

MPPIA SHORT FILM AWARD/ GUIDELINES 2019-2020

WHAT IS THE MPPIA SHORT FILM AWARD?

The MPPIA Short Film Award will provide one emerging filmmaker with an opportunity to further develop his/her/their directing career by realizing a unique creative vision. This program was established to recognize and celebrate the contribution of film and television to the Province of British Columbia.

Please Note: This award is not intended for established film industry professionals.

THE AWARD

The successful candidate will receive a \$15,000 cash award, plus services “in-kind” valued up to \$100,000 from across the industry, enabling the filmmaker to complete his/her/their project with the guidance of experienced industry professionals and support services provided by the top supply houses in British Columbia.

MPPIA will assist the winning team solicit and coordinate substantial donations of “in-kind” services from the membership of MPPIA including production and post production services, equipment and supplies.

The completed film will have its world premiere screening at the 2020 Whistler Film Festival. Previous recipients of an MPPIA Short Film Award are not eligible to apply for this award again.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- Must be the director of the proposed project; Please Note: One Director per application, one application per Director. Co-Director projects will not be accepted under any circumstances;
- Must be 19 years of age or older;
- Must be a Canadian citizen or Permanent Resident;
- Must currently reside in the province of British Columbia and have lived in British Columbia for a minimum of 12 months prior to submitting the application to Creative BC;
- Must have creative control and final editorial authority over the proposed project;

- Must, at minimum, be either a graduate from a post secondary institution or recognized film school, or possess equivalent experience in the film industry and, through their body of work, be able to demonstrate ability and talent;
- Must have directed and completed at least two short films or television projects that demonstrate the expertise and imagination required to meet the challenges of creating an original and visionary short film (student films do count);
- Must not have directed more than 60 minutes of professional* live action, documentary, dramatic or comedic films (student films credits will not count towards this – all other directing credits, including productions currently in development, will);
- Must agree to grant MPPIA, Creative BC and the Whistler Film Festival the right to stream, screen and exploit the completed film (non-commercial use/promotional purposes only); and
- Must agree that the world premiere screening of the completed short will be at the Whistler Film Festival in the winter of 2020.

PRODUCER(S)

- Must have produced and completed at least two film or television projects that demonstrate the expertise required to meet the challenges of producing an original and visionary short film (student films do count);
- Must have experience with Movie Magic scheduling software or something comparable; and
- Must have knowledge or access to professionals in business affairs, rights acquisition, contracts and accounting.

THE PROJECT

- Must showcase British Columbia talent in front of and behind the camera (MPPIA and Creative BC funds may not be used towards procuring foreign talent);
- Must have a finished running time of not more than 10 minutes in length;
- Must be based on an original work;

* Includes, but not limited to, broadcast on television, received theatrical or VOD release, and/or screened at major film festivals.

- Must be live action drama or docu-drama (animation or documentary scripts will not be accepted);
- Must be completed within 11 months of the “Award Date” and in time for screening at the 2020 Whistler Film Festival; and
- Must be mastered and delivered on HD.

MPPIA is to be provided with the following: four copies on DVD (two copies for MPPIA, one copy for Creative BC and one copy for the Whistler Film Festival).

Preference will be given to a project which, in the opinion of the selection committee members, is realizable, innovative, inspirational, and visionary and showcases British Columbia talent in front of and behind the camera.

CONTRIBUTED SERVICES “IN-KIND ”

The “in-kind” donation of services by MPPIA members will have a value of up to \$100,000. Possible support available will include pre-production (e.g. office space, accounting and mentorship), production (e.g. lights, cameras, offices, materials, video stock and stage space) and post production (e.g. editing, transfers, dubbing and VFX).

MPPIA Short Film Award Board will work closely with the selected finalist to confirm the actual services to be provided, in-kind, from the available donors. Finalists should be aware of an over reliance or expectation of “in-kind” support relying on any one supplier is problematic and discouraged. All “in-kind” support is subject to availability at the time of production and therefore cannot be guaranteed. Planning the production period to occur off-season, when resources are more likely to be available, is advised.

ADJUDICATION PROCESS

This competition will be adjudicated in two stages:

STAGE ONE

A jury of five individuals, active in a professional capacity in the BC film, media and television industry, will review all applications received.

The jury will consider the following items when reviewing submissions:

- originality of the concept;
- quality and eloquence of the script;

- experience of the applicant director;
- marketing plan and distribution strategy;
- feasibility of the director's vision statement;
- experience and track record of the producer named in the application;
- letters of recommendation provided in support of the director and producer;
- use of British Columbia talent in front of and behind the camera;
- overall viability of the proposal; and
- sense of style and impact evident from the applicant director's supporting DVD(s).

A shortlist of up to five applicants will be selected to move forward to Stage Two.

STAGE TWO

The short-listed applicants will be invited to pitch their projects before a panel of three senior industry professionals. The live pitch session will take place during the 2019 Whistler Film Festival. The winner of this competition will be announced at the 2019 Whistler Film Festival Awards Ceremony.

The panel of judges will take the following into consideration when reviewing the pitches:

- originality of the concept;
- quality and eloquence of the script;
- experience of the applicant director;
- marketing plan and distribution strategy;
- feasibility of the director's vision statement;
- experience and track record of the producer named in the application;
- letters of recommendation provided in support of the director and producer;
- use of British Columbia talent in front of and behind the camera;
- overall viability of the proposal; and
- sense of style and impact evident from the applicant director's supporting DVD(s). A shortlist of up to five applicants will be selected to move forward to Stage Two.

One applicant will be selected to receive the MPPIA Short Film Award, by a unanimous vote of the panel of judges.

TIMELINE

Application Deadline: Friday, August 30th, 2019 by 11:59pm*

Short-list Announced: October 2019

Live Pitch Event: Saturday, December 7, 2019, Whistler Film Festival

Award Announced: Sunday, December 8, 2019, Whistler Film Festival Awards Ceremony

*Electronic applications are time stamped

APPLICATION PROCEDURES

The deadline for applications is **Friday, August 30th, 2019** Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. There is no application fee.

Online application can be found at: <https://www.creativebc.com/programs/skills-development/mppia-short-film-award#mppia-short-film-award-details>

CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION

The collection, use, and disclosure of personal information are subject to the privacy provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Personal information will be used to administer this program. The name and location of the successful recipient of this award will be published by MPPIA, Creative BC and the Whistler Film Festival. If applicable, Social Insurance Numbers are provided to Canada Revenue Agency through the issuance of T4A information slips.

ABOUT THE PARTNERS

The Motion Picture Production Industry Association of BC (MPPIA) is a member-based, non-profit society established in April 2002 to grow, diversify and promote a competitive and sustainable motion picture production industry in British Columbia.

Creative BC is a non-profit society established by the Province of British Columbia to support and help expand BC's creative sector which includes its film, television, digital and interactive media, music, magazine and book publishing industries. The agency provides a variety of programs, services and expertise to help stimulate investment, create new content and enhance BC's production capabilities at home and in the global marketplace.

The Whistler Film Festival Society (WFFS) is a cultural charitable organization dedicated to furthering the art of film by providing programs that focus on the discovery, development and promotion of new talent culminating with a must attend festival for artists, the industry and audiences in Whistler. WFFS produces one of Canada's leading film festivals and plays a leadership role in offering professional and project development programs for filmmakers.