



2014 Official Rules

Team Creation

The method for forming teams is determined by each participating school, but must be in accordance to the event's mission and executed within the spirit of the College Movie Festival (CMF) philosophy of education and collegial competition.

Team Criteria

All major creative aspects (including writing, shooting, editing, media, graphics, footage, motion imagery, voice-overs, and any other production element) of the festival movies must be accomplished between the start and conclusion dates and times of the official moviemaking period.

ALL PRIMARY CREW (*producer, director, writer, director of photography, camera operator, location sound engineer, editor, graphic artist, animator, post sound design*) MUST BE MEMBERS OF A PARTICIPATING COLLEGE'S CURRENT STUDENT BODY.

Two-year colleges may employ "graduate production mentors" to assist with the production, but the mentors MAY NOT take a primary role as defined above.

Teams may admit outside members who specialize in an auxiliary area of production. Specialists MAY NOT take a primary role as defined above. Specialists may not work on the entire project nor participate in any creative element outside his/her specialty. In other words, if a team recruits an outside member to write a song that member is only allowed to create music – not mix and master the soundtrack (a primary role). Auxiliary specialties include (but are not limited to) acting, choreography, art direction, music, costuming, make-up, voice-overs, set design, prop design, pyrotechnic effects and safety, pilot, and (of course) craft services.

Production Materials and Release Forms

The College Movie Festival is green – we only accepting production materials on USB - no more paper. How you package your materials is your call (all in a Celtx file...using Adobe Acrobat...making an iOS app...whatever) but everything is electronic. The production materials checklist is included on the team's USB drive – use that file to assure you have the required materials.

EACH PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN A RELEASE FORM. These forms should be scanned and the resulting PDF or image files included in the production materials on the team's USB drive. Teams must include documented permission to use copyrighted elements (such as music or artwork created outside the CMF) and must have proper release forms for all talent, creative material and locations. Prerecorded music may be used with a proper, documented release form. Teams without release forms **for each participant, location and musical piece** will not be eligible for any award.

Movie Criteria

To be eligible for awards the resulting movie must be seven (7) minutes or less in length. There is no minimum length requirement. **All credits - opening and/or closing - must fall within the seven minutes.** Movies that exceed this limit (*by even a portion of one second*) will be truncated and will not be eligible for the Judge's Choice award.

Each movie must contain any required elements on-screen. Merely mentioning a character's name or a prop in the dialogue is not enough and will disqualify the movie from award eligibility.

Additionally, each movie must either (1) include the emotion/genre selected by the team at the

kickoff event as a significant plot element or (2) deliver the audience to that emotional point upon the movie's ending, if emotion is selected as criteria. Movies that do not do either of these will not be eligible for any award.

Submission formats

Final movies will be accepted only upon a (supplied) USB drive using a standard codec. Teams are encouraged to produce their movies at the highest quality possible, but files must be mastered as self-contained movies. The favored codec for the CMF is h.264. Files must be named by team name, and begin with a 10 second slate including the following:

- team name
- school name
- project name
- project length
- date
- assigned emotion/genre

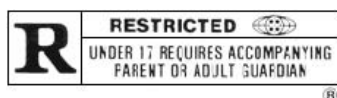
Additionally, an 8-10 second countdown with an industry-standard two-second pop, followed by two seconds of black must precede the movie. This will allow your project to begin in black, if you so desire, and will thus begin precisely as you wish. If longer than seven minutes, the project will be truncated precisely 7 minutes following the two seconds of black that follow the two-second pop.

Movie Ratings

All movies **must meet a G, PG or PG-13** rating, as defined by the MPAA. Movies that, in the determination of the panel of judges, would receive a rating of R or NC-17 will not be eligible for any award. Criteria for each rating is online: <http://www.mpa.org/ratings/what-each-rating-means>.



A PG-13 rating is a sterner warning by the Rating Board to parents to determine whether their children under age 13 should view the motion picture, as some material might not be suited for them. A PG-13 motion picture may go beyond the PG rating in theme, violence, nudity, sensuality, language, adult activities or other elements, but does not reach the restricted R category. The theme of the motion picture by itself will not result in a rating greater than PG-13, although depictions of activities related to a mature theme may result in a restricted rating for the motion picture. Any drug use will initially require at least a PG-13 rating. More than brief nudity will require at least a PG-13 rating, but such nudity in a PG-13 rated motion picture generally will not be sexually oriented. There may be depictions of violence in a PG-13 movie, but generally not both realistic and extreme or persistent violence. A motion picture's single use of one of the harsher sexually-derived words, though only as an expletive, initially requires at least a PG-13 rating. More than one such expletive requires an R rating, as must even one of those words used in a sexual context. The Rating Board nevertheless may rate such a motion picture PG-13 if, based on a special vote by a two-thirds majority, the Raters feel that most American parents would believe that a PG-13 rating is appropriate because of the context or manner in which the words are used or because the use of those words in the motion picture is inconspicuous.



An R-rated motion picture, in the view of the Rating Board, contains some adult material. An R-rated motion picture may include adult themes, adult activity, hard language, intense or persistent violence, sexually-oriented nudity, drug abuse or other elements, so that parents are counseled to take this rating very seriously. Children under 17 are not allowed to attend R-rated motion pictures unaccompanied by a parent or adult guardian. Parents are strongly urged to find out more about R-rated motion pictures in determining their suitability for their children. Generally, it is not appropriate for parents to bring their young children with them to R-rated motion pictures.

Editing

Each campus will operate under their own hours and manner of operation.

Award Eligibility

To be eligible for all production awards, movie files and electronic paperwork on the USB drive must be submitted to the official Drop Off location (The Holy Grail in the Banks in Cincinnati, participants outside the Greater Cincinnati region will determine an off-campus drop-off location) no later than 3:00 p.m. on April 4, 2014. The USB drive must be submitted in an envelope with the team name, producer's name, and school's name clearly written on the outside. Late movies will be shown at the awards night only if submitted to the individual campus representative no later than 12:00 p.m. (noon) on Monday, April 7.

Late movies are not eligible for any production award. Final pre-production materials (regardless of movie submission time) MUST be turned in no later than 3:00 p.m. EST Sunday, April 4 to be eligible for the Pre-production Award.

Movies that exceed the seven-minute time limit will be viewed but will be cut off at the seven-minute mark. The remaining segment of the movie (including truncated credits) will not be shown at the festival however the entire movie (including credits) will be archived by the CMF.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

(All times indicated are EST. Other time zones should adjust accordingly.) This calendar can be found online at: <http://goo.gl/ERSezf>



February 18, 2014

Team leaders or representatives meet at the Know Theatre, 1120 Jackson Street in Cincinnati, OH, at 6:00 p.m. for the selection of required elements, which may include emotion, genre, required dialogue, character, prop and screening group. Final announcements will be delivered, rules and regulations will be reiterated, and time for questions and clarification is scheduled.

February 18 after kickoff – February 21 at 12:00 noon

Pre-production time. During the first days of the CMF only script development, final casting, location selection and production scheduling may take place. Pre-production materials should be finalized during this period. The three required documents in the pre-production materials are (1) a script, (2) a shot list and (3) a production schedule. Storyboards are strongly recommended. Assistance with script formatting and scheduling is available through Celtx: [http:// www.celtx.com](http://www.celtx.com). An installable file is also included on the supplied USB drive.

Animation teams may begin character and location modeling but may not begin any temporal (time-based) elements including (but not limited to) the animation or voice recording/sound design process.

February 21 starting at 12:00 noon

Students present their pre-production materials to their faculty representative for approval. Once the pre-production paperwork is approved (after 12:00 noon, details on the pre-production requirements are in the above section) student teams may begin production.

February 21 at 12:00 p.m. – March 2 at 3:00 p.m.

Production and post-production time. Over the final ten days of the CMF, in addition to being production personnel, team members will act as school ambassadors during the production and post-production process. Teams are required to report any damage that results from production to the

campus and community authorities. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from the event.

A maximum of two cameras may be employed on a single production.

Each campus' equipment rules and regulations that reflect their own policies and procedures are in effect. Failure to abide by the team's campus rules, regulations, policies, and procedures may be cause for disqualification. Decisions on individual campus policies will be made at the school representative's discretion.

A faculty representative WILL VISIT your campus at an unannounced time. Therefore, shooting schedules must be kept updated. The representative visit is intended to assure professional production practices are being followed and that all participants and equipment are safe.

INITIAL DEADLINE: March 2 at 3:00 p.m. EST

Movies and paperwork are due at TBA by 3:00 p.m. EST. CMF representatives will at the Holy Grail at the Banks, 161 Joe Nuxhall Way in downtown Cincinnati from (at least) 1:00-3:00 p.m. Final pre-production materials **MUST** be turned in no later than 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 2 (even if the edit is not finished and will be turned in late) to be eligible for the pre-production award.

Colleges and Universities located beyond a 30 mile radius of Fountain Square in Cincinnati will have pre-determined alternate drop off locations located within a 10 mile radius of their campus. All other rules in this document apply equally to all teams.

ONE-ON-ONES WITH THE PROS – Saturday, March 29 9:00am – 12:00pm

Individual feedback and advice from filmmaking professionals will be offered on the morning of March 29 in the Digitorium in Griffin Hall on NKU's campus. Information from this valuable feedback and networking session can then be used to refine the CMF entries over the following week.

FINAL DEADLINE: April 4 at 12:00pm (noon) EST

Final versions of the CMF movies and any additional release forms are due to the campus representative by 3:00pm. These are the movies that will be evaluated by the judging panel for screening feedback and the "Judge's Choice" and "Best Use of Required Elements" awards. If a team chooses to not modify their original movie that movie will be evaluated by the judging panel.

Rule Changes

Rules are subject to change prior to February 18, 2014 and will be available online (<http://www.collegemoviefestival.com>) or upon request. Any decisions made during the event's execution are final and may determine a project's award eligibility, or if the movie is presented at the festival viewing night.

Wrap Up

All participating campuses must conduct a wrap-up session within a month of the festival viewing and submit a report to the festival committee. These reports will help provide the quality experience desired by the committee and the participants in future festivals.

Be safe and make a great movie!