatrical exhibition”?

As outlined in Item 3 above, your feature-length film is ineligible for many of our Festival Program Categories if a prior “ticketed public theatrical exhibition” has occurred or will occur before January 31st, 2016. This doesn't mean that you may not submit your film, but it does limit the number of program categories for which it is eligible. A “ticketed public theatrical exhibition” 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 ticketed public theatrical exhibition. 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. Additionally, private, invite-only screenings of your film are not considered to be “ticketed public theatrical exhibitions,” and thus will not affect your eligibility, 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.

8) How old can my film be and still qualify for submission?

Any film submitted for 2016 Festival consideration must have been completed in either 2014 or 2015. If your film was completed prior to 2014, it is no longer eligible for submission. If your film's production took place prior to 2014 but your final cut was not completed until 2014 or 2015, your film is still eligible.

9) My film was not accepted last year. Can I re-submit?

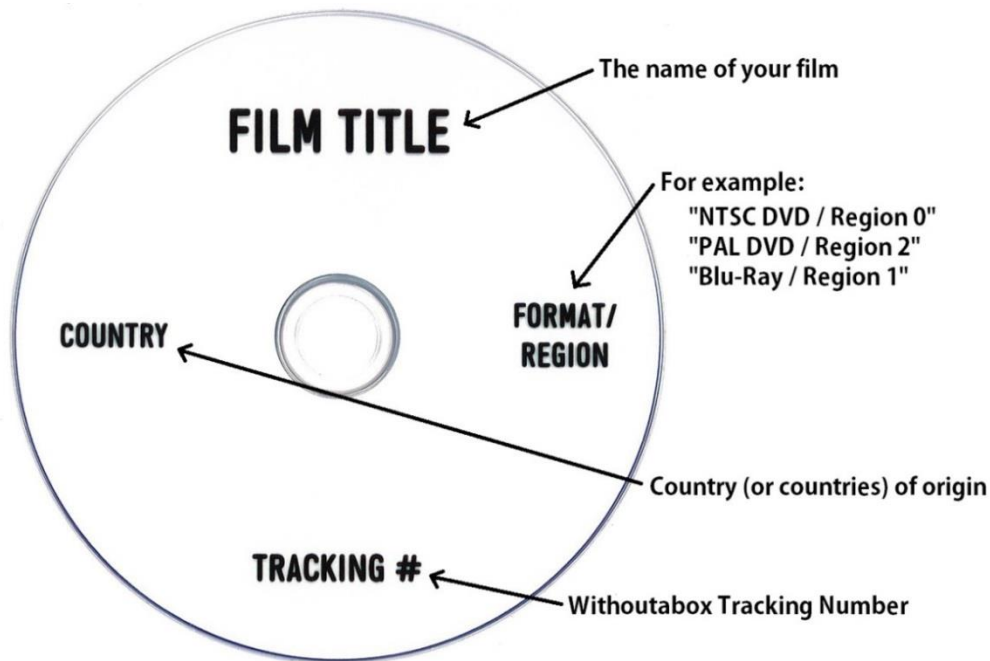
Yes, but **only if it has changed significantly**. We are not interested in seeing the same cut again-- it should be a complete reworking of the previous version that was submitted to us. If you are in doubt, it probably hasn't changed enough.

10) What submission formats do you accept?

All films must be submitted using the Withoutabox Secure Online Screener System, via a Vimeo link entered directly on the submission application, or mailed to us on a single physical disc (Blu-ray or DVD). We cannot accept links via e-mail, and **we are unable to accept digital download or streaming links other than Vimeo at this time**. If you choose to provide a Vimeo link on your submission application, please ensure that you select “Anywhere” under the “Where can this video be embedded” section of your video's privacy settings.

Physical discs may be submitted to us in three formats: Blu-ray disc, DVD, or dual-layer DVD. Please refrain from submitting multiple films on a single disc. If you do so, we will only view the first film on the disc. You do not need to include menus, trailers, production stills, or any other video clips on your disc. Our preference is to receive a Blu-ray or DVD that starts playing your film as soon as it is inserted. We would prefer that discs be sent in a simple paper sleeve in order to cut down on waste. It is of the utmost importance that you **ensure that your film plays all the way through** regardless of which submission format you select! Digital uploads should be viewed in their entirety before submitting the application, and please make sure that your Blu-ray or DVD plays in a standard Blu-ray/DVD player before it is mailed to us! Your disc must be authored as a Blu-ray or DVD; do not simply burn a video file to a disc as data.

For DVDs, 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 accept other formats as well (such as PAL/region 2). 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. If you choose to submit your feature film on Blu-ray, we ask that you **ONLY** submit a disc formatted for region A! Due to region coding issues with the Blu-ray format, most of our Blu-ray players will not play discs that are formatted to regions B or C. Please write or print the following information **directly on the face of your disc**, preferably in a manner similar to the example provided below:



11) If my film includes non-English dialogue, do you require English subtitles?

All films that contain significant non-English dialogue **MUST** include on-screen English subtitles at the time of submission. A translated list of dialogue on paper will not suffice. Please do not send us an un-subtitled foreign-language film with the intention of providing a subtitled version at a later date. If your film is mostly in English and you wish to intentionally leave out subtitles for any non-English dialogue included in the film as an artistic choice, you do not need to provide subtitles for those particular sections. If submitting a physical disc, **we would prefer that all subtitles are hardcoded to your video file** as opposed to including discreet subtitles that need to be turned on in order to be viewed.

12) To which category should I submit my animated film?

We do not have a specific submission category for animated short or feature films. All animated films are treated the same as their live action counterparts for the purpose of selecting a submission category. For example, an animated fiction film with a running time of 50 minutes or more that received 50% or more of its financing from within the United States should be submitted to the U.S. Narrative Feature Films category. An animated film with a running time of less than 50 minutes that received more than half of its financing from sources outside of the United States should be submitted to the International Short Films category.

13) How does the Withoutabox secure online screener system work?

If you choose to submit an online screener, please be aware that the process of completing your upload can take up to 24 hours, so **don't wait until your selected deadline window is about to pass** to begin! Although our online application is handled through Withoutabox, digital uploads are handled through your IMDb account. You must link your IMDb account to your Withoutabox account in order to use the secure online screener system. You will be prompted to log into or create an IMDb account when you initially create your Withoutabox account. If you already have a Withoutabox account and have not yet linked an IMDb account to it, you will be prompted to do so once you select "secure online screener" as your submission format.

Withoutabox/IMDb have recently introduced a much higher-quality online screener system. You may now upload high definition video files with a file size of up to 10GB. Please view your secure online screener in its entirety to ensure that it meets your standards of quality **before** you submit it to us.

The following settings are recommended to optimize video quality on the IMDb site for your Withoutabox upload:

- **Frame rate:** 24, 25 or 30 FPS
- **File Formats:** MP4, WMV, AVI or Quicktime (Apple ProRes formats are **not** accepted)
- **Codecs:** Most major codecs are accepted, but H.264 video with AAC audio is recommended for best streaming results
- **HD Resolution:** 1280x720 (720p, 16:9 aspect ratio) or 1920x1080 (1080p, 16x9 aspect ratio)
- **SD Resolution:** 640x360 (16x9 aspect ratio) or 640x480 (4x3 aspect ratio)

On the video upload page, please be sure to select “Yes” under the “Make Video Private” option unless you want your video to be made public on IMDb. “Yes” is selected by default. Uploading your film via the Withoutabox/IMDb secure online screener system does not give us access to do anything other than view it. We cannot download, copy, or share films that have been uploaded via Withoutabox/IMDb for our consideration, and you are not giving Withoutabox or its parent companies permission to access your video for any purpose other than submitting it for festival consideration.

14) Where do I send my submission?

If you choose to submit a physical disc to us instead of a Secure Online Screener or Vimeo Link, it should be mailed to us at the address below. **Please be sure to write your Withoutabox tracking number on the front of your envelope!** This will help ensure that your submission is processed as quickly as possible.

2016 Sundance Film Festival Submissions
Tracking #: (write your tracking number here!)
5900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 800
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Please do not send us a physical disc if you have already provided a Vimeo link or uploaded your film via the Withoutabox Secure Online Screener system. If you are not satisfied with any aspect of your digital upload and would prefer to send a disc instead, please contact programming@sundance.org so that we can modify your previously selected submission format.

15) May I submit multiple versions of the same film in different categories?

If you have created two different cuts of the same film with different running times, you may submit both as separate submissions. It is not uncommon for filmmakers to submit both a feature-length and a short version of the same project. Both versions can be submitted under the same Withoutabox account, but each one must be submitted via its own unique project page and each version must receive its own unique tracking number. You must pay the submission fee for each separate version you are submitting.

16) 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.

17) Do I really have to fill out the online application?

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/submit, or by logging into your existing account at www.withoutabox.com/sundance. 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.

18) 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 materials 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 holders** 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 independent films, so you should contact them directly to avoid any potential rights infringements.

19) 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) is from the U.S. and has had one or more local or nationwide television airings anywhere in the world, 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. If your feature-length film originates from outside of the U.S., it may have been

broadcast on television within its country of origin and still maintain eligibility.

20) 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 disc. Quite often, films sent to us in standard size retail DVD or Blu-ray cases will become dislodged during shipping, resulting in scratched, unplayable discs, so we recommend mailing your film in a paper sleeve or slim jewel/clamshell case. 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. It is not necessary to wrap your disc 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.

21) What happens if you are unable to get my film to play?

We will make every effort to view your disc or online screener, but in the event that we are unable to watch 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 disc or online screener plays all the way through BEFORE you send it to us! If your disc arrives broken, we will also make every attempt to contact you for a replacement.

22) Will you notify me if you do not receive my film?

Due to the volume of submissions we receive (12,000 were received for 2015 Festival consideration), we are unable to contact each applicant individually if we do not receive his or her film. It is your responsibility to ensure that your package arrives at our office before the deadline you have selected. 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. Please allow up to six weeks 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.

23) Can I submit a newer cut of my film after I've already submitted an earlier version?

Sending in replacement cuts after you have already submitted a prior version of the film can cause a great deal of confusion throughout the screening process and it is also not fair to those who sent in a cut prior to their selected submission deadline. We reserve the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees, any applicant who attempts to avoid submission fees by sending in a replacement cut of their film after their selected deadline date has passed. If you log into your Withoutabox account and your film has not been marked as received, please contact us at programming@sundance.org before you send another copy. We will only view the first cut of your film that we receive!

24) Can you return my DVD or Blu-ray to me once you're done with it?

Unfortunately, we are unable to return any physical materials that are sent to us. However, we do take the security of this process very seriously– at no point will your disc leave our hands, and once our submissions process is over, all physical discs are recycled at a secure facility.

25) Can I make trailers, clips, and/or scenes of my film available online?

Yes. Posting minimal footage or scenes from your film on the Internet does not affect its eligibility for any submission category. It is also acceptable for cast and crew to use scenes from your film for the purposes of an exhibition reel.

26) 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.

27) 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 signed, written permission from your parent or legal guardian before we are able to screen your film at the Festival.

28) 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 disc. If we receive a submission with multiple films on one disc, we will only consider the first film included.

29) 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.

30) When will I find out whether or not 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! If you haven't heard from us by December 10th, please contact us at programming@sundance.org for an official notification.

31) If my film is selected for the Festival, what exhibition formats do you accept?

We accept DCP, and 35mm film prints for exhibition at the Festival. Feature films delivered on DCP must include two copies on CRU drives and a non-DCP backup. All DCPs must be DCI compliant with drives formatted with EXT 2 or 3 file systems (single partition, master boot record). All encrypted DCPs must supply DKDM keys that remain open for the duration of the festival. Blu-ray or ProRes file backup copies must be provided for both shorts and features on DCP. For 35mm film prints, we screen 24fps in aspect ratios of 1.37, 1.66, 1.85, or 2.39. We accept sound formats of mono, Dolby SR and Dolby SRD (Dolby Digital). Please note that these specifications are subject to change at any time. If your film is accepted into the Festival, we will provide you with the most up-to-date exhibition specs and deadlines for delivery of your master at that time.

32) You don't actually watch all of these submissions, right?

We depend on new talent and filmmakers to uphold our mission as a Festival of discovery. If we didn't watch the films submitted to us, we could potentially miss out on many fresh and exciting new works of independent film, so it is in our best interest to view all films as equal. If your film is received in time, your account is paid in full, and there aren't any technical issues with your digital upload or physical disc, your film will be treated in exactly the same manner as all other films submitted to us for consideration.

33) What types of films are you looking for? What stands out?

We celebrate the independent spirit of interesting, diverse, and original storytelling. Films that push the limits of style and narrative excite us, but there is no single aesthetic that we look for over any other. We are mainly searching for amazing works of film with interesting points of view.

34) If my film is not chosen, may I speak with a programmer for notes or feedback?

Unfortunately, no. While we would love to speak with each individual filmmaker about their films, it simply isn't viable for us to correspond with more than 12,000 applicants each and every year. We view far more worthy than we are able to include in the Festival, so please don't be discouraged if your film is not accepted.

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, as well as other artists. Fees from Festival submissions help fund our Institute programs and also enable us to keep the submissions process thorough and democratic. We strive to process every submission promptly and view each and every film with an attentive and unbiased eye. For more information about Sundance Institute's other programs, please visit us at www.sundance.org. Festival submission fees are non-refundable. You may register your film prior to its completion, but if you fail to upload your film or send us a physical disc before the late submission deadline has passed, you are not entitled to a refund of the submission fees.