



2021 Festival Submissions – Frequently Asked Questions

We are now using [FilmFreeway](#) 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 **February 16, 2021**. 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 26, 2021 at 11:59pm EDT
- Standard deadline for Shorts: May 14, 2021 at 11:59pm EDT
- Standard deadline for Features, Primetime and Wavelengths: May 28, 2021 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 26, 2021 (11:59 pm EDT) \$70.00 | May 28, 2021 (11:59 pm EDT) \$135.00 |
| Canadian Documentary Features | March 26, 2021 (11:59 pm EDT) \$70.00 | May 28, 2021 (11:59 pm EDT) \$135.00 |
| Canadian Shorts | March 26, 2021 (11:59 pm EDT) \$35.00 | May 14, 2021 (11:59 pm EDT) \$65.00 |



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| | | |
|---|--|---|
| International Features | March 26, 2021 (11:59 pm EDT) \$100.00 | May 28, 2021 (11:59 pm EDT) \$135.00 |
| International Documentary Features | March 26, 2021 (11:59 pm EDT) \$100.00 | May 28, 2021 (11:59 pm EDT) \$135.00 |
| International Shorts | March 26, 2021 (11:59 pm EDT) \$65.00 | May 14, 2021 (11:59 pm EDT) \$95.00 |
| Primetime | March 26, 2021 (11:59 pm EDT) \$65.00 | May 28, 2021 (11:59 pm EDT) \$95.00 |
| Wavelengths | | May 28, 2021 (11:59 pm EDT) Submissions to this category are by invitation only |

5) Are submissions 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.

ELIGIBILITY

1) Do you accept re-submissions?

If the Film was previously submitted to TIFF for Festival consideration, the Film will not be eligible. However, we will accept a “new cut” of a film that was previously submitted to TIFF, provided that the Film still meets our eligibility requirements. We define a “new cut” as a Film that has undergone substantial changes, including but not limited to: editing, reshoots, or a new run time. Please submit a brief statement with your submission with reference to the new cut.



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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 view one version of your screener. If you update your screener throughout the submissions season, we can not guarantee the newest version of your screener will be watched. You need to be prepared for the first screener uploaded to FilmFreeway to be watched. If you are not prepared for the first upload to be watched, please do not submit until you are ready.
2. Works-in-progress films need to be finished by August 6, 2021.
3. 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 13, 2021.

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?

If the director of the film you are submitting is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident of Canada AND Canada is listed as one of the countries of production, then your film should be submitted in the Canadian Features, Canadian Documentary Features, or Canadian Shorts category. 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 49 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?

Serial content with a minimum of two chronological episodes, including the pilot, 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 that comprises a vast array of artist film and video, including feature-length experimental narratives, innovative and essayist documentaries, lyrical shorts, and films from the contemporary art world.

TIFF does not accept unsolicited submissions to the Wavelengths programme. This means that only those invited by the TIFF programming team are eligible to submit to the Wavelengths



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category on FilmFreeway. If you were not invited to submit to Wavelengths, you are welcome to submit to another category in which your film is eligible. Please note that upon review, if a programmer thinks your film should be considered by another programmer or section, they may share your film internally.

9) How do I submit to Midnight Madness?

We do not have a submissions category for Midnight Madness. If you want your film to be considered for inclusion in the Midnight Madness programme, please indicate this in your FilmFreeway application by selecting “Midnight Madness” as one of the answers to the following submission question: “Please find a list of **film tags** below with their definitions. Check all that apply.”

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 Film to be eligible for our Festival, it must have been completed on or after May 29, 2020.

11) What are your premiere-status requirements?

TIFF prefers that all Short and Feature Films presented are, at minimum, North American premieres. TIFF will accept submissions that have already premiered in North America (with the exception of Toronto) but the film’s premiere status will be taken into consideration when final programming decisions are made.

Premiere Status Definitions:

World Premiere — The film will not have a public presentation before its scheduled presentation at the Festival.

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

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

Canadian Premiere — The film will not have a public presentation anywhere in Canada before its scheduled presentation at the Festival.

N/A — The film 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 9, 2021.



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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 May 29, 2020; or
- b. the Film was previously submitted to TIFF for Festival consideration (please note: we will accept a “new cut” of a film that was previously submitted to TIFF, provided that the Film still meets our eligibility requirements. We define a “new cut” as a Film that has undergone substantial changes including, but not limited to: editing, reshoots, or new run time. Please submit a brief statement with your submission with reference to the new cut); or
- c. the Film has been for sale on DVD/Blu-ray/VOD; or
- d. the Film:
 - (i) had theatrical releases,
 - (ii) has aired on television,
 - (iii) has been available on 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 has had, or will have, a public presentation in Toronto and therefore will not have a premiere status prior to September 9, 2021.

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. If the online festival does not violate these terms, then your film would still be eligible for TIFF.

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 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 or crew screening. There may also be exclusions for compulsory school showcases.



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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.

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 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 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 only submit your film to one category. 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, besides our custom form we require the following information is 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)



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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 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.

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?

Unfortunately, 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.

- **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 requiring 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?

Yes, updating your screeners throughout the submissions season is allowed but we can not guarantee the newest version of your screener will be watched. You need to be prepared for the first screener uploaded to FilmFreeway to be watched. If you are not prepared for the first upload to be watched please do not submit until you are ready. For more information please



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visit <https://filmfreeway.com/help/article/16018/can-i-replace-or-update-my-video-with-a-new-version>.

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.

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. Please keep in mind that our programmers do not solely screen submissions in Toronto, and have the ability to screen films offline. In the case of Primetime submissions, for consideration we only require our team to review the pilot episode. 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 or email. Please avoid emailing us and requesting a decision. We appreciate your patience.

6) If officially invited to your Festival we need to provide a Exhibition Copy of our Film by August 13, 2021, but we may not be notified of your official decision until August 20, 2021. Please explain.

August 20, 2021 is the last possible date we will inform applicants of our official decisions. Official decisions are sent out on a rolling basis throughout August. Please know, if 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.



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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.

NOTE: These FAQs are to assist you with your submission, and to help you understand the *2021 Terms & Conditions for Submission of Films through FilmFreeway.com*. We encourage you to read through these terms and conditions in full. In the case of any conflict between this FAQ document and the terms and conditions, the terms and conditions will prevail.

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