

RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE 2009 SYDNEY FILM FESTIVAL

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Sydney Film Festival (SFF) (Suite 102, 59 Marlborough Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010, 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 56th Sydney Film Festival will take place in Sydney, Australia, from 3 to 21 June 2009.
- 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.

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, which are innovative, 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 A Series on a Theme (non-competitive) highlighting the cinema of a particular country or region, genre, filmmaker or film movement.
- 2.5 The Australian Short Films Competition for recent Australian productions under 60 minutes in 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 January 2008. The date of completion shall mean the date of the delivery or availability of a locked-off print, DigiBeta tape (if DigiBeta is the final format) or final digital format.
- 3.2 Feature-length productions (fiction and non-fiction) must not have been shown publicly in the submitted version in NSW prior to their SFF presentation.
- 3.3 Films under 30 minutes in length produced outside Australia must not have been shown publicly in the submitted version in NSW prior to their SFF presentation.
- 3.4 Films under 30 minutes in length 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, DVD/video release, on-line 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 35mm, Digital Betacam or Beta SP (PAL format, NTSC format is not acceptable). Digital format requirements are available on 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, 16 February 2009, and must include:

- 3.9.1 a completed Preselection Entry form;
- 3.9.2 a DVD 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:

for entries received before 8 December 2008:

- International short films \$AUD55.00
- International feature-length films \$AUD85.00
- Australian short films \$AUD35.00 (GST inc)
- Australian feature-length films \$AUD50.00 (GST inc)

for entries received after 8 December 2008:

- International short films \$AUD70.00
- International feature-length films \$AUD100.00
- Australian short films \$AUD50.00 (GST inc)
- Australian feature-length films \$AUD65.00 (GST inc)

- 3.9.5 Entries will not be accepted without payment of the entry fee, unless invited to enter by the SFF.

- 3.10 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.

- 3.11 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 2009 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 January 2008 and must not have been released theatrically outside their country of origin more than 12 months before the start date of the 56th Sydney Film Festival (3 June 2009). The date of completion is the date of the delivery or availability of a locked-off print, DigiBeta tape (if DigiBeta is the final format) or final digital format.

- 4.5.3 Films must not have screened publicly (see clause 3.5) in Australia prior to 21 June 2009.

- 4.5.4 Priority will be given to films that are world premieres provided all the 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 Up to two persons attached to the film selected for the Official Competition will be flown to Sydney, Australia, for the presentation of their film and Awards Ceremony (June 2009).

- 4.7 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 2009 Official Competition Award Ceremony.

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

- 4.9 The producer(s), or his/her nominee(s), of the winning film of the 2009 Official Competition will receive a cash prize of \$AUD60,000.
- 4.10 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 2009 Official Competition will declare that interest and will not participate in the selection or judging process.
- 4.11 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 56th Sydney Film Festival, the entrant must complete an official SFF Entry Form (a more detailed version of the Preselection Entry Form) and forward it to the SFF office no later than 1 April 2009, accompanied by 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 five copies of the film on DVD; as well as any other documentation that might contribute to the promotion of the work.
- 5.1.6 in the case of films over 30minutes 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 PAL Digital Betacam format and Quicktime files, to specifications supplied by the SFF.
- 5.2 By submitting the SFF Entry Form and the above materials, the entrant(s) grant to SFF a non-exclusive licence throughout the world to:
- 5.2.1 publicly screen the selected film in the 56th Sydney Film Festival;
- 5.2.2 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);
- 5.2.3 use stills from the submitted materials, moving image clips and descriptive material about the selected film in the marketing of the 56th Sydney Film Festival, the official festival program and on the official festival website;
- 5.2.4 make information extracted from the submitted materials available to the press.
- 5.3 By submitting the SFF Entry Form the entrant accepts the Rules and Regulations for participation.
- 5.4 The entrant may not withdraw the film from the SFF once it has been selected for participation.
- 5.5 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 2009 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, moving image clips 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 films they have viewed on a scale of 1 to 5. Films screening in The Australian Short Film Awards, Opening and Closing Night are not eligible for the audience vote.
- 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 & Beta/Digibeta Tapes**
- 8.1 Prints and Beta tapes 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. Digital format requirements are available on request.
- 8.2 The SFF will cover the cost of shipping the print to and from Australia. However, if the print is to be forwarded to another festival the outward costs from Sydney must be covered by the festival receiving the print, as is the usual arrangement between festivals recommended by FIAPF.
- 8.3 Films will be sent 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 print (or Beta tape in the case of works supplied on Beta tape), 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 tape of that film fails to meet the technical requirements for a public screening of good quality.