



NORWICH FILM FESTIVAL

13th Norwich Film Festival (Nov 2023)

Submission Rules

Do you want to have your film screened at one of the “Ten UK festivals you need to know about” (*The Metro*)? As of 16 January 2023, we’ll be accepting submissions for the 13th Norwich Film Festival, and we’re really looking forward to seeing your short films and animations.

At the Norwich Film Festival, our mission is to deliver an inspiring festival that is both bold and imaginative in its selection and presentation of films. We champion new and exciting methods of storytelling and hope to encourage and inspire new filmmakers. Through our open submissions process, we support filmmakers from all over the globe, as well as the eastern region, providing a platform for new talents to showcase their work alongside that of established names.

If you feel your film deserves to be seen by all, then read below to find out how you can submit to the festival. Successful entries will be given at least one screening over our festival, as well receiving a huge amount of promotion and support through our digital and print platforms.

Over the years we have had some truly amazing films submitted, and we have been proud to screen a host of the most imaginative and inventive films produced over the last few years. We look forward to continuing this trend, with your help and support.

We are also proud to say that we are a BAFTA qualifying Short Film Festival, as well as a BIFA qualifying Short Film Festival! This means that any British made films that are selected for the NFF will be eligible for BAFTA and BIFA recognition and award status.

SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Please read the following guidelines carefully. Due to the volume of entries we receive, it is essential that films be submitted in the format specified below.

Festival Dates

6-19 November 2023 (TBC)

Submission Deadlines

Submissions will be accepted from **16 Jan 2023**. Best prices will be offered to those submitting before our early-bird submission deadline of **26 Feb 2023**. The very latest we will accept submissions is 23:59 on **16 July 2023** - this does come with a higher submission fee.

- Earlybird (16 Jan – 26 Feb)
- Regular (27 Feb – 04 June)
- Late (05 June – 09 July)
- Extended (10 July – 16 July)

Categories

Awards will be given to the best film in each of these categories:

- British Short Film
- International Short Film
- Animated Film
- Student Film
- Documentary Film
- East Anglian Film

To be eligible for the Best East Anglian Film Award, the film must have been made predominantly in the region, by filmmakers either living or studying in the area at the time of production. The region is defined as Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, and Essex.

Submission Format

- Films will only be accepted via our online portal at www.FilmFreeway.com. This is our only method of submission.
- No postal submissions will be accepted.
- Refunds will not be offered if you fail to adhere to these rules.

Press and Publicity

Should your film be accepted we will require digital images and other press/publicity materials to help us promote your film and the festival at large. Please do not, however, send hard copies as we will be unable to store them at the Festival office due to the high volume of submissions we receive. Any hard copies sent prior to acceptance will be recycled.

FilmFreeway allows digital press packs to be uploaded with submission, and we strongly recommend you do this to avoid missing out later. We recommend you include at least the following:

- Your film,
- A trailer,
- A poster (portrait, 300dpi),
- A 100 word synopsis of your film,
- At least 5 stills from the film (at least 800px wide and 300dpi),
- A director's statement (max 500 words),
- At least 3 photos of the director/crew/behind the scenes (at least 800px wide and 300dpi).

The more (digital) information you include with your submission, the more we can promote your film once accepted into the festival.

Submission Eligibility

- Films *preferably* would not have been released in the UK in any format, including online, or shown on UK television prior to the Festival dates. This does not include other festival screenings.
- Films completed after January 2020 are eligible for submission.
- All non-English language films must be embedded with subtitles in English.
- All rights, permissions and clearances must be obtained prior to submission and applicants must ensure that they have the right to submit the work with regard to third parties connected to the production of the film in question. By entering your work, you agree to this and the responsibilities involved. The Norwich Film Festival assumes no responsibility for violation of copyright law.

Please note that submission fees will not be refunded if your film does not meet these conditions.

Submission Fees

The Norwich Film Festival runs on an extremely limited budget. We regret that, owing to the large number of submissions we receive, we must charge a small fee to cover our administrative costs, as well as the costs of running the festival each year.

- **Early bird**
For films received as per the dates above, the entry fee for early bird submissions is £20. Student entries will be charged at £15 (proof required).
- **Regular**
For films received as per the dates above, the entry fee for regular submissions is £30. Student entries will be charged at £25 (proof required).
- **Late**
For films received as per the dates above, the entry fee for late submissions is £45. Student entries will be charged at £35 (proof required).
- **Extended Deadline**
For films received as per the dates above, the entry fee is £60. Student entries will be charged at £35 (proof required).

There is a discount for those films that are eligible for the Best East Anglian Film (those films made in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, or Essex). These films will cost only £15 during the Early-bird deadline, and £20 for the remainder of the submissions window.

Valid proof of status will be required for **student** submissions and **East Anglian** submissions in order to be moved from *pending* to *in consideration*.

We are a **GOLD FESTIVAL** on FilmFreeway, which allows for certain members to obtain further discounts. Please see <https://filmfreeway.com/gold> for more information.

We are unable to waive fees under any circumstances so please do not contact us to request that we make an exception, as we won't be able to help you.

Methods of Payment

All entries must be made through Filmfreeway, which accepts online payment. If, for some reason, you are unable to pay through this website, we will accept Paypal payments, made to sales@norwichfilmfestival.co.uk.

Please note, if you intend to pay online, Paypal charges 3.4% per transaction, so please add a £1.50 transaction fee to any submissions sent via this method.

Submissions will not be accepted until payment is received in full.

Shipping

If requested, any publicity materials should be sent to:

NFF Submissions Team
c/o Larking Gowen
King Street House
15 Upper King Street
Norwich
NR3 1RB

The entrant must pay all shipping and postage costs incurred in submitting work to us. The Festival will not accept Cash on Delivery shipments and will not absorb any fees incurred in customs. Submission packages from outside the UK must be labelled 'No commercial value - for cultural purposes only' on any customs label and for customs purposes must be given a value of no more than US\$10, £10 Sterling or 10 euro.

Please remember to put the FF submission number on the envelope.

Receipt of Submission

Once you have submitted your film online, please check your account to find out if the Festival has received your submission.

Selection

Selection will be carried out by the Norwich Film Festival team. No correspondence will be entered into regarding the selection process and the decision of the Festival Executive

Committee are final. We aim to inform successful applicants by the end of August at the latest. Unfortunately, due to the volume of entries and limited resources, we will be unable to offer individual feedback or enter into any discussion about your work.

Successful submissions will be listed on our website (www.norwichfilmfestival.co.uk) and social media outlets, and successful applicants will be notified by email or over the phone. **Please therefore make sure that we can reach you in the months of August and September so that we can confirm your film's inclusion in the Festival programme.**

Please note that only successful applicants will be notified personally. If we are unable to contact you during this period your film may be removed from the Festival line up.

Festival Screenings and Scheduling

All screenings during the Festival period will take place at the discretion of the Festival. We reserve the right to make changes to the advertised schedule at any time for any reason and will not accept liability for any costs incurred as a result of such changes.

No film may be withdrawn from the Norwich Film Festival programme by its submitter after its selection / participation has been confirmed.

The Festival is not able to cover the costs of any format transfers or subtitling. Digital screening copies of selected titles (if requested) must be received by the Festival by 30 September 2023. Please use the following format only:

- H264, 1920 x 1080, 48 kHz 24-bit audio, .mov or .mp4.
- Export using square pixels.
- Files should not exceed 4GB.
- Dropbox is our preferred delivery method as it minimises failed downloads. Please send to submissions@norwichfilmfestival.co.uk.
- You may also send files via wetransfer, to the above email address.
- FilmFreeway allows films to be uploaded to the submission platform, and we highly recommend this as a back up.

Copyrights and clearances

All entries must be the original work of the entrant and must not infringe upon the copyrights, trademarks, rights of privacy, publicity or other intellectual property or other rights of any person or entity. If the film contains any material or elements that are not owned by the entrant and/or which are subject to the rights of third parties, the entrant is responsible for

obtaining, prior to the submission of the film, any and all releases and consents necessary to permit use and exploitation of the film by Norwich Film Festival in the manner set forth in the official rules without additional compensation, including, without limitation, location releases for footage shot at any location; name, voice and likeness releases for any person whose name, voice and/or likeness appears in the film (other than entrant); releases for the use of any props, set dressings and other materials used in the film; releases from any individuals participating in the production of the film and releases for any other audio and/or audio-visual materials not wholly owned by entrant, which, in each case, are used in the film (collectively the "Clearances"). If any person(s) appearing in any film is (are) under the age of majority in their place of residence, the signature of a parent or legal guardian is required with each release. All signatures must be original.

Our rights

Norwich Film Festival reserves the right, at any point during the competition, in its sole and unfettered discretion, to disqualify and remove any film that potentially or actually infringes any third party's copyright(s).

At any time during the Competition, Norwich Film Festival reserves the right, in its sole and unfettered discretion, to disqualify and remove any film that it believes does not fall within the entry requirements in these official rules.

Norwich Film Festival reserves the right, in its sole and unfettered discretion, to verify at anytime during the Competition that all necessary Clearances relating to any film have been obtained. If we believe, in our sole and unfettered discretion, that an entrant has failed to obtain any of the necessary Clearances relating to the entrant's film, the entrant's film will be disqualified and removed.

By participating in this Competition, entrants agree that during the Competition Period, Norwich Film Festival and its sponsors and partners are authorized to display the films on the Norwich Film Festival website and on any and all other media in connection with the Competition. By participating in the Competition, entrants grant permission to Norwich Film Festival to use their names, likenesses, photographs, voices, sounds and/or biographical information and films in connection with the Competition and for any and all advertising, publicity and promotional purposes relating to the Competition without additional compensation, unless prohibited bylaw. This will extend to cover the period used to promote the next festival as well.

As a condition of entering the Festival, each entrant grants Norwich Film Festival: i) the right to display their film, in whole or in part, on the Norwich Film Festival website and/or on any websites owned or operated by or on behalf of Norwich Film Festival or any of its related or affiliated companies, and on any website owned or operated by or on behalf of Norwich Film

Festival; ii) the right to use their film to create trailers, either for individual films or as a collection of films; and/or (iii) the right, if his/her film is selected, to display the film on any website owned or operated by or on behalf of Norwich Film Festival following completion of the Competition Period. Entrants will be fully credited where possible, and retain sole ownership of their work

Limitation of Liability

By entering into this Contest, entrants hereby release and discharge Norwich Film Festival and its respective affiliates, subsidiaries, assigns, agents, representatives, independent contractors, officers, employees and directors from and against any and all claims, liabilities, costs, damages and expenses of any kind arising out of or relating to their participation in this Contest, their use or acceptance of any prize, the use by Norwich Film Festival of any films submitted by entrants and/or any actions or decisions of Norwich Film Festival in connection with the conduct and administration of this Contest. Entrants hereby waive any right to seek injunctive or other equitable relief in connection with any claim against Norwich Film Festival, any of the Co-Sponsors, or any of their respective affiliates, subsidiaries, assigns, agents, representatives, independent contractors, officers, employees and directors.

Cancellation Process

Should the festival organisers decide to cancel the festival without reason prior to the Official Selection, every effort will be made to reimburse those who have paid to submit their film. Should the festival get cancelled without reason after the announcement of the Official Selection, priority reimbursement will be given to those filmmakers who have been selected to be a part of the festival. Those filmmakers who were not due to be a part of the festival because their film was not selected will not be reimbursed. In the event of circumstances being beyond the control of the festival organisers (such as natural disaster, viral/bacterial pandemic, etc) then every effort will be made to pause, postpone, or amend the festival so that it still goes ahead in some form. We will never look to cancel the festival if we can look to rearrange. In such circumstances, no refunds will be issued as submission fees will be used to continue the planning of the festival at a different place or time.

Please be aware that, due to the volume of submissions we receive, we are unable to enter into personal correspondence about individual submissions.

Thank you for your interest in submitting to the Norwich Film Festival.

We look forward to receiving your film!