



2023 Festival Submissions – Frequently Asked Questions

NOTE: These FAQs are to assist you with your submission, and to help you understand the *2023 Terms & Conditions for Submission of Films through FilmFreeway.com*. We encourage you to read through these Terms & Conditions in full. In the case of any conflict between this FAQ document and the Terms & Conditions, the terms and conditions will prevail.

If you have any further questions, please contact submissions@tiff.net.

We use [FilmFreeway](https://filmfreeway.com) as our submissions platform. All submissions must be submitted through our FilmFreeway listing found here: <https://filmfreeway.com/TIFF>.

THE BASICS

1) I have a question about my submission. Who can I contact?

Please contact the TIFF Submissions Team at submissions@tiff.net.

2) When do submissions open?

Submissions open **March 2, 2023**. Please refer to tiff.net/submissions for more information, or visit our listing on FilmFreeway: <https://filmfreeway.com/TIFF>.

3) What are your submission deadlines? (Please see the below chart, as exceptions to these deadlines may apply.)

- Early-bird deadline: March 31, 2023 at 11:59pm EDT
- Standard deadline for all categories: May 12, 2023 at 11:59pm EDT

Please note: TIFF may disqualify submissions from consideration if the submission is not complete by 11:59pm EDT on the final day of the deadline window you selected.

4) What are your categories, and how much does it cost to submit?

NOTE: All fees are denoted in Canadian dollars.



Category	Early-bird submission deadline & fee (CAD)	Standard submission deadline & fee (CAD)
Canadian Features	March 31, 2023 (11:59pm EDT) \$70.00	May 12, 2023 (11:59pm EDT) \$135.00
Canadian Documentary Features	March 31, 2023 (11:59pm EDT) \$70.00	May 12, 2023 (11:59pm EDT) \$135.00
Canadian Shorts	March 31, 2023 (11:59pm EDT) \$35.00	May 12, 2023 (11:59pm EDT) \$65.00
International Features	March 31, 2023 (11:59pm EDT) \$100.00	May 12, 2023 (11:59pm EDT) \$135.00
International Documentary Features	March 31, 2023 (11:59pm EDT) \$100.00	May 12, 2023 (11:59pm EDT) \$135.00
International Shorts	March 31, 2023 (11:59pm EDT) \$65.00	May 12, 2023 (11:59pm EDT) \$95.00
Primetime	March 31, 2023 (11:59pm EDT) \$65.00	May 12, 2023 (11:59pm EDT) \$95.00



Wavelengths		May 12, 2023 (11:59pm EDT) Submissions to this category are by invitation only
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5) Are submission fees refundable?

No. Submission fees will not be refunded under any circumstances. Please carefully review our Terms & Conditions and eligibility requirements found on tiff.net/submissions or filmfreeway.com/TIFF prior to submitting your film.

6) Do you issue fee waivers to submit?

Film submission fees help offset the administrative costs of processing submissions and carefully screening and considering each film. TIFF has a limited number of submission fee waivers for filmmakers, and it is not likely for a waiver to be granted. TIFF appreciates your understanding.

TIFF may consider requests for fee waivers from:

- a. Equity-seeking and underrepresented filmmakers who identify as women, Black, Indigenous, a person of colour, a person with a disability or accessibility challenges, or a member of the LGBTQ+ community
- b. Countries that are subject to financial restrictions and embargoes that prevent them from submitting through the FilmFreeway platform; or
- c. TIFF Festival and Industry Alumni and Canadian creators in demonstrated financial need

Please note ONLY films with a World premiere status at time of submission, that have not had a public presentation anywhere in the world, will be considered for a fee waiver.

Please email submissions@tiff.net to request a copy of our Waiver Request Form. Requests will be accepted until March 26, 2023 for Early Bird deadline submission and April 30, 2023 for standard deadline submission.

ELIGIBILITY

1) Do you accept re-submissions?

No. If the film was previously submitted to TIFF for Festival consideration, the film will not be eligible.



2) Do you accept works-in-progress?

Yes, we do accept work-in-progress copies of films, and our programmers are used to watching films that have final elements outstanding. Before submitting a work-in-progress copy of your film, please know that:

1. Due to the high volume of submissions we receive, we can only accept one version of your screener. You need to be prepared for the screener that is uploaded to FilmFreeway to be watched. If you are not prepared for the uploaded screener to be watched, please do not submit until you are ready.
2. Should your film get invited to our Festival, the final version of your film would need to be completed and delivered to TIFF by August 18, 2023.

3) Do you accept screenplay or script submissions?

No.

4) Do you accept virtual-reality submissions?

No.

5) How do I know if my film falls in the Canadian or international category?

Your film should be submitted in the Canadian Features, Canadian Documentary Features, or Canadian Shorts category if: i) the film was directed by a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada; and ii) Canada is listed as a major country of production and/or the film has a credited producer who is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada

If you do not meet these two criteria, please submit to the appropriate international category.

6) Can we submit documentaries to your shorts categories?

Yes, as long as the film's run time is under 40 minutes and the film meets our eligibility requirements, you are welcome to submit short documentaries to our shorts categories.

7) What is your Primetime category?

The Primetime category is for serial content with a minimum of two chronological episodes, including the series- or season-premiere episode, featuring a combined run time of 60 minutes or longer. In the case of anthologies, chronological episodes are not required. Documentary series will be considered.



8) What is Wavelengths? Who can submit to Wavelengths?

Wavelengths is a tightly curated international showcase of artist film and video, including feature-length experimental fiction, innovative and essayist documentaries, avant-garde shorts, and films from the contemporary art world.

TIFF does not accept unsolicited submissions to the Wavelengths programme. Only those invited by the TIFF programming team are eligible to submit to the Wavelengths category on FilmFreeway. If you were not invited to submit to Wavelengths, you are welcome to submit to another category for which your film is eligible. Upon review, if a programmer thinks your film should be considered by another programmer or section, they may share your film internally. Requests for an invitation will not be answered.

9) How do I submit to Midnight Madness?

We do not have a submissions category for Midnight Madness. Feature films that want to be considered for inclusion in the Midnight Madness programme have the opportunity to indicate this in our FilmFreeway application form.

10) Does my film need to be completed by a certain date in order to be eligible for your Festival?

Yes. In order for your Feature or Primetime submission to be eligible for our Festival, it must have been completed on or after September 8, 2022.

11) What are your premiere status requirements?

Upon submission, films or series must have a World, International or North American premiere status. At our discretion, TIFF reserves the right to accept submissions with only a Canadian premiere status.

Upon selection, TIFF prefers that all Short and Feature Films presented are, at minimum, North American premieres. The film's premiere status will be taken into consideration when final programming decisions are made.

Note: If a United States production premiered only in the United States, it would qualify as an International premiere. However, if a United States production premiered in the United States and outside of the United States and Canada, the film would be considered a Canadian premiere.

Premiere Status Definitions:

World Premiere — The film or series will not have a public presentation anywhere in the world before its scheduled presentation at the Festival.

International Premiere — The film or series will not have a public presentation anywhere outside its country of origin before its scheduled presentation at the Festival.



North American Premiere — The film or series will not have a public presentation anywhere in Canada or the United States before its scheduled presentation at the Festival. *Please note: Any presentation in Mexico or Caribbean islands will not affect the film's North American premiere status.*

Canadian Premiere — The film or series will not have a public presentation anywhere in Canada before its scheduled presentation at the Festival. *Please note: A film should not submit to our Festival if it has had a public presentation in Canada, or, will not have, at minimum, a North American premiere status at the time of submission.*

N/A — The film or series has had a public presentation in Toronto and therefore will not have a premiere status. *Please note: A film is not eligible for our Festival if it has had, or will have, a public presentation in Toronto and therefore will not have a premiere status prior to September 7, 2023.*

12) Can my film be posted online?

A film will not be eligible for consideration and should not be submitted if:

- a. the film was completed prior to September 8, 2022; or
- b. the film was previously submitted to TIFF for Festival consideration; or
- c. the film has been for sale on DVD/Blu-ray/VOD; or
- d. the film:
 - (i) had theatrical releases in North America,
 - (ii) has aired on television and/or a public streaming platform in North America; or
- e. the film has been publicly posted or exhibited online in North America (films that are publicly posted or exhibited online but geoblocked to a region outside of North America are still eligible for our Festival); or
- f. the film does not have, at minimum, a North American premiere status at the time of submission; or
- g. the film has had, or will have, a public presentation in Toronto and therefore will not have a premiere status prior to September 7, 2023.



13) My film has been presented at an online festival. Is it still eligible?

We are adhering to our eligibility requirements in our Terms and Conditions, including regional geoblocking stipulations. Films that are publicly posted or exhibited online but geoblocked to a region outside of North America are still eligible for our Festival. If the online festival does not violate these terms, then your film would still be eligible for TIFF. Please read more in our terms & conditions [here](#).

14) Can a trailer, clip and/or actor reel be publicly posted online?

Yes, posting a trailer, clip and/or actor reel from your film online is allowed.

15) What is a public screening?

We consider a public screening to be a screening where the public and/or press attended and the event was advertised and/or ticketed. An exception to this would be if the public attended, but there was a non-disclosure agreement and no advertising, and/or a private friends-and-family/cast and/or crew screening. There may also be exclusions for compulsory school showcases.

16) Do you allow films with branded content?

All films must adhere to our *Intellectual property, legal claims and indemnities* section of our Terms & Conditions. Please visit tiff.net/submissions or filmfreeway.com/TIFF for more information.

17) Do you accept films with run times between 41 and 59 minutes?

For submissions of Shorts and Features, we do not accept films with run times between 41 and 59 minutes. Short films must have run times of 40 minutes and under (including credits). Feature films must have run times of 60 minutes and over (including credits). Primetime serial content must have a combined run time of 60 minutes and over (including credits). For films invited to submit to Wavelengths, we will accept run times of any length.

SUBMITTING YOUR FILM

1) How do I submit?

In order to submit your film, you must register and submit your film via FilmFreeway. Visit our FilmFreeway listing here: <https://filmfreeway.com/TIFF>.



2) Where do I send my film?

All submissions must be submitted online via FilmFreeway: <https://filmfreeway.com/TIFF>. Online screeners or downloadable files received separately via email will not be accepted. FilmFreeway allows for direct digital uploads, Vimeo links, or YouTube links. For more information on FilmFreeway project and video uploads, please visit <https://filmfreeway.com/help>.

3) Can I submit more than one film project?

Yes, you can submit more than one film project. You must complete separate applications for each project you plan to submit and you must pay a separate submission fee, but can do so under the same FilmFreeway account. For more information on how to add multiple projects to your FilmFreeway account, please visit: <https://filmfreeway.com/help/article/15998/how-do-i-create-a-project>.

4) Can I submit my film to more than one category?

No. We ask that you submit your film to one category only. If, after viewing your submission, a programmer feels that your film is better suited to another category or programme, they may refer your film internally.

5) Is there specific information you require in our FilmFreeway project?

Yes. Aside from filling out our custom form, we require that the following information be added to your FilmFreeway project:

- Director's Name (under "Credits")
- Country of Origin (not to be confused with Country of Filming)
- Film Language
- Run Time (duration)
- Date of Completion
- Film Screener (the screener must contain English subtitles if the original language is not English)
- Screener Password (if applicable)

6) I did not add your required information to my FilmFreeway project. How can I update my submission project details?

For information on how to update your FilmFreeway submission project details, please visit <https://filmfreeway.com/help/article/16023/how-do-i-edit-my-project-details>.



7) What is meant by Country of Origin?

Country of Origin refers to the country or countries that provided production funding and/or the country in which the primary production company is based. It does not refer to the *Country of Filming* (where the film was shot). If there is more than one Country of Origin, please list the country that provided the most production funding in your FilmFreeway project. You will get an opportunity to list all Countries of Origin in our custom FilmFreeway form.

8) What is meant by the Date of Completion?

The Date of Completion is the date when the film was completed. If your film is a work-in-progress, please note the approximate future date the film will be completed by. Selected films will be required to supply TIFF with an exhibition copy by August 18, 2023 and your film must be completed and delivered before then.

9) Do you accept DVDs, PAL, or Blu-ray screeners?

No, we do **NOT** accept DVDs, PAL encoding, or Blu-rays. We only accept online submissions by way of FilmFreeway: <https://filmfreeway.com/TIFF>.

10) How can I tell when you've received my film submission?

Due to the high volume of submissions we receive, we are unable to confirm receipt of your film on an individual basis. Please note: It may take several weeks for us to review your submission and update your status. Please consult your FilmFreeway film page frequently to check your submission status noted as follows:

- **In Consideration:** Your submission is under review. If your submission remains “In Consideration” and we have not contacted the Submitting Party to request additional information, then all submission requirements are satisfied. Please note: This review process may take several weeks.
- **Incomplete:** TIFF is awaiting receipt of a submission screener or requires additional information. If we require further information regarding your submission, we will change your status to “Incomplete” and will contact the Submitting Party directly via our submissions@tiff.net email. Please note: This process may take several weeks.
- **Disqualified:** TIFF has disqualified the submission from consideration due to the submission's not being completed by 11:59pm EDT on the final day of the deadline window you selected, or being ineligible. We will contact the Submitting Party directly via our submissions@tiff.net email to inform them of this disqualification.

11) Can I update my screener?

Due to a high number of submissions for our team to process and review, we are unfortunately only able to receive one version of your screener. Please be prepared for the screening link you submit to be the one that will be watched.



ODDS & ENDS

1) Do you provide invoices for submissions?

No, TIFF does not provide invoices for submissions. However, you can access a receipt for your submission directly from FilmFreeway: <https://filmfreeway.com/help/article/16048/how-do-i-access-a-receipt-for-my-submissions>.

2) Am I allowed to submit to other festivals?

Absolutely. We just ask that you keep us informed of any official selections by emailing us at submissions@tiff.net.

3) I have been accepted to another festival and haven't received a decision from TIFF. Can I email you about this?

Yes, you can email submissions@tiff.net to inform us, but unfortunately we are not able to help you make a decision about participating in other festivals, and cannot consider your film early.

4) Will my submission be watched?

Yes. All submissions are reviewed and considered fairly and thoroughly by an international programming team. In the case of Primetime submissions, for consideration we only require our team to review the pilot episode.

Please keep in mind that our programmers do not solely screen submissions in Toronto, and have the ability to screen films offline. Please also keep in mind that Vimeo statistics are not always accurately recorded, especially when an embedded video or third-party application such as FilmFreeway is used. Please visit Vimeo's FAQ page for more information on their analytics and third-party players: <https://vimeo.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360033196832-Analytics-FAQ>.

5) When will I be notified of the decision regarding my film?

You will receive an official decision by the end of August through FilmFreeway, to the email address associated with the Submitting Party on your project listing. Please make sure to provide an email address that is checked frequently. Decisions will **not** be released via phone call or email from TIFF. Please avoid emailing us and requesting a decision. We appreciate your patience.



6) If we are officially invited to your Festival, we need to provide an Exhibition Copy of our Film by August 18, 2023 — but we may not be notified of your official decision until August 16, 2023. Please explain.

August 16, 2023 is the last possible date by which we will inform applicants of our official decisions. Official decisions are sent out on a rolling basis throughout August. Please know that, if you are officially invited to our Festival, we will work with each film team on a case-by-case basis to ensure an Exhibition Copy arrives in time for our Festival.

7) Can I receive notes or feedback on my submission?

Due to the large volume of films we receive, we are unable to provide individual feedback regarding your film submission.

8) When is the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival?

The Toronto International Film Festival will run September 7–17, 2023. Visit <https://tiff.net> for more information.