

Follow Your Heart FILM FESTIVAL

International Film Festival "Follow Your Heart" **Supplemental Guidelines for Best Short Drama,** **Best Short Thriller, and Best Short Comedy Awards**

January 4, 2023 No. 023

A. Purpose

These guidelines supplement the Protocol for the Selection and Work of Jury Members, dated January 4, 2023, outlining the procedure for assigning the Best Short Drama, Best Short Thriller, and Best Short Comedy Awards.

These awards recognize short films (under 40 minutes) that excel in their respective genres: drama (emotional storytelling), thriller (suspense and tension), or comedy (humor and wit).

B. Evaluation Format

B.1. Open Evaluation

The jury receives complete details for each submission, including:

- Film title, genre, length, and year of release.
- Director's name and key production details.
- Access to screener links (video/audio) showcasing the film.

B.2. Transparency

All relevant information, including the director's identity, is provided to the jury to evaluate the film's genre-specific merits.

C. Submission Requirements

C.1. Complete Submission

Submissions must include:

- A credited director listed in the final film credits.

- A complete screener of the film (under 40 minutes).
- A specified genre (drama, thriller, or comedy) at submission.

C.2. Incomplete Submissions

If the director or genre is not specified:

- The submission is assigned a “Pending Credit” status.
- The Organizing Committee (the Committee) notifies the applicant and provides a 7-calendar-day Cure Period to submit the required information.
- Failure to provide information within the Cure Period results in disqualification from the respective category.

D. Award Eligibility and Verification

D.1. Verification of Director

Prior to result certification, the Committee must verify the director’s identity. Acceptable evidence includes:

- Final film credits listing “Directed by” or equivalent.
- A signed production agreement or a certified letter from the rightsholder confirming credits.
- Distributor or festival materials listing final credits.

D.2. Non-Verification

If the director’s role is not verified within the Cure Period, the submission is disqualified from the respective category.

E. Award Assignment

E.1. Attribution

The award is granted to the film in its respective genre, with credits to the director.

E.2. Credit Disputes

If a dispute arises regarding credits, the Committee suspends the winner announcement until the dispute is resolved with documentation.

F. Conflict of Interest

F.1. Declaration

Jury members must declare a Conflict of Interest if they have a personal or professional relationship with the director or key personnel.

Affected jury members abstain from evaluating the submission.

F.2. Handling Errors

If materials are presented with incorrect credits, the Committee logs the issue and may reassign the submission or initiate a re-vote.

G. Documentation and Recordkeeping

G.1. Records

All notifications, verifications, and decisions are documented and retained for at least 5 years.

G.2. Confidentiality

Individual jury ballots remain confidential. Only winners and brief justifications are publicly disclosed.

H. Practical Workflow

- **Jury Access:** The jury receives a form listing the film's title, genre, length, director, and screener links.
- **Evaluation:** The jury assesses the film based on genre-specific criteria (e.g., emotional impact for drama, suspense for thriller, humor for comedy).
- **Verification:** The Committee confirms the director's role.
- **Award Assignment:**
 - If verified, the award is granted to the film in its genre.
 - If unverified, the submission is disqualified.
- **Announcement:** Winners are announced publicly (e.g., "Best Short [Genre] awarded to [Film Title], directed by [Director]").

Approved by the Organizing Committee

Date: January 4, 2023

The Organizer of the Miami Film Festival "Follow Your Heart"

Head of the Organizing Committee

Tatiana Germanovsky