



67th edition
Jun 03 - Jun 14, 2020
Sydney, Australia

Festival type Real Venue Festival
Types of films Animation, Children, Docu-feature, Documentary, Experimental, Hybrids, Narrative fiction
Film length Full length, Mid-length, Short
Genre Action, Adventure, Alternative, Art, Avantgarde, B-Movie, Biography, Burlesque, Classics, Comedy, Comedy drama, Crime, Culture, Dance, Dark comedy, Drama, Dramedy, Environmental, Family, Fantastic, Fantasy, Film noir, Foreign, Health, Hip Hop, History, Horror, Human rights, Independent, Kids, LGBT, Live Action, Melodrama, Mockumentary, Music, Musical, Mystery, Parody, Post modern, Realism, Reality, Road Trip, Romance, Romantic comedy, Satire, Science, Science fiction, Social issues, Spiritual, Surreal, Thriller, Transgender, Underground, Urban, War, Western

Mission / description For 67 years, the Sydney Film Festival has been bringing the best new films from around the world to audiences in Australia. As well as new features from over 60 countries, SFF screens documentaries, short films and retrospective titles. The festival hosts a number of awards to recognise excellence in filmmaking, including the Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films, (which are Academy Award eligible), the Documentary Australia Foundation Award (also Academy Award eligible) and the International Official Competition, which celebrates 'courageous and audacious fiction filmmaking'. [LESS TEXT](#)

Festival website <http://www.sff.org.au>

Rating
Festival info
Submission categories

Contact info

Class	Founded: 1954 Festival category: B (international relevance, international player)
Dates	Open call: Oct 31, 2019 Regular deadline: Jan 31, 2020 Late deadline: Feb 28, 2020 Notification date: May 04, 2020 Favorite this festival or add it to one of your lists to be alerted about open call, deadlines and notification date.
Fees	Fees range from 40.00 to 80.00 AUD (0.00 to 0.00 USD) . See submission categories for details about fees.
Awards	Total prize money: 60,000.00 USD
General rules	REGULATIONS OF THE 2020 SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL PLEASE REFER TO SPECIFIC REGULATIONS FOR THE 2020 DENDY AWARDS FOR AUSTRALIAN SHORT FILMS AND 2020 DOCUMENTARY AUSTRALIA FOUNDATION AWARD FOR BEST AUSTRALIAN DOCUMENTARY 1. Introduction 1.1 Sydney Film Festival (SFF) (Level 2, 10 Hickson Road, The Rocks NSW 2000, Australia. ABN 84 000 233 741) is organised by the Board and Staff of the Sydney Film Festival. The SFF is a non-commercial organisation, incorporated in New South Wales (NSW) as a non-profit-making company under the Corporations Act 2001. 1.2 The SFF is recognised by the International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF) as a competitive specialised festival and is subject to its regulations. 1.3 The 67th Sydney Film Festival will take place in Sydney, Australia, from 3 to 14 June 2020. 1.4 The mission of the SFF is: to develop and deliver a sustainable world class film festival, which engages all stakeholders and achieves critical acclaim by presenting a unique program that inspires, challenges and entertains an increasingly broad and diverse audience. 1.5 The Sydney Film Festival reserves the right to alter the regulations and/or terms and conditions without notice. 2. Categories of the Sydney Film Festival The festival is composed of the following main categories: 2.1 The Official Section (non-competitive) reserved for fiction films and documentaries (non-fiction) of any length, and short films (fiction or documentary) under 15 minutes in length, which are innovative, informative, challenging and/or entertaining in style or content. 2.2 The Official Competition established to reward new directions in film and endorsed by FIAPF (see clause 4). 2.3 A Retrospective Section (non-competitive) paying tribute to a filmmaker, film movement or genre and designed to make a contribution to film history. 2.4 The Dendy Awards for Australian Short Films (competitive) for recent Australian productions under 40 minutes in length, incorporating the Live Action Short Award, Rouben Mamoulian Award for Best Director, Yoram Gross Animation Award and Event Cinemas Australian Short Screenplay Award. 2.5 The Documentary Australia Foundation Award for Australian Documentary (competitive) for recent Australian documentaries of any length. 3. Conditions of Entry Films are only eligible for selection in the SFF if they submit a Preselection Entry as detailed in clause 3.8 and meet the following criteria:

3.1 Films must have been completed since 31 January 2019. The date of completion shall mean the date of the delivery or availability of a locked-off print, tape or final digital format.

3.2 Feature-length productions (over 40 minutes in length, fiction and non-fiction) must not have been shown publicly in the submitted version in New South Wales (including Sydney) prior to their SFF presentation.

3.3 Films under 15 minutes in length (fiction and non-fiction) produced outside Australia must not have been shown publicly in the submitted version in New South Wales (including Sydney) prior to their SFF presentation.

3.4 Films under 40 minutes in length (fiction and non-fiction) produced in Australia must not have been shown publicly, in the submitted version, in the Sydney metropolitan area prior to their SFF presentation. Such films may have screened publicly elsewhere in Australia.

3.5 For the purposes of these regulations, a public screening is any screening accessible to the public including television broadcasts, previews, online, DVD or video release, and festival screenings.

3.6 All works selected for the SFF will be presented in English or in their original language with English subtitles on DCP. Further information on digital formats will be provided upon request. Subtitling is the sole responsibility of the film's producer.

3.7 Works that are solely promotional, educational or scientific in nature are not eligible for selection for the SFF.

3.8 Films submitting a Preselection Entry for the Official Competition must comply with the criteria in clauses 3 and 4. In the event of inconsistency between clauses 3 and 4, clause 4 prevails.

3.9 A valid Preselection Entry must be received at the SFF office by the official closing date, 31 January 2020 for productions from outside Australia, and 28 February 2020 for Australian productions, and must include:

3.9.1 A completed online Preselection Entry Form;

3.9.2 An uploaded film file of appropriate quality, with English subtitles (if the original language is not English):

3.9.3 A synopsis, a director's statement and biography and filmography of the director and producer;

3.9.4 The entry fee as follows: Short films Australia \$AUD40.00 (GST inc)/International \$AUD50.00; Feature-length films Australian and international \$AUD80.00 (GST inc). Fees for international and competitive sections may vary.

3.9.5 Entries will not be accepted without payment of the entry fee.

3.9.5 Entries will not be accepted without payment of the FilmFestivalLife service fee.

3.10 Uploaded film files will be used for the sole purpose of considering the suitability of the film for the festival program and will not be used for any other purpose, including marketing or festival screenings, without the permission of the rights holder.

3.11 The SFF is not liable for the cost of the return of DVDs submitted with a Preselection Entry. If the sender wishes to retrieve the DVD, a DHL or Fedex account number must be provided.

3.12 A film may be entered for selection in only one SFF festival.

4. Official Competition

4.1 The Official Competition has been established to reward new directions in film. The SFF will be seeking films that have emotional power and resonance, are audacious, cutting edge and courageous, and go beyond the usual treatment of a subject matter.

4.2 Films may only submit to the 2020 Official Competition by invitation from the SFF.

4.3 A maximum of 12 features will be presented to the Jury of the Official Competition.

4.4 The Jury, appointed by the SFF, will comprise five members and a maximum of two members will be of Australian nationality, and will be in alignment with FIAPF guidelines.

4.5 Selected films must meet the following criteria:

4.5.1 Films must be fictional and feature length (defined as over 75 minutes). The SFF reserves the right to invite non-fiction features if they clearly meet all other criteria.

4.5.2 Films must have been completed after 1 June 2019 and must not have been released theatrically outside their country of origin more than 12 months before the start date of the 2020 Sydney Film Festival (3 June 2020). The date of completion is the date of the delivery or availability of a locked-off print, tape or final digital format.

4.5.3 Films must not have screened publicly (see clause 3.5) in Australia prior to 14 June 2020.

4.5.4 Priority will be given to films that are world premieres provided all other criteria are met.

4.5.5 Films must have provided the SFF with the information and materials specified in Clause 3 and Clause 7.

4.6 The Jury will determine the winner of the award based on a simple majority of votes. The Jury President will exercise a casting vote in the event the Jury is unable to determine a winner. The final results will be known only by the Jury and SFF and will be kept secret until the announcement at the 2020 Official Competition Award Ceremony.

4.7 An SFF representative may attend Jury deliberations as an observer but will take no part in the voting or proceedings.

4.8 The director(s), or his/her nominee(s), of the winning film of the 2020 Official Competition will receive a cash prize of \$AUD60,000.

4.9 Any person, including as determined by SFF, who has taken part in, or to have or perceived to have an interest in relation to, the production or distribution of a film in the 2020 Official Competition will declare that interest and will not participate in the selection or judging process.

4.10 Jury decisions will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into.

5. Films invited to participate - General

5.1 Once a film has been selected to participate in the 2020 Sydney Film Festival, the entrant must complete an online official SFF Entry Form (a more detailed version of the Preselection Entry Form) and forward it to the SFF office no later than 8 April 2020, accompanied by (at a minimum) the following materials:

5.1.1 at least four high resolution stills (by email) from the selected film;

5.1.2 a one paragraph synopsis and a one-page synopsis (in English);

5.1.3 director's statement about the film;

5.1.4 the director's photo, biography and filmography;

5.1.5 an online copy of the film; as well as any other documentation that might contribute to the promotion of the work.

5.1.6 in the case of films over 40 minutes in length, two sets of at least four different excerpts of maximum three minutes in length, the film's trailer and an electronic press kit with scene clips and interviews, Excerpts must be broadcast quality.

5.2 By submitting the SFF Entry Form and the above materials, the entrant(s) grant to SFF a non-exclusive licence to publicly screen the selected film in the 2020 Sydney Film Festival (3 to 14 June 2020) in theatres used by the festival.

5.3 By submitting the SFF Entry Form and the above materials, the entrant(s) grant to SFF a non-exclusive licence to:

5.3.1 publicly screen any submitted excerpts - or any selected excerpts as specified under the rights holder's agreement in the SFF Entry Form - from the submitted film on screen (cinema screen and monitors);

5.3.2 use stills from the submitted materials and descriptive material about the selected film in the marketing and promotion of the 2020 Sydney Film Festival, the official festival program and on the official festival website;

5.3.3 make information extracted from the submitted materials available to the press.

5.4 By submitting the SFF Entry Form the entrant accepts the Rules and Regulations for participation.

5.5 The entrant may not withdraw the film from the SFF once it has been selected for participation and the entrant has confirmed its agreement.

5.6 By entering in the SFF the entrant warrants that the rights to their films are cleared to allow the SFF to use the film for the purposes specified in paragraph 6.2.

6. Films invited to participate - Official Competition

6.1 Films selected for the Official Competition must comply with the criteria in clauses 5 and 6. In the event of inconsistency between clauses 5 and 6, clause 6 prevails.

6.2 By submitting the SFF Entry Form and the materials specified in clause 5.1 the entrant(s) in the Official Competition grant(s) to SFF a non-exclusive licence throughout the world in perpetuity (and at no cost to SFF) to:

6.2.1 screen the submitted Film to the Jury or members of the Jury for the purposes of determining the winner of the 2020 Official Competition;

6.2.2 publicly screen any submitted excerpts - or any selected excerpts as specified under the rights holder's agreement in the SFF Entry Form - from the submitted film on screen (cinema screen and monitors) at any SFF Awards Ceremony and at any pre- and post- SFF Awards functions;

6.2.3 use stills from the submitted materials at any SFF Awards Ceremony and any pre- and post- SFF Awards functions;

6.2.4 use stills from the submitted materials and descriptive material about the submitted film in the official program for any SFF Awards Ceremony and on the SFF's Official Website;

6.2.5 make information extracted from the submitted materials available to the press.

6.3 The licence specified in clause 5.2 is in addition to that granted under clause 6.2.

6.4 It is a condition of participation in the Official Competition that the winner of the Official Competition will use the name and logo of the SFF and the Official Competition in all their publicity in the most prominent position on all publicity material as agreed with the SFF.

7. The Audience Vote

7.1 The SFF audience is encouraged to rate the feature-length films (over 40 minutes in length) they have viewed on a scale of 1 to 10.

7.2 The count and result will be checked by a representative of a reputable company involved in public surveys or accounting. The decision of the survey/accounting company in relation to the counting and totalling of the vote is final. On all other issues relating to the audience vote the decision of the Sydney Film Festival is final.

8. Transportation of Selected Prints & Digital format

8.1 Presentation materials (e.g. DCP drive) of films invited to screen in the SFF must arrive in Sydney no later than 14 days before the first screening unless special arrangements are made with the SFF organisers.

8.2 The SFF will cover the cost of shipping the digital copy of the film to and from Australia. However, if the print/digital copy is to be forwarded to another festival the outward costs from Sydney must be covered by the festival receiving the print/digital copy, as is the usual arrangement between festivals recommended by FIAPF.

8.3 Films will be returned to participants within two weeks following the end of the SFF.

8.4 The SFF will insure works for all sections of the festival for the entire time the material (of whatever format) is in the SFF's custody, either before, during, or after the festival, against any loss or damage.

8.5 The liability of the SFF is limited to reimbursement of the replacement costs of a new drive or print (in the case of retrospective works supplied on such formats), as per the prices declared by the entrant. All other costs or liabilities are specifically excluded.

8.6 The SFF may refuse to allow the participation of any film where the print or digital format of that film fails to meet the technical requirements for a public screening of good quality.