



Rules and Regulations

Namibia Film Awards - 2026

Introduction

The Namibia Film Awards celebrate, recognize, and honour film practitioners, including individuals contributing to the growth of the performing arts. Hosted by the Namibia Film Commission (NFC) in partnership with the National Theatre of Namibia (NTN), the joint event is known as the Namibia Theatre and Film Awards (NTFA).

The Film Awards value:

Equity - Ensuring fair access and representation across all practitioners.

Excellence – Honouring the highest standards of creativity and professionalism.

Integrity – Upholding transparency and credibility in all processes.

Diversity – Celebrating Namibia’s cultural richness and inclusive voices.

Collaboration – Building partnerships that strengthen the creative industries.

Sustainability – Supporting long-term growth and nurturing future talent.

1. Eligibility

1.1 Films must have been completed and publicly exhibited between 6 October 2019 – 20 November 2025.

1.2 Films must have had a public screening in Namibia (cinema, festival, TV, or digital platform) OR an official premiere at an international festival.

1.3 Films must be primarily produced by Namibian citizens or permanent residents, OR include significant Namibian creative/technical involvement (director, producer, writer, lead actor, or key crew).

1.4 A film may not be a remake, pirated, or previously submitted in earlier NTFAs.

1.5 Length definitions:

Feature Film: over 40 minutes

Short Film: 39 minutes or less

2. Submission Rules

2.1 Maximum of two (2) entries per filmmaker across all categories.

2.2 Submissions must be made online via the NTFA portal (NFC website).

2.3 Films may only be entered in categories they are eligible for (e.g. short films cannot compete in Best Feature).

2.4 All entries must include:

- Completed submission form
- Film file (see formats below)
- Trailer (30–90 seconds, MP4)
- Poster artwork (JPEG/PNG, high resolution)
- Synopsis & credits (Word/PDF)
- Director's photo & short bio
- English subtitles if not primarily in English.

2.5 Incomplete submissions will not be accepted.

2.6 Email confirmation will be sent once your entry is received.

3. Technical Formats

- Film files must be submitted in MP4 or MOV (H.264 codec preferred).

- Should a film be selected, a DCP format is required for screening.
- Minimum resolution: 1080p (Full HD); 4K accepted.
- Stereo or surround sound, properly mixed.
- Subtitles required if dialogue is not in English.
- File delivery: online upload via portal (USB only if specified).

4. Categories

4.1. Categories will include but are not limited to:

1. Best Feature Film

Awarded to the producers of the most outstanding full-length film.

2. Best Short Film

Awarded to the producers of the most outstanding short film.

3. Best Script

Recognizes excellence in storytelling, structure, and dialogue in a screenplay of a full-length film.

4. Best Cinematography

Honors exceptional camera work, lighting, and visual composition of a full-length film.

5. Best Editor

Awarded for skillful full-length film editing that enhances pacing, continuity, and storytelling.

6. Best Documentary

Recognizes producers of the most impactful and well-crafted documentary.

7. Best Director

Celebrates the director's vision, execution, and overall creative leadership of a full-length film.

8. Best Male Actor

Awarded to the male performer delivering the most compelling lead role in a full-length film.

9. Best Female Actor

Awarded to the female performer delivering the most compelling lead role in a full-length film.

10. Best Supporting Actor Female

Recognizes an outstanding performance in a supporting role

11. Best Supporting Actor Male

Recognizes an outstanding performance in a supporting role

12. Best Newcomer Director

Celebrates an emerging director showing exceptional promise in their first works.

13. Best Student Film

Awarded to the best film created by a student filmmaker..

14. Best Sound & Music

Recognizes excellence in sound design, mixing, and original or adapted music in a full-length film.

15. Best Production Design

Honors creativity and effectiveness in production design and physical set construction.

16. Best Costume Design & Make-up

Celebrates outstanding costume styling, character look, and makeup artistry in a full-length film.

17. Best Corporate Supporter (non-monetary recognition)

Acknowledges a company's contribution to the film industry.

18. Best Web Series Film

Recognizes excellence in episodic storytelling created for digital platforms.

19. Special Recognition Award

Honors an individual or group for exceptional contribution to the film industry.

20. Audience Choice Award

Voted for by the public, celebrating the film most loved by audiences

4.2. Criteria for student films will be defined to ensure fairness and quality in pre-selection.

4.3. The Best Corporate Supporter Award shall require disclosure of investment/support provided to the industry over the award period.

5. Selection & Adjudication

5.1. A Selection Committee will screen all submissions and forward only those meeting technical and narrative standards to the jury.

5.2. A five (5) member jury will consist of professionals and experts across film, theatre, media, academia and related fields, appointed by the NFC.

5.3. Jury members with a conflict of interest (e.g., submitted works) will not be eligible.

5.4. All jury deliberations are confidential and final.

5.5. Adjudication shall take place at a suitable professional venue equipped for proper audiovisual screenings.

6. Awards & Prizes

6.1. Winners shall receive a trophy and or prize money.

7. Audit & Verification

7.1. An independent auditing firm shall verify jury scores, nominees, and winners.

7.2. The auditing partner must be engaged before the adjudication process.

7.3. Any errors in nomination or announcement shall be corrected transparently in consultation with the auditing partner.

8. Film Week & Screenings

8.1. Selected films shall be screened during The Film Week, held prior to the awards ceremony.

8.2. Filmmakers must attend their screenings and engage with audiences as part of the industry's development.

8.3. NFC will explore partnerships with cinemas (e.g., Ster Kinekor) to increase accessibility and audience reach.

9. General Rules

9.1. The decision of the jury and auditors is final and binding.

9.2. The NFC reserves the right to disqualify entries that do not comply with the rules.

9.3. Submission to the NTFAs implies acceptance of these rules and regulations.

9.4. Filmmakers and stakeholders will be periodically consulted to review and improve submissions.

End.