

Official Rules

Team Formation

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.

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, 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.

Release Forms

EACH PARTICIPANT MUST SIGN A RELEASE FORM. 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 six (6) minutes or less in length. There is no minimum length requirement. **All credits, opening and closing, must fall within the six (6) minutes.** Movies that exceed this limit (by even one second) will be truncated and will not be eligible for any awards.

Each movie must contain the 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.

All movies must use the same character, dialogue elements, and prop. Additionally, each movie must conform to the individual genre selected at the kickoff event. Movies that do not conform to the selected genre will not be eligible for any award.

The genres for 2008 are:

- Buddy Film
- Romantic Comedy
- Thriller/Horror
- Mystery
- Fantasy
- Super Hero
- Film Noir
- Mockumentary
- Action Adventure

If a team severely dislikes their drawn genre they may opt for the “wild card” genre at the conclusion of the genre drawing event. Be wary of the wild card – it could be anything.

Submission formats

Final movies must be mastered to **MiniDV** or SD video (not data) **DVD**.

Final movies will be accepted on a Mini DV tape in the **NTSC DV 4:3 format**, preferably cued to the color bars with record-inhibit activated. Tapes must have 30 seconds of color bars and tone, a 10 second slate, and a 8-10 second countdown with an industry-standard two-second pop, followed by two seconds of black. Tapes and boxes must be labeled with the **team name, school name and project name**.

Final Movies will also be accepted on an SD video DVD. Due to potential codec incompatibilities, movies compressed and saved to a data DVD (and therefore not as an SD video DVD) will NOT be accepted. DVDs must be labeled with the **team name, school name and project name**.

Movie Ratings

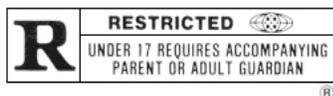
All movies **must meet a G, PG or PG-13** rating, as defined by the MPAA. Movies that, in the determination of the panel of judges, would receive a rating of R or NC-17 will not be eligible for any award. Criteria for each rating is available online at http://www.mpa.org/FilmRat_Ratings.asp.

From the MPAA:



A PG-13 film is one which, in the view of the Rating Board, leaps beyond the boundaries of the PG rating in theme, violence, nudity, sensuality, language, or other contents, but does not quite fit within

the restricted R category. Any drug use content will initially require at least a PG-13 rating. In effect, the PG-13 cautions parents with more stringency than usual to give special attention to this film before they allow their 12-year-olds and younger to attend. If nudity is sexually oriented, the film will generally not be found in the PG-13 category. If violence is too rough or persistent, the film goes into the R (restricted) rating. A film's single use of one of the harsher sexually derived words, though only as an expletive, shall initially require the Rating Board to issue that film at least a PG-13 rating. More than one such expletive must lead the Rating Board to issue a film an R rating, as must even one of these words used in a sexual context. These films can be rated less severely, however, if by a special vote, the Rating Board feels that a lesser rating would more responsibly reflect the opinion of American parents.



In the opinion of the Rating Board, this film definitely contains some adult material. Parents are strongly urged to find out more about this film before they allow their children to accompany them. An R-rated film may include strong language, violence, nudity, drug abuse, other

elements, or a combination of the above, so parents are counseled in advance to take this advisory rating very seriously.

Editing

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

Award Eligibility

To be eligible for all awards, tapes and paperwork must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 30, 2008. All paperwork 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 March 31, 2008. Late movies are not eligible for any award.

Movies that exceed the 6 minute time limit will be viewed but will be cut off at the 6 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 included on the final, archival DVD.

Final Production binders (regardless of movie submission time) MUST be turned in no later than 5:00 p.m. Sunday, March 30 to be eligible for the Pre-Production Award.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

March 20, 2008

Team leaders or representatives meet at the 20th Century Theater, 3021 Madison Road, Cincinnati, OH, 45209, at 10:30 p.m. after the SOFA mixer for the selection of 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.

Teams are encouraged to participate in the networking and actor casting opportunities offered by the SOFA mixer from 8:00-10:30 p.m.

March 20, 2008 after kickoff – March 26, 2008 at 12:00 noon

Pre-production time. During the first days of the CMF, script development, final casting, location selection and production scheduling may take place. Pre-production binders should be finalized during this period. The three (3) required documents for the pre-production binder are (1) a script, (2) a shot list and (3) a production schedule. Storyboards are recommended. Assistance with script formatting and scheduling is available through Celtx: <http://www.celtx.com>. This is a FREE downloadable open-source software package that really does the job. Check it out!

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.

March 26, 2008 at 12:00 noon

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

March 26, 2008 at 12:01 p.m. – March 30, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.

Production and post-production time. Over the final 5 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.

DEADLINE: March 30, 2008 at 5:00 p.m. EST

Tapes or DVDs and paperwork are due at Fountain Square (Downtown Cincinnati, corner of 5th St. & Vine St, Plaza area) by 5:00 p.m. EST. CMF representatives will be on Fountain Square from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Final production binders **MUST** be turned in no later than 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 30 (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 (Downtown Cincinnati, corner of 5th St. & Vine St, Plaza area) will have pre-determined alternate drop off locations located within a 30 mile radius of their campus. All other rules in this document apply equally to all teams.

Rule Changes

Rules are subject to change prior to March 20, 2008 and will be available online 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!