



Closing date:- 31st January 2021

The Film and Video Institute

Welcome to the UK's premiere competition for amateur filmmakers!

Movies may be on any subject, and of any length. A large selection of the entries will be shown at the British International Amateur Film Festival, 16th to 18th April 2021. It is hoped that we can hold the festival in Birmingham, UK, but if COVID-19 restrictions still preclude a physical gathering we will stage the event on-line in a similar manner to 2020. Please refer to our website www.biaff.org.uk nearer the time.

Films will be graded on a "Star" system (1 to 5) plus eight Diamond Awards for the best entries. With the exception of the IAC Diamond Awards, there is no limit to the number of awards in each category.

- The movie judged to be the best production in the competition will be announced at the Festival and awarded **a special trophy, together with a cash prize of £500.**
- The "Best British" entry will receive a cash prize of £250.
- Other awards include those considered to be the best: Documentary; Story; Animation; Editing; Sound; Acting; Humour; Photography; "One Minute" Movie.
- In addition, there will be awards for the best films by those in the Under 16 and 16-21 age groups. The overall best British young filmmaker will receive a prize of £250.
- One-off Judges' Special Awards such as Pop-Video, Experimental, Abstract, Computer-Generated, Public-Awareness, may be given.
- There will also be a trophy for the best entry from an IAC affiliated club.

Makers of the 5 Star films and all award winners listed above will be provided with a distinctive BIAFF laurel which may be appended to future releases of the film. Through the generosity of our sponsors additional prizes may also be awarded. Note: Certain awards may not be given if, in the opinion of the judges, there is no deserving entry.

In addition to submitting your film in one of the formats listed below it is now a mandatory requirement of entry to upload your film to an internet platform and e-mail a link to the Competition Manager. There are two reasons for this:

- All movies accepted into the competition will receive written comments from the judging panel. The judges will be allowed to view the film after the main judging event to assist in preparing the appraisal. However, the award given will be based solely on the decision reached after the first viewing of the film by the judging panel.
- Due to continuing COVID-19 issues the judging will probably have to be conducted on-line rather than as a physical gathering.

Please kindly note the following competition rules:

- This competition is for films made by individuals or groups for pleasure and not for commercial gain.** The following are, however, permissible:
 - Films made by IAC regions and clubs for the benefit of those organisations.
 - Public or private exhibition and sale, where the proceeds are solely for the benefit of clubs, regions or bona fide charities.

Any sponsorship must be used only to cover production costs and the expenses of the production team and actors, and not for paid assistance from video professionals, either for filming or post-production (apart from the making of copies). Members of the production team, including actors, should not be paid for their time devoted to the production, other than expenses.

If it is discovered, either before or after making any award, that the film has infringed these requirements, the organisers will have the right to disqualify it, revoke the awards and reclaim any prizes. Any film that is subsequently marketed or distributed commercially is liable to forfeiture of any BIAFF awards issued. The IAC and BIAFF logos may not be used in connection with any film without express permission from the organisers.
- Movies may be on any subject, and of any length. However, it may not be possible to include complete winning movies in the Award Show if they are over 30 minutes long, in which case extracts may be shown.
- "One Minute" entries must have a screen time of not more than 60 seconds, including titles and credits.
- Entries will be accepted on the following formats: DVD, Bluray disc, USB stick. In addition, entries may be uploaded on-line via www.wetransfer.com quoting an e-mail address for receipt of david.a.newman2@btinternet.com (Please note that for files greater than 2GB in size there may be additional charges for using wetransfer. For large files the preferred format is USB stick, but you can also submit via www.filmfreeway.com.)
- Only one entry per disc.**
- There is no limit to the number of entries from the same maker but a separate form must be completed for each entry, and the appropriate fee enclosed. "Same size" photocopies are acceptable. Forms can also be downloaded from the BIAFF website: www.biaff.org.uk
- Names as written on the entry form will be used on certificates and trophies.
- Copyright clearance of all material, both sound and picture, is the sole responsibility of the entrant.
- The IAC reserve the right: (a) to present any entry or part of any entry at the International Festival; (b) without prejudice to the maker's copyright, to make copies for the IAC Film Library or for the purpose of training judges; (c) to release all or part of any entry for publicity purposes; (d) to exclude any entry.
- To qualify for the reduced entry fees, young filmmakers must be in either the Under 16 or 16-21 age groups at the closing date.
- Young filmmakers have a choice of two options (*but not both*) according to their aspirations and experience:
 - Compete in the main competition and be judged against older competitors on an equal basis. This is for filmmakers wishing to establish a "track record", possibly achieving the highest awards of the festival. OR
 - Enter a special competition designed specifically to coach and encourage younger filmmakers. No specific "Star" grading will be awarded, but an educational critique will be provided for each entry and a trophy will be awarded for the best film in each age group.

The overall awards for Best Under 16, Best 16-21 and Best British Young Filmmaker will be selected from the winners of both competitions.
- Appointed 1st round judges may enter the competition. However, they will be kept strictly unaware at the judging weekend of when, where and by whom their work is to be assessed, and of the results awarded. Judges will not assess any work from their own region.
- Receipt of all entries will be acknowledged. If acknowledgement is not received within 14 days of posting please contact the Competition Manager.
- Films submitted, including spare copies, will not be returned.
- Every care will be taken of all entries but the IAC cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage.
- Movies entered in a previous year may not be entered again unless substantially revised. (Ask if in doubt.)
- If the maker wishes to update their entry after the original version has been submitted there will be a £10 administration fee.
- Trophies will be retained by their winners. Any trophies not collected at the festival will be forwarded upon payment for postage and packing.
- There is a discount of £10 per film for members of the IAC. If a film is entered in the name of an individual they must be an individual/family member to qualify for this discount. It is not sufficient to be a member of an affiliated club.
- The decision of the Judges is final and no correspondence can be entered into.

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