



METROWEST STUDENT FILM FESTIVAL 2018 MWSFF FESTIVAL INFORMATION & RULES

Event Description

The Center for Arts in Natick is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) arts organization dedicated to presenting arts programs of the highest standard that are available to everyone. Walnut Hill School for the Arts is an independent boarding and day high school purposefully designed for student artists in grades 9–12. Walnut Hill's mission is to educate talented, accomplished and intellectually engaged young artists from all over the world. To that end, TCAN and Walnut Hill School are pleased to present the first annual MetroWest Student Film Festival, featuring the work of talented students from the cities and towns of Boston MetroWest.

The MWSFF is a student film festival dedicated to showcasing the talents and creativity of the region's youth by providing an opportunity for young filmmakers and production teams to explore and create stories through motion pictures. These student-created films will be shared with friends, families and the community at-large in TCAN's state-of-the-art screening room.

We envision the MWSFF as the largest student film festival of its kind in the region. Being part of this festival gives entrants the opportunity to:

- Share films with the entire community
- Screen films in an independent, state-of-the-art cinema
- Network with a jury of judges from the industry, and other film makers in the region
- Attend the festival premiere showcase

In its inaugural year, MWSFF cordially invites high school age residents between the ages of 14 and 19 who are current high school students and live in the following 30 cities and towns of MetroWest: **Ashland, Bellingham, Bolton, Dover, Framingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopedale, Hopkinton, Hudson, Lancaster, Lincoln, Marlborough, Maynard, Medfield, Medway, Milford, Millis, Natick, Needham, Norfolk, Northborough, Sherborn, Southborough, Stow, Sudbury, Wayland, Wellesley, Westborough and Weston.**

Awards & Prizes

Outstanding Live Action Short Film

Outstanding Documentary Short Film

Outstanding Animated Short Film

Storyteller Award for most Exceptional Screenplay

Exceptional Cinematography Award

Student Choice Award (voted for by the WH Student Body)

One to Watch Award for Best Director

DEFINITIONS AND CRITERIA

Outstanding Live Action Short

Films in this category will be judged as a whole project based on the use of live action techniques - films must include only real people and animals, real sets and scenes and no models or images that are drawn or produced by a computer.

Outstanding Documentary Short

Films in this category will be judged as a whole project based on the use of documentary techniques - they should be nonfictional and intended to document some aspect of reality, primarily for the purposes of instruction, education, or to provide a factual or historical record or report.

Outstanding Animated Short

Films in this category will be judged as a whole project based on the use of animation techniques - films can include individual drawings, paintings, or illustrations photographed frame by frame (stop-motion cinematography) or generated by a computer (2D or 3D), they can also include motion graphics or stop motion techniques using models or cut-outs.

Storyteller Award for most Exceptional Screenplay

Films in this category will be judged purely on the screenplay for the film – the focus will be on story elements such as plot, structure, characters, dialogue and concept. Narrated elements should also include focus on character movements, actions and expressions. To be entered into this category you will need to submit your written screenplay as well as your final film.

Exceptional Cinematography Award

The films in this category will be selected based on the exceptional composition of each scene through use of lighting, color, placement of actors, use of space within the scene and set design. *Think mis-en-scene, all the different elements of that one scene being used to convey the desired mood and influence the truth of the film.

Student Choice Award

The films in this category will be judged as whole project and chosen specifically by the student body at Walnut Hill School for the Arts.

One to Watch Award for Best Director

The films in this category will be selected specifically by the Film Viewing Committee based on Directorial excellence.

Rules & Terms

The First Annual MetroWest Student Film Festival will take place in Natick, MA at The Center for Arts in Natick, 14 Summer Street, Natick, MA 01760. Official public screening dates for finalists are scheduled for April 4-7, 2019.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE – Saturday December 1, 2018

The following rules govern all film submissions to the MetroWest Student Film Festival (“MWSFF” or the “Festival”)

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY

All filmmakers must be between 14 - 19 years of age at time of submission and be a resident of MetroWest residing or attending high school in one of the following 30 cities and towns of Massachusetts:

Ashland, Bellingham, Bolton, Dover, Framingham, Franklin, Holliston, Hopedale, Hopkinton, Hudson, Lancaster, Lincoln, Marlborough, Maynard, Medfield, Medway, Milford, Millis, Natick, Needham, Norfolk, Northborough, Sherborn, Southborough, Stow, Sudbury, Wayland, Wellesley, Westborough, and Weston.

- Submitted films must be original works and filmmakers must be able to provide proof of permission or licensing for any copyrighted materials, music, and/or actors featured in the project to be eligible. Proper on-screen credit for licensed work is also required.
- Your film must have been produced within the last two years at the time of submission
- Filmmakers may submit a maximum of two film entries.
- The film must utilize only non-professional, unpaid actors and production crew
- Film entries will only be accepted using the platform filmfreeway.com.
- A parent or guardian name and email address must be provided on each entry form. Parent or guardian will receive correspondence regarding the Student Showcase and Awards Night information.
- Filmmakers must be available to attend the Showcase and Awards event held at the Center for Arts in Natick (TCAN) on Sunday April 7th.

SUBMISSION FORMAT

All films must be submitted electronically through filmfreeway.com. Other means of submission will not be accepted. Incomplete applications or submitting materials that do not adhere to our specifications (see below) will disqualify your entry. NO EXCEPTIONS.

- All entries must fit into what is considered a G, PG, or PG-13 category as outlined by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) and be produced within good taste! Excessive violence or other excessive and/or gratuitous content may disqualify your entry from competition based solely upon MWSFF's discretion.
- All entries must credit the whole production team individually and be clear about the role each team member played in the film making process.

FILM/VIDEO SPECIFICATIONS

- Films must not exceed 10 minutes in length, including credits.
- Submitted films must be headed and followed by an appropriate amount of black screen (at least 5 seconds).
- All non-English language films must have English subtitles.
- FilmFreeway.com accepts all major video formats in full quality HD up to 10 GB. Videos are transcoded for playback compatibility and performance. FilmFreeway.com recommends using settings close to these output settings:
Video Spec: 2200 Kbps, H.264, mp4, Pro Res
Audio: 128 Kbps, AAC, 2 channel stereo
Aspect ratio preserved; maximum video height of 720 pixels
- 3D stereoscopic films will not be accepted.
- For more technical information please visit the [filmfreeway Help Center](http://filmfreeway.com/help)
<https://filmfreeway.com/help>

REVIEW AND SELECTION PROCESS:

- A Film Committee shall be convened of filmmakers, film enthusiasts and film critics from the Massachusetts area. No Film Committee representative shall be affiliated with an educational institution represented by an entry
- All entries will be reviewed in their entirety by members of the Film Committee.
- Films will be reviewed and judged by the individual members of the Film Committee using a standard scorecard. After the final deadline the Committee will review the total scores of all the films in competition and select final films from a group of the top scorers.

- The film committee reserves the right to change a submission's entry category when appropriate to do so.

NOTIFICATION OF ACCEPTANCE:

- Filmmakers will be notified of acceptance no later than March 1, 2019.
- Filmmakers will be notified of the selection or non-selection of their film digitally by email using the email address provided on the entry form so please ensure that your email address is accurate on your application.
- Accepted filmmakers will receive complimentary tickets to attend the public screening of their entry in the film festival and the final Festival Showcase on April 7th.

THEATRICAL SCREENINGS & PUBLICITY AND MARKETING:

- By accepting inclusion in MWSFF, the filmmaker grants non-exclusive rights to showcase their film in as many screenings as required. This includes the competition screenings and the festival showcase.
- In addition, MWSFF has non-exclusive rights to repeat the showcases for fundraising purposes. All gross proceeds from ticket sales and concession sales are exclusive property of MWSFF.
- All selected films may be excerpted for publicity purposes. MWSFF reserves the right to promote any film or script to print, broadcast or internet media as required to market the Festival, TCAN or Walnut Hill.
- Submission of 2-3 publicity/production photos and filmmaker headshot are highly recommended
- MWSFF is not responsible for incorrect wording in publications or on awards if the entry form is incorrect or illegible.

COMPETITION CERTIFICATION

I/We have read all of the rules, understand, and have complied with these rules.

I/We warrant the submission of my/our original work and that there are no disputes regarding the ownership of the submission.

I/We also warrant the submitted material does not defame or invade the rights of any person living or dead.

To the best of my/our knowledge, all the statements herein are true and correct.

I/We understand that failure to adhere to the competition rules and regulations will result in disqualification and forfeiture of entry fee.

I/We acknowledge that once an entry payment has been processed, MWSFF will not provide a refund. No revisions of materials will be accepted once entry has been submitted.

BY SUBMITTING THE MATERIAL, I/WE HEREBY AGREES TO INDEMNIFY, HOLD HARMLESS, AND DEFEND THE FESTIVAL, ITS EMPLOYEES, DIRECTORS, REPRESENTATIVES, AND AFFILIATES FROM ALL LIABILITY, CLAIMS, AND DAMAGES IN CONNECTION WITH THE SUBMISSION AND FROM ANY FEES AND EXPENSES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO REASONABLE ATTORNEYS' FEES THAT ANY OF THEM MAY INCUR IN CONNECTION THEREWITH.