



sundance film festival

January 21–31, 2016

RULES & REGULATIONS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE 2016 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

The following is an explanation of rules and regulations (“Rules and Regulations”) governing the submission of a film (hereafter called the “Film”) to Sundance Institute (hereafter called the “Institute”) for consideration for the 2016 Sundance Film Festival (hereafter called “The Festival”). All information contained in this document shall supersede the contents of the FAQ document located at http://www.sundance.org/pdf/submissions/2016_Submissions_FAQ.pdf.

By agreeing to the Terms And Conditions located at http://www.sundance.org/pdf/submissions/2016_Terms_and_Conditions.pdf, the person submitting the Film (hereafter called the “Applicant”) acknowledges that he or she has obtained consent from any and all owners, creators, writers, Producers and/or other authorized representatives of the Film (hereafter called the “Film’s Owners”) whose consent is required to submit the Film to the Institute, and has read and understood the submission rules and regulations set forth below:

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I. GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR SUBMISSION OF A FILM TO THE SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL:

NOTE: The submission categories and program categories that are referenced and identified as capitalized terms in this Section I of these Rules and Regulations, and the eligibility requirements for each, shall be understood as having the definitions and descriptions assigned to them in Sections II and III of these Rules and Regulations below.

- 1) If 50% or more of the Film's financing originated from sources within the United States, the Film may only be submitted as either a U.S. Narrative or Documentary Feature Film, or as a U.S. Short Film.
- 2) If more than 50% of the Film's financing originated from sources outside of the United States, the Film may only be submitted as either an International Narrative or Documentary Feature Film, or as an International Short Film.
- 3) If the Film's final running time is projected to be 50 minutes or more, the Film may only be submitted as a U.S. or International Narrative or Documentary Feature Film.
- 4) If the Film's final running time is projected to be less than 50 minutes, the Film may only be submitted as a U.S. or International Short Film.
- 5) U.S. Narrative and Documentary Feature Films that have been or will be exhibited publicly in their current form at more than two other film festival screenings, one or more non-festival theatrical 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 31, 2016 are **not** eligible for submission to The Festival.
- 6) In order to qualify for The Festival's U.S. Narrative or Documentary competition programs, Films must retain world premiere status prior to January 21, 2016. This does not include "work-in-progress" screenings at which an incomplete version of the film was previously screened.
- 7) U.S. Narrative and Documentary Feature Films that have been or will be screened at up to two other festivals in any country prior to January 31, 2016 are still eligible for inclusion into The Festival's non-competition programs.
- 8) U.S. Narrative and Documentary Feature Films that have been previously released via any home video or public distribution platform (including, but not limited to, DVD, Blu-ray, or video on demand) or broadcast/streamed on television or the internet in any country are not eligible for submission to The Festival unless the version submitted is significantly different from the version that was previously released or broadcast. The Institute shall have the sole authority and discretion to determine whether a Film that was previously released via any method described above has been changed significantly from the previously released or broadcast version. The Institute reserves the sole and exclusive right to determine a previously released or broadcast project's eligibility, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from the Applicant, based on the content of the submitted version of the Film as compared with the previously released or broadcast version.

- 9) U.S. and International Narrative and Documentary Feature Films that have previously been exhibited theatrically at one or more **private** screenings for which tickets were not available to the general public retain eligibility for submission to The Festival in all categories.
- 10) International Narrative and Documentary Feature Films that have been released theatrically, broadcast on television, or screened at any number of film festivals **within** their country of origin are eligible for submission to The Festival and all Festival program categories.
- 11) International Narrative and Documentary Feature Films that have been released theatrically, broadcast on television, or screened at film festivals **outside** of their country of origin are not eligible for open submissions to The Festival. This does not include “work-in-progress” screenings in which an incomplete version of the film was previously screened.
- 12) Short Films do not have any premiere requirements. U.S. and International Short Films do not forfeit their eligibility for submission to The Festival if they were previously released theatrically or via any home video platform, broadcast or streamed on television or the internet, or screened at any number of film festivals in the world.
- 13) U.S. and International Narrative and Documentary Feature Films that have previously been theatrically exhibited at a “work-in-progress” screening at which tickets were available to the public are only eligible for The Festival if the version submitted is significantly different from the version previously screened. The Institute reserves the right to determine a previously screened project’s eligibility, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from the Applicant, based on the content of the submitted version of the Film as compared with the previously screened version.
- 14) Films completed prior to January 1, 2014, are not eligible for consideration for the 2016 edition of The Festival.
- 15) Films that have been submitted for Festival consideration in previous years are eligible for re-submission for 2016 Festival consideration, but only if the Film has been changed significantly since the previous year in which it was submitted. The Institute shall have the sole authority and discretion to determine whether a Film that was previously submitted has been changed significantly from the previously submitted version. The Institute reserves the right to determine a previously submitted Film’s eligibility, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from the Applicant, based on the content of the newly submitted version of the film as compared with the previously submitted version.
- 16) It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant to secure authorization and permission from the copyright owner(s) of any and all copyrighted content or materials included within the submitted Film. The Institute expressly disavows any responsibility for, and will not be held responsible for, any unauthorized inclusion of any copyrighted content or materials within or relating to the submitted Film, including any content or materials that are or may become the basis for any third party claims for copyright infringement. The Institute reserves the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from the Applicant, any Film with any unauthorized inclusion of copyrighted content or materials. In the event that any claim, dispute, action or proceeding shall be brought or asserted by any person or entity

that alleges that the Film makes unauthorized or unlawful use of any copyrighted content or material, Applicant shall fully indemnify and defend the Institute, The Festival, and each of their representatives and affiliates from any liability in connection therewith and from any fees and expenses, including but not limited to attorneys' fees, that any of them may incur in connection therewith.

- 17) It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant to secure authorization and permission from the owner(s) of any and all trademarked content or materials included within the submitted Film. The Institute expressly disavows any responsibility for, and will not be held responsible for, any unauthorized inclusion of any trademarked content or materials within or relating to the submitted Film, including any content or materials that are or may become the basis for any third party claims for trademark infringement, trademark dilution or unfair competition. The Institute reserves the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from the Applicant, any Film with any unauthorized inclusion of trademarked content or materials. In the event that any claim, dispute, action or proceeding shall be brought or asserted by any person or entity that alleges that the Film makes unauthorized or unlawful use of any trademarked content or material, Applicant shall fully indemnify and defend the Institute, The Festival, and each of their representatives and affiliates from any liability in connection therewith and from any fees and expenses, including but not limited to attorneys' fees, that any of them may incur in connection therewith.
- 18) It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant to clear all content of the Film from any and all actual or potential legal claims and issues, including, without limitation, claims based upon theories of libel, defamation, invasion of privacy, violation of rights of publicity, theft of trade secrets, breach of confidence, breach of confidential relationship, and breach of express or implied contract ("Third Party Claim(s)"). The Institute expressly disavows any responsibility for, and will not be held responsible for, any unauthorized inclusion of any content or materials within or relating to the submitted Film that are or may be the basis for any Third Party Claims based upon any of the foregoing legal theories or others. The Institute reserves the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from the Applicant, any Film that is or may become the subject of any Third Party Claims. In the event that any Third Party Claim(s) shall be asserted by any person or entity, Applicant shall fully indemnify and defend the Institute, The Festival, and each of their representatives and affiliates from any liability in connection therewith and from any and all fees and expenses, including but not limited to attorneys' fees, that each of any of them may incur in connection therewith.
- 19) Applicants submitting Films that contain significant non-English spoken dialogue must provide on-screen English subtitles. The Institute reserves the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from the Applicant, any Film that contains significant non-English spoken dialogue that does not include accompanying on-screen English subtitles.
- 20) All Feature Films (50 minutes or longer) must be submitted to the Institute on a single disc (DVD-R, DVD+R, DVD-R DL, DVD+R DL, or Blu-ray) or uploaded via the Secure Online Screener function of Withoutabox. The Institute reserves the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from Applicant, any feature-length Film that is not submitted using one of these formats. If the Film is submitted in multiple parts on multiple

discs, the Institute reserves the right to judge the Film based on the first disc included, with no further obligation to view the contents of the remaining discs.

- 21) All Short Films (less than 50 minutes in length) must be submitted to the Institute on a single disc (DVD-R, DVD+R, DVD-R DL, DVD+R DL, or Blu-ray) or uploaded via the Secure Online Screener function of Withoutabox. The Institute reserves the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from Applicant, any Short Film that is not submitted using one of these formats. If multiple short films are included on a single disc, the Institute reserves the right to judge only the first film included on the disc, with no further obligation to view the remaining contents of the disc.
- 22) It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that any submitted disc plays in its entirety on an industry-standard DVD or Blu-ray player prior to submitting it to The Festival. In the event that a submitted disc does not play in an industry-standard standard DVD or Blu-ray player, the Institute will attempt, but is under no obligation, to contact the Applicant using the contact information provided on the submission form in an effort to obtain a replacement copy of the Film. The Institute reserves the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from the Applicant, any Film for which the initially-submitted disc does not play on an industry-standard DVD or Blu-ray player.
- 23) It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that the submitted disc arrives at the shipping destination provided to the Applicant upon completion of the submission form. In the event that a submitted disc does not arrive at the designated shipping destination within the deadline window selected by the Applicant, the Institute will attempt, but is under no obligation, to contact the Applicant using the contact information provided on the submission form in an effort to obtain a submission copy of the Film. The Institute reserves the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from the Applicant, any Film that does not arrive at the designated shipping destination within the deadline window selected by the Applicant.
- 24) In the event that the Applicant remits an updated version of the Film to the Institute after having submitted a previous version of the Film to the Institute during the same calendar year, the Institute is under no obligation to view any or all of the updated version.
- 25) In order to be considered for The Festival, the Applicant must complete the submission form located at <http://www.sundance.org/submit> or <https://www.withoutabox.com/sundance>. The Institute reserves the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from the Applicant, any Film that is not submitted through one of these platforms.
- 26) The Institute reserves the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from the Applicant, any Film with a submission form that is considered to be delinquent due to the non-payment of any or all submission fees. The Institute may attempt, but is under no obligation, to contact the Applicant using the contact information provided on the submission form in an effort to bring the payment status of the account up-to-date. The Institute disavows any responsibility for, and will not be held responsible for, any failure to contact the Applicant and inform the Applicant of any payment delinquency or other deficiency of a submission form.

- 27) The Institute reserves the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from the Applicant, any Feature Film (50 minutes or longer) received before May 1, 2015 or after September 28, 2015.
- 28) The Institute reserves the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from the Applicant, any Short Film (less than 50 minutes in length) received before May 1, 2015 or after September 21, 2015.
- 29) Upon completion of The Festival selection process, the Institute will attempt to contact the Applicant using the contact information provided on the submission form to notify the Applicant of the Film's acceptance status. The Institute disavows any responsibility for, and will not be held responsible for, any failure to contact the Applicant using the contact information provided on the submission form. It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that the contact information provided on the submission form is correct throughout the entirety of The Festival selection period (May 1, 2015 – December 1, 2015).
- 30) The Institute is under no obligation to provide to the Applicant or any other representative of the Film any comments or feedback regarding the submitted Film, any information relating to the manner in which the Film is, will be, or was reviewed; any views that the Institute or any reviewers of the Film may hold concerning the Film; any reasons why the Film, should it not be accepted for exhibition at The Festival, was not accepted; or any other information relating to The Festival's review, consideration and/or selection process regarding the Film specifically or submissions generally beyond the information set forth in these Rules and Regulations. The Institute disavows any responsibility for, and will not be held responsible or liable for, the contents of any internal comments or feedback regarding any Film that are or may be obtained by the Applicant or any other representative of the Film; any communications by any representative of the Institute or The Festival relating to the Film or The Festival selection process; the manner in which the Film shall be, is or was considered and reviewed; the identity or identities of any specific reviewers of the Film; and/or any failure on the part of the Institute or The Festival to provide the Applicant or any other representative(s) of the Film with information concerning the Institute's consideration and/or review of the Film.

II. SUBMISSION CATEGORIES & ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Films submitted to the Institute for consideration for The Festival may apply in one of six submission categories. The Institute reserves the right to determine eligibility of any film for any Festival program or submission category. The following is a description of each submission category, along with eligibility requirements for each:

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.

III. FESTIVAL PROGRAM CATEGORIES & ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Please be advised that the information listed below is subject to change at any time, as our Festival program categories vary from year to year. Films accepted by the Institute into The Festival will be placed, at the sole and absolute discretion of The Festival Programming department, in one of thirteen program categories. Applicants may not submit their Films directly to any specific category.

The following is a description of each program category, along with eligibility requirements for each:

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 Festival program categories 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 Sundance:

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.

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.

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.

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.