

THE PHOENIX SOLSTICE FILM FESTIVAL

Official Rules 2026



Festival Aim

The aim of The Phoenix Solstice Film Festival is to support international art and commerce to inspire humankind, maximize human potential, and bring nations closer together. This event seeks to pursue a vision of global peace and prosperity.

The mission is to create an inclusive platform where emerging and established filmmakers from around the world can share meaningful stories that inspire conversation, promote understanding, and celebrate creativity.

2026 Festival Theme: Fire & Ice

Filmmakers are encouraged to interpret and explore themes including:

- Transformation
- Renewal
- Perseverance
- Healing
- Conflict and reconciliation
- Passion and restraint
- Justice and resilience
- Legacy
- Community
- Love and loss
- Personal growth

Films are not required to literally depict fire or ice. The theme is intended to inspire creative interpretation rather than restrict artistic expression.

Eligibility

1. The Phoenix Solstice Film Festival welcomes submissions from filmmakers worldwide.
 2. Films completed on or after January 1, 2020, are eligible for consideration.
 3. Premiere status is not required.
 4. Films in languages other than English must include English subtitles.
 5. Multiple submissions are welcome. Each film must be submitted separately and accompanied by its own entry fee.
 6. By submitting a film, entrants certify that they own or have secured all necessary rights, licenses, and permissions for all music, performances, images, trademarks, and copyrighted material contained within the submission.
 7. Films previously distributed commercially or available for public streaming are not eligible unless approved by the festival committee.
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Categories

Submissions may be entered into one of the following categories:

- 10-minute film
- 30-minute film
- 60-minute film
- 30 to 60 second trailer
- Webseries/Vertical Short-Form Content
- Photography Exhibit
- Other Creative Work

Projects accepted may consist of narrative features or shorts, documentaries, student films, animations, experimental films, music videos, vertical short-form content, or other creative works.

Award categories will be announced at the discretion of the festival.

Submission Requirements

Films may be submitted in one of the following ways:

- Secure online upload
- Google Drive download link
- USB flash drive (jump drive)
- External hard drive (if applicable)

Preferred Screening Format (Highly Recommended)

- MP4 (.mp4)
- H.264 video codec
- AAC audio codec
- Resolution: 1920 × 1080 (Full HD)
- Original frame rate (23.976, 24, 25, or 30 fps)
- Stereo audio
- Minimum video bitrate: 10 Mbps
- Maximum video bitrate: 40 Mbps

Accepted Alternative Formats

- MOV (.mov) using Apple ProRes 422 or H.264
- MP4 encoded with H.265 (HEVC)
- MXF

Resolution Requirements

Minimum accepted resolution: **1920 × 1080 (1080p HD)**

Higher-resolution submissions are welcome, including:

- 2560 × 1440 (1440p)
- 3840 × 2160 (4K UHD)**

Films will be projected at the highest resolution supported by the screening venue and projection equipment.

Audio Requirements

- AAC
- 48 kHz
- Stereo (2-channel)

If a surround sound mix is provided, filmmakers should also include a stereo-compatible version whenever possible.

Quality Requirements

- Export from the original master file.
- No visible watermarks or burned-in timecodes.
- Audio synchronized throughout.
- File plays from beginning to end without technical errors.
- Opening and closing credits included.

File Naming Convention

FilmTitle_DirectorLastName_2026.mp4

Example: **PhoenixRise_Tennyson_2026.mp4**

Google Drive Requirements

Google Drive submissions must be shared with permissions set to “**Anyone with the link can view**” or “**Anyone with the link can download.**”

The festival is not responsible for delays resulting from restricted or inaccessible file permissions.

Submission Deadline

Filmmakers must submit their official registration and entry fee no later than September 1st, 2026, at 11:59 PM. Final screening files must be received by the deadline provided in each filmmaker's Official Selection notification. Failure to submit a compatible screening file by the deadline may result in removal from the festival schedule.

If selected, filmmakers may also be asked to provide:

- High-resolution poster artwork
- Production stills
- Official trailer
- Director, cast, and crew biographies
- Film synopsis
- Social media handles
- Promotional materials

Failure to provide requested promotional materials by the stated deadline may limit promotional opportunities.

Judging

All submissions are reviewed by festival programmers and members of the judging panel. Films are evaluated on:

- Storytelling
- Direction
- Performances
- Cinematography
- Editing
- Sound Design

- Originality
- Artistic Vision
- Technical Quality
- Emotional Impact
- Social Impact

All judging decisions are final.

Official Selection

Selected filmmakers will receive notification via email. Official Selections may receive:

- Official Festival Laurel
- Promotional recognition
- Public screening during the festival
- Eligibility for festival awards

Selection does not include travel assistance, lodging, or financial compensation unless otherwise announced.

Awards

Awards gifted are at the discretion of the festival committee and may include, but are not limited to:

- Best Feature Film
- Best Short Film
- Best Documentary
- Best Director
- Best Screenplay
- Best Cinematography
- Best Editing
- Best Actor
- Best Actress
- Best Student Film
- Best Music Video

The **Community Phoenix Award** honors an individual, organization, or creative whose work has made a meaningful and lasting impact on the community through the arts, education, advocacy, public service, or cultural leadership. This award recognizes those who embody the spirit of the phoenix through resilience, innovation, compassion, and a commitment to uplifting others.

The festival reserves the right to modify award categories based on the number and diversity of submissions received.

Copyright

Entrants retain all ownership and copyright of their work. By submitting a film, entrants grant The Phoenix Solstice Film Festival and its collaborators a non-exclusive license to:

- Screen the accepted film during the festival.
- Use trailers, posters, still images, and excerpts of up to two minutes for promotional purposes.
- Include the film title and production information in festival publications and media.

No ownership rights are transferred to the festival.

Artificial Intelligence Disclosure

The Phoenix Solstice Film Festival recognizes artificial intelligence as an evolving creative tool within filmmaking. Projects utilizing AI-generated content remain eligible. Filmmakers are encouraged to disclose significant AI-generated visual, audio, or written content during submission.

Judging will focus on the artistic merit of the completed work rather than the tools used during production.

Code of Conduct

The Phoenix Solstice Film Festival is committed to fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and respectful environment for filmmakers, guests, volunteers, sponsors, partners, and audience members.

Harassment, discrimination, intimidation, or disruptive behavior will not be tolerated.

The festival reserves the right to remove any participant whose conduct compromises the safety, dignity, or experience of others.

Marketing & Promotion

Selected filmmakers agree that the festival may use submitted promotional materials, including trailers, still images, posters, titles, and filmmaker biographies, for promotional purposes across print, broadcast, digital media, websites, and social media platforms.

Refund Policy

All submission fees are non-refundable.

No refunds will be issued due to withdrawal, disqualification, technical issues originating from the submitter, scheduling conflicts, or failure to comply with festival requirements.

Liability

While every reasonable effort will be made to safeguard submitted materials and digital assets, The Phoenix Solstice Film Festival assumes no responsibility for lost, damaged, corrupted, or inaccessible

files.

Entrants agree to indemnify and hold harmless The Phoenix Solstice Film Festival, its organizers, volunteers, sponsors, partners, and venues from any claims arising from the exhibition or promotion of submitted works.

Acceptance of Terms

Submission to The Phoenix Solstice Film Festival constitutes acknowledgment and acceptance of these Official Rules.

The festival reserves the right to amend these policies when necessary. Any updates will be communicated through official festival channels.

Contact Information

The Phoenix Solstice Film Festival

Email: phoenixsolsticefilmfestival@gmail.com

Website: www.thephoenixsolsticefilmfestival.com

Thank You

The Phoenix Solstice Film Festival extends its sincere appreciation to every filmmaker, storyteller, volunteer, sponsor, community partner, and audience member who helps bring this celebration of cinema to life. Together, this festival honors the spirit of renewal, creativity, and connection that defines the power of film.