

**2017
Carnegie Mellon
International Film Festival
Short Film Competition**



What are we?

We are filmmakers.

We are explorers.

We are activists.

We are bold but curious.

We are critical but supportive.

We are independent but united.

We are more than a competition.

We are a community.

Welcome to 2017 Carnegie Mellon International “Faces” Film Festival Short Film Competition! Are you excited? We are. Because this year, in celebration of the festival’s 11th birthday, we are opening submissions to **all filmmakers** across the globe! Yes, that means YOU!

What are we about? Our Short Film Competition buzzes and hums under the umbrella of the Carnegie Mellon International Film Festival. But we bring a lot of excitement to the Festival season on our own! Our annual competition event unites local and international filmmakers with professionals and with in-house audiences. All the eyes a filmmaker could ask for under one roof. We will shine the spotlight on those who present a unique vision and create a conversation through their films.

The Competition

While the competition allows for incentivized filmmaking, our goal is not to deem “Better” and “Best.” Rather we want to financially encourage filmmakers to pursue their projects. Our passion for connectivity and conversation are what make us less like your traditional competition and more like a filmmaking retreat. We want to set the stage for you. We eliminate the barriers between filmmaker and audience to allow for an active showcase built on dialogue. A real audience, with real reactions, and real questions. But just because the bar closes doesn’t mean the party ends! Once the competition concludes and we all shake hands and say our goodbyes, the journey continues forward. We celebrate our filmmakers via the Festival’s official website, social media, and YouTube channel.

Our Community

This is not just an event. It is a community. This community celebrates the dust on our shoes from long days on location, the late nights and early mornings, hot coffees in-hand to editing labs, and of course, the final cut that brings us all together. Here’s to celebrating the journey.

This Year’s Theme

Each year, the festival serves to address a current social issue and open its doors to people across generations and cultures. As a competition, our mission is to engage the Pittsburgh community in thoughtful discussion by allowing local and international filmmakers to share their work and create a cultural exchange that showcase both diverse filmmaking techniques and personal expression. Each year, the festival chooses a theme that focuses on a current social issue or idea. **This year’s theme is Identity.**

What do we want to see?

Give us new. Give us bold. Give us the best you got! We want to see your short films that are as unique as you. Your perspective matters. Show us what defines you or a community you belong to, whether it be expressed through a fictional storyline or a documentary. We want your voice to be heard!

Who can submit?

This year, the competition is open to the general public.

How long should your short film be?

Films should be anywhere between 5 - 15 minutes in length.

When do we start accepting submissions?

We are currently open to receiving all submissions. The Deadline for submitting short films is **March 1, 2017**.

When will the results be announced?

We will announce the shortlist via email by mid March. Films selected into the shortlist will be screened at the **Short Film Competition Screening Event** held on March 31, 2017 from 5:30pm - 8:00pm at McConomy Auditorium on Carnegie Mellon Campus.

Questions?

If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at cmuiffshortfilms@gmail.com

AWARDS

Grand Prize: \$1,000

Second Prize: \$500

Third Prize: \$250

The Grand, Second and Third prizes will be given to the films selected by a panel of respected filmmakers and scholars in Pittsburgh.

People's Choice: \$250

People's Choice award will be voted by the audience at the main event.

GUIDELINES

1. Film must have been made between 2015-2017
2. Film must be approximately **5-15 minutes** in length.
3. Film must include but is not strictly limited to the **Faces of Identity** theme. The theme is open for creative interpretation.
4. If in a language other than English, and/or if audio is in any way muffled, subtitles are required.
5. Each director can submit a maximum of 2 short films.
6. Film must not have been submitted to CMU International Film Festival Short Film Competition before.
7. If the film has been submitted to other festivals and/or received any awards, please list them with submission.
8. Film must be submitted prior to March 1, 2017. Failure to submit prior to the due date may result in rejection from admittance.

GUIDELINES

9. Format:

MP4 or .MOV format

Use H.264 codec

Code Rate 5M per second

Video Size 720p (1280 x 720)

10. Submission Process:

(1) To Submit your film, please either **email** your work to cmuiffshortfilms@gmail.com directly or via **GoogleDrive**.

(2) Submission title must follow “**Film Title _ Director’s FullName**”

(3) Each film submission must include a submission form.

(4) All submissions must be accompanied by a **\$30 film submission fee**. The fee remains \$30 whether the director chooses to submit one or two films.

If you have any questions, please send an email to cmuiffshortfilms@gmail.com

PAYMENT

If you would like to pay by check or money order, please make your \$30 check or money order payable to Carnegie Mellon International Film Festival.

Please contact Jolanta Lion at jola@andrew.cmu.edu for payment through credit card.

Please send your submission(s) and check or money order to:

2017 Carnegie Mellon University International Film Festival “Faces of Identity”

ATTN: Jolanta Lion

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