



# SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

JANUARY 23–FEBRUARY 2, 2020

## RULES & REGULATIONS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE 2020 SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

The following is an explanation of rules and regulations (“Rules and Regulations”) governing the submission of projects (hereafter referred to as “the Project”) to Sundance Institute (hereafter referred to as “Institute”) for consideration for the 2020 Sundance Film Festival (hereafter referred to as “Festival”). All information contained in this document shall supersede the contents of the FAQ document located at <http://www.sundance.org/submissions-faq>.

By agreeing to the Terms And Conditions located at [www.sundance.org/submissions-terms-and-conditions](http://www.sundance.org/submissions-terms-and-conditions), the entity submitting the Project (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 Project (hereafter called the “Project’s Owners”) whose consent is required to submit the Project 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 Project's financing originated from sources within the United States, the Project may only be submitted in one of the following categories: U.S. Narrative Feature Films, U.S. Documentary Feature Films, U.S. Short Films, New Frontier Exhibitions and Performances, or Episodic Content. Institute reserves the right to consider the Project for any Festival program, regardless of the submission category selected.
- 2) If more than 50% of the Project's financing originated from sources outside of the United States, the Project may only be submitted in one of the following categories: International Narrative Feature Films, International Documentary Feature Films, International Short Films, New Frontier Exhibitions and Performances, or Episodic Content. Institute reserves the right to consider the Project for any Festival program, regardless of the submission category selected.
- 3) If the Project's final running time is projected to be 50 minutes or more, the Project may only be submitted in one of the following categories: U.S. Narrative Feature Films, U.S. Documentary Feature Films, International Narrative Feature Films, International Documentary Feature Films, New Frontier Exhibitions and Performances, or Episodic Content.
- 4) If the Project's final running time is projected to be less than 50 minutes, the Project may only be submitted in one of the following categories: U.S. Short Films, International Short Films, New Frontier Exhibitions and Performances, or Episodic Content.
- 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 publicly ticketed 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, streaming, video on demand, etc.) before February 3, 2020 are **not** eligible for submission to the Festival.
- 6) In order to qualify for the Festival's U.S. Narrative or U.S. Documentary competition programs, Projects must retain world premiere status prior to January 24, 2020, excluding "work-in-progress" screenings at which an incomplete version of the Project was previously screened.
- 7) U.S. Narrative and U.S. Documentary Feature Films that have been or will be screened at up to two other festivals in any country prior to February 3, 2020 are still eligible for inclusion into the Festival's non-competition programs.

- 8) U.S. Narrative and U.S. Documentary Feature Films that have been previously released via any home video or public distribution platform (including, but not limited to, Blu-ray, DVD, streaming, 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 made available to the general public. The Institute shall have the sole authority and discretion to determine whether a Project 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 Project 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 International Documentary Feature Films that have been released theatrically, broadcast on television, or screened at up to two festivals **within** their country of origin are eligible for open submission to the Festival in their respective categories of submission.
- 11) International Narrative and International Documentary Feature Films that have been released theatrically, screened at festivals, broadcast or streamed on television or the Internet **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 Project was previously screened.
- 12) Short Films do **not** need to retain any sort of premiere status. 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 festivals anywhere in the world.
- 13) Open submissions to the Episodic Content category originating from within the United States are not eligible for the Festival if the entirety of the submitted content has been made available in its entirety to the general public via any platform (broadcast television, Blu-ray, DVD, streaming, VOD, etc.) prior to February 3, 2020.
- 14) Open submissions to the Episodic Content category originating from outside of the United States remain eligible if the entirety of the submitted content has been released only within their country of origin or not released at all via any platform (broadcast television, Blu-ray, DVD, streaming, VOD, etc.) prior to February 3, 2020.

- 15) 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 general public are only eligible for submission to 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 Project as compared with the previously screened version.
- 16) Projects completed prior to January 1, 2018, are not eligible for submission to the Institute for 2020 Sundance Festival consideration.
- 17) Projects that have been submitted for Festival consideration in previous years are eligible for re-submission for 2020 Festival consideration **only** if the content of the submitted Project has changed significantly since the previous year in which the Project was submitted. The Institute shall have the sole authority and discretion to determine whether a Project that was previously submitted has been changed significantly from the previously submitted version. The Institute reserves the right to determine a previously submitted Project’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 Project as compared with the previously submitted version.
- 18) 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 Project. 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 Project, 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 Project 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 Project 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.
- 19) 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 Project. 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 Project, 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 Project 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 Project 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.

- 20) It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant to clear all content of the Project 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 Project 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 Project 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.
- 21) Applicants submitting Projects 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 Project that contains significant non-English spoken dialogue that does not include accompanying on-screen English subtitles.
- 22) All Projects submitted to the Institute for Festival consideration must be uploaded via FilmFreeway's online screener system or via a Vimeo or YouTube link entered directly into the online application. The Institute reserves the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from Applicant, any Project that is not submitted via one of these formats.
- 23) It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that any project submitted to the Institute for Festival consideration plays in its entirety. The Institute reserves the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from the Applicant, any Project that is not viewable due to any technical issue, whether the fault of the Applicant or any third-party system.
- 24) It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant to ensure that their project's submission status on is listed as "In Consideration" on FilmFreeway.com no later than 11:59pm on the final day of the current deadline window. The Institute reserves the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from the Applicant, any and all submissions

that are not complete at that time. Applicant may re-submit the same project another deadline window, if applicable.

- 25) In the event that the Applicant remits an updated version of the Project to the Institute after having submitted a previous version of the Project to the Institute during the same calendar year, the Institute is under no obligation to view any or all of the updated version of the Project.
- 26) In order to be considered by the Institute for The Festival, the Applicant must complete the submission form located at <http://www.sundance.org/submit> or at <https://www.filmfreeway.com/sundance>. The Institute reserves the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from the Applicant, any Project that is not submitted or delivered via one of these links.
- 27) The Institute reserves the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from the Applicant, any Project 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.
- 28) The Institute reserves the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees previously collected from the Applicant, any Project received by the Institute before June 3, 2019 or after September 16, 2019 without prior written consent from an employee of the Institute.
- 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 Project'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 (June 3, 2019 – December 6, 2019).
- 30) The Institute is under no obligation to provide to the Applicant or any other representative of the Project any comments or feedback regarding the submitted Project, any information relating to the manner in which the Project is, will be, or was reviewed; any views that the Institute or any reviewers of the Project may hold concerning the Project; any reasons why the Project, 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 Project 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 submitted Project that are or may be obtained by the Applicant or any other representative of the Project; any communications by any representative of the Institute or the Festival relating to the Project or The Festival selection process; the manner in which the Project shall be, is or was considered and reviewed; the identity or identities of any specific reviewers of the Project; and/or any failure on the part of the Institute or the Festival to provide the Applicant or any other representative(s) of the Project with information concerning the Institute's consideration and/or review of the Project.

## **II. SUBMISSION CATEGORIES & ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

**Projects submitted to the Institute for consideration for The Festival may apply in one of eight 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 or non-scripted work of fiction originating from within the United States 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, streaming, VOD, etc.) before February 3, 2020 are not eligible for any Sundance Film Festival program.

### **U.S. Documentary Feature Films:**

Any nonfiction film originating from within the United States 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 it to 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, streaming, VOD, etc.) before February 3, 2020 are not eligible for any Sundance Film Festival program.

**International Narrative Feature Films:**

Any narrative or non-scripted work of fiction originating from outside of the United States 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 for open submission 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, streaming, VOD, etc.) before February 3, 2020 are not eligible for any Sundance Film Festival program.

**International Documentary Feature Films:**

Any nonfiction film originating from outside of the United States 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 it to 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 for open submission to the Sundance Film Festival. 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, streaming, VOD, etc.) before February 3, 2020 are not eligible for any Sundance Film Festival program.

**U.S. Short Films:**

Any narrative or non-scripted work of fiction or nonfiction/documentary film of any genre originating from within the United States 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. U.S. Short Films have no premiere requirements or prior screening restrictions that would impact Festival eligibility. U.S. Short Films may have been screened at any number of festivals or other public theatrical exhibitions anywhere in the world, broadcast or streamed on television or the Internet, and/or released via any home video or other public distribution platform and still remain eligible for Festival consideration.

**International Short Films:**

Any narrative or non-scripted work of fiction or nonfiction/documentary film of any genre originating from outside of the United States 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. International Short Films have no premiere requirements or prior screening restrictions that would impact Festival eligibility. International Short Films may have been screened at any number of festivals or other public theatrical exhibitions

anywhere in the world, broadcast or streamed on television or the Internet, and/or released via any home video or other public distribution platform and still remain eligible for Festival consideration.

### **Episodic Content:**

Any narrative or non-scripted work of fiction or nonfiction/documentary series of any genre, originating from anywhere in the world, presented in or intended to be presented in a multi-episode format. Applicants may submit single or multiple episodes of a single project, as long as all episodes play continuously in one single video file for digital upload and do not exceed the 10GB file size limit. We accept both short-form and long-form content. Projects originating from within the United States are not eligible for the Festival if all of the submitted content has been made available in its entirety to the general public via any platform (broadcast television, Blu-ray, DVD, streaming, VOD, etc.) prior to February 3, 2020. Projects originating from outside of the United States remain eligible if all of the submitted content has been released only within their country of origin or not released at all. You may submit episodes that have previously been screened at other festivals or broadcast and/or streamed via another platform, but you must also submit subsequent episodes that have not been screened by or released to the general public. For example, if your pilot episode has screened at another festival or is available online, you may only submit it if you currently have additional episodes that have not been screened anywhere or otherwise made available to the public.

### **New Frontier Exhibitions and Performances**

A wide range of innovative works engaging with cinematic storytelling will be considered for the Festival's New Frontier program. These works may include VR/AR/MR/XR projects created for a variety of platforms, media installations, live cinematic performances, custom digital platforms, or any combination of those elements. Please note that these projects may not be submitted through FilmFreeway! We request that you provide documentation that outlines any specific logistical, spatial, or equipment needs for your project. Specific instructions for submitting different file types are contained within the application. We encourage the diverse creative community of storytellers and technologists to submit inventive works of fiction, documentary, and interactive projects for consideration. Projects may have previously been performed or exhibited at other festivals, industry trade shows, and/or conventions and still retain their eligibility for open submission to the Sundance Film Festival. However, we do take premiere status into consideration for all submitted projects. Questions regarding this program should be directed to [newfrontier@sundance.org](mailto:newfrontier@sundance.org).

If your experimental film does not include any interactive or live performance elements, please select one of the previous feature or short film categories on FilmFreeway and use your cover letter to explain why you believe it could be right for New Frontier.

### **III. FESTIVAL PROGRAMS & ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:**

**Please be advised that the information listed below is subject to change at any time, as our Festival programs may vary from year to year. Projects accepted by the Institute into the Festival will be placed, at the sole and absolute discretion of The Festival Programming department, in one of fifteen Festival programs. Applicants may not submit their Projects directly to any specific program. The following is a description of each Festival program, 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.

Submitted 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 February 3, 2020, 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, streaming, VOD, etc.), it is not eligible for this program. 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 provide a window into 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 February 3, 2020, 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, streaming, VOD, etc.), it is not eligible for this program. To qualify, the submitted project must be a nonfiction 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 theatrically outside of its country or countries of origin prior to February 3, 2020, 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, streaming, VOD, etc.) in any country prior to February 3, 2020 are not eligible. 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 theatrically outside of its country or countries of origin prior to February 3, 2020, 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, streaming, VOD, etc.) in any country prior to February 3, 2020 are also ineligible. To qualify, the submitted project must be a nonfiction 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 shapes the next wave of 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 February 3, 2020, 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, streaming, VOD, etc.), it is not eligible for this program. To qualify, the submitted project may be scripted or improvisational fiction, documentary nonfiction, or a hybrid of both, and it must have a total running time of 50 minutes or more. 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 Short Film 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 short films are eligible for awards in our Short Film Competition. 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 or streamed on television or the Internet, or released via any home video platform in any country and

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 and genres (U.S. Fiction, International Fiction, Nonfiction, and Animation).

**Premieres (16-20 U.S. & International Narrative Feature Films):**

Showcasing some of the most highly anticipated dramatic films of the coming year, this program allows audiences to catch the latest work from established directors at the Sundance Film Festival before they create a splash at theaters around the globe.

Acceptance into this out-of-competition program is by invitation only and may include films originating from both within the United States and around the world. Films that are selected must maintain WORLD PREMIERE status until February 3, 2020 and have a total running time of at least 50 minutes.

**Documentary Premieres (8-12 U.S. & International Documentary Feature Films):**

Comprised of films about far-reaching subjects made by renowned documentarians, this program highlights our ongoing commitment to this important form of nonfiction storytelling.

Acceptance into this out-of-competition program is by invitation only and may include films originating from both within the United States and around the world. Films that are selected must maintain WORLD PREMIERE status until February 3, 2020 and have a total running time of at least 50 minutes.

**Spotlight (6-10 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.

Acceptance into this out-of-competition program is by invitation only. Films considered for this program are not required to retain any sort of theatrical premiere status, and may have screened at any number other film festivals or ticketed public theatrical exhibitions in any country. 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, streaming, VOD, etc.) prior to February 3, 2020 are not eligible for this program.

**Midnight (8-10 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 may originate from anywhere in the world, are not required to retain any sort of festival premiere status, and may have screened at up to two other film festivals or ticketed public theatrical exhibitions in any country. 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, streaming, VOD, etc.) prior to February 3, 2020 are not eligible for this program. To qualify, submitted projects must have a total running time of at least 50 minutes.

**New Frontier Films & Performances (3-5 U.S. & International Feature Films and live performances):** Celebrating experimentation and subverting the boundaries of traditional cinema, the New Frontier program highlights work that challenges the structures and aesthetics of filmmaking.

Projects considered for this out-of-competition program may originate from anywhere in the world, are not required to retain any sort of festival premiere status, and may have been screened or performed at up to two other festivals or ticketed public theatrical exhibitions in any country. 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, streaming, VOD, etc.) prior to February 3, 2020 are not eligible for this program. Cinematic experiences that include a live performance or other interactive elements will also be considered. To qualify, submitted projects must have a total running time of at least 50 minutes.

**New Frontier Exhibition (20-30 Projects):**

This program offers festivalgoers a wide range of innovative and multi-faceted works that engage with cinematic storytelling within the realms of VR/AR/MR/XR, multi-media installations, custom digital platforms, or any combination of these elements.

We encourage the diverse creative community of storytellers and technologists to submit inventive works of fiction, documentary, and interactive projects for consideration. Projects submitted to this out-of-competition program may have been previously exhibited at other festivals, industry trade shows, and/or conventions and still retain their eligibility for open submission to the Sundance Film Festival. However, we do take premiere status into consideration for all submitted projects. Questions regarding this program should be directed to [newfrontier@sundance.org](mailto:newfrontier@sundance.org).

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

Created to reach the youngest generation of independent film fans, Sundance's Kids program showcases films that will appeal to young and old alike. Programmed in collaboration with Utah Film Center's 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 other film festivals or ticketed public theatrical exhibitions in any country. 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, streaming, VOD, etc.) outside of their country of origin prior to February 3, 2020 are not eligible for this program. To qualify, submitted projects must have a total running time of at least 50 minutes.

**Indie Episodic (8-10 U.S. & International Episodic Projects):**

This program highlights stories meant to be told in multiple installments, with an emphasis on independent perspectives and productions. Past episodic works screened by the Festival include O.J.: Made in America, Top of the Lake, Animals, Mr. Inbetween, Quarter Life Poetry, Work In Progress, and State of the Union.

Open submissions considered for this out-of-competition program must include content that retains WORLD PREMIERE status to be eligible for this program. Projects originating from within the United

States are not eligible for the Festival if all of the submitted content has been made available to the general public via any platform (broadcast television, Blu-ray, DVD, streaming, VOD, etc.) prior to February 3, 2020. Projects originating from outside of the United States are still eligible provided that some or all of the submitted content has only been released within their country of origin or not released at all. You may submit Episodic Content that has previously been screened at other festivals or broadcast and/or streamed via another platform, but only if subsequent episodes that have not been screened by or otherwise released to the general public are also included within your submission.

**From the Collection (1-2 U.S. & International Feature Films):**

Rediscover classic works of independent cinema as the 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 as they were intended to be seen: on the big screen. Formed in partnership with the UCLA Film & Television Archive and growing through the support of donor companies and individual filmmakers, the Collection now contains more than 2,200 films.

Acceptance into this out-of-competition program is by invitation only. Open submissions will not be considered for this program. Only films that are a part of the Sundance Collection at UCLA qualify for Festival inclusion.