

The WeScreenplay Shorts Contest

Rules and Information

MISSION: To provide talented writers and filmmakers the financial means to turn their amazing short scripts into short films. The large budget of the contest will be used to cover the budget of the short film as determined by the creators of the film, not by the contest.

FEEDBACK: We believe that feedback is critical to a writer's success, which is why we provide the judge's scorecards to every entrant at no additional cost.

PROMISE: We promise to give all scripts at least 2 sets of scores and finalist script will receive at least 5 different sets of scores before we select a winner to make sure to limit subjectivity as much as possible.

JUDGING: Judging will be based on all aspects that make stories great – character, plot, originality, dialogue, craft, structure, appeal, etc. For the short contest, we're also going to be asking finalists for their vision for script on the screen to get a better understanding of what the final film will be.

JUDGING CRITERIA:

- Overall Impression – A general feeling of your script, writing, and story
- Plot – Scene structure, conflict, tension, logic, and flow will all be taken into account
- Character – Complexity, uniqueness, and arc are taken into account
- Concept – It should be strong enough to carry the story, but doesn't need to be marketable
- Originality – How fresh are your story, characters, and ideas
- Style – The style is easy to read, enjoyable, and consistent with the tone and story
- Structure – The overall story is built in a way that is connective and logical
- Dialogue – The characters speak in a realistic, unique, and interesting ways

JUDGING ROUNDS:

1st/2nd Round – 2 sets of scores occur for all entries to make sure nothing is missed.

3rd Round – Occurs for all Quarter-Finalist scripts.

4th Round – Occurs for all of the Semi-Finalist scripts.

5th Round – Occurs for all of the Finalists script to determine those to be selected by a jury.

6th Round -- The top 5 scripts will be scored and discussed by a jury to select the winners (these are the only scores that are not made available because they are done verbally).



DEADLINES:

Deadlines	Date	Entry Cost
Early Bird	Nov 20th, 2016	\$29
Regular	Dec 20th, 2016	\$39
Late	Jan 20th, 2017	\$49
Final	Feb 20th, 2017	\$59

FEEDBACK OPTIONS:

- Add 1-2 pages of the Judge’s thoughts and notes for: +\$29
- Add a Basic Coverage (5+ pages of detailed notes) for: +\$49
- Add a Full Coverage (5+ page of detailed notes plus synopsis) for: +\$79

*Coverage or notes purchased through the competition will not follow normal turnaround time and will take 2-3 weeks. All notes/coverage will be received before the Semi-Finalist Announcement.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Announcements	Date	Qualifying
Quarter-Finalists	Mar 20 th , 2017	Top 20%
Semi-Finalists	April 20th, 2017	Top 10%
Finalists	May 20th, 2017	Top 5%
Winner	June 20th, 2017	Grand Prize Winner

*****ALL FINALISTS:** All finalists will be asked to answer what budget they need to turn the script into film of their vision. The budget proposed by the finalist who wins will be granted to the winning script up to \$10,000 dollars. All finalists will also be asked to discuss their vision for the project, any cast they have in place, and anything else that may paint a better picture of the final film. ***

PRIZES:

WeScreenplay will award the winner up to \$10,000, the amount to be completely determined by the budget the writer requests and not by the contest. The \$10,000 will be paid to the writer directly and can be used toward the budget of the film however the filmmakers see fit. The prize money will be paid in installments as the production of the film progresses.

Place	Prizes	Prize Cash Value
Grand Prize	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><i>Cash Prize of up to \$10,000 based on budget request and completed film.</i>	<u>\$10,000</u>



RULES AND ELIGIBILITY:

1. Screenplays entered should be in short form, but that may include **Shorts, TV-Pilots to be shot for proof of concept, or Scenes or Acts from a Feature to be shot as proof of concept.**
2. Screenplays entered must:
 - a. Not include the writer's or writing team's name or contact information on any page of the script including the title page. If the name is on the title page only, the script **will not** be disqualified.
 - b. Be submitted in PDF form and must fit all standard screenplay format guidelines. Personal formatting conventions will be accepted but must not intentionally or accidentally alter the page count of the project as determined by the judges. A rule of thumb, if your script is formatted properly and under 45 pages, it will likely not be more than 9,000 words.
 - c. Be owned solely by the writer or writing team listed. It may be an adaptation or reimagining of true events or fictional stories. It may also be fan-fiction so long as the final film is not used to make a profit.
 - d. Be written in English. However, scripts from anywhere in the world will be accepted.
3. To be eligible for the Grand Prize, finalists must provide their proposed budget for the short film and explain their vision for the project.
4. Screenplays entered may be in any genre or combination of genres. All will be treated equally and read by an unbiased panel of judges.
5. Entrant's may have monetary earnings from film writing, directing, acting, or anything else in the film industry.
6. Screenplays submitted must not have been previously released. The prize money is to be used to film a new film, not to re-coup costs.
7. For a submission to be valid it must be accompanied with the appropriate payment based on the submission deadlines. Any scripts over 45 pages will be charged an extra \$1 per page at any deadline and scripts over 45 pages will be penalized on their score cards.
8. Purchasing Judge's Feedback, Basic Coverage, or Full Coverage will in no way impact the scoring of the screenplay or its chances of winning or placing in the competition.
9. All deadlines are at 11:59pm PST on the date listed. Any deadline alteration or promotion of any kind does not make any entry valid for a refund of any kind.
10. Alterations can be re-uploaded on the WeScreenplay use dashboard. Find it at wescreenplay.com
11. There are no refunds for any submitted screenplay. Coupons may not be applied to previously submitted scripts. Coupons deemed for WeScreenplay coverage may not be used for submission to the contest or addition of coverage to any submission unless explicitly stated.
12. There is no limit on the number of scripts a writer or writing team may submit.



13. The prize money will be determined by the budget proposed by the filmmakers up to \$10,000. The money will be paid in 4 installments: 30% upon winning, 30% upon casting and completed pre-production, 30% upon the completion of the final film, and 10% upon the film's acceptance into any film festival or a alternate success metric as determined by the filmmakers and WeScreenplay.
14. Films must be complete within 12 months of the winners announcement
15. WeScreenplay will take no credit for the final film or for the script, but the end credits must include 1 mention of WeScreenplay in either a "thank you" or "producer" roll.
16. The decision of the judges will be final and cannot be contested in any manner. There is no score on a scorecard that guarantees advancement to the next level as advancement will be based on all score in the competition.
17. Scorecards will be distributed to each script within a week of elimination from the competition, but early distribution does not necessarily indicate placement in the contest. Feedback and Coverage will ideally be distributed between 2 and 3 weeks following submission, but this is not guaranteed. We only guarantee that coverage will be provided before the Quarter-Finalist Announcement.
18. WeScreenplay reserves the right to delay announcements for any reason. Delay may last up to but never more than 60 days. While we never anticipate any delays, such delays will not alter the standing of any screenplay entry and will qualify no script for a refund under any circumstance.
19. By entering the WeScreenplay contest every entrant is agreeing to all WeScreenplay Terms and Conditions listed and available before checkout. If you disagree with any terms you may not submit to the contest.
20. By submitting to the contest you are releasing your script to WeScreenplay and holding harmless WeScreenplay or any affiliates from any claims, expenses, and liabilities, including but not limited to invasion of privacy, defamation, copyright, libel, trademark infringement, slander, personal property infringement, etc.
21. Any prize winners may be required to sign an affidavit validating their entry into the contest.
22. Any cash prize winners of over \$599 will be required to file a W-9 before the cash prize is distributed.
23. Any winners may have their name, script title, and picture used for any WeScreenplay promotions or promotions of our sponsors or affiliates.
24. Former Grand Prize Winners of any WeScreenplay contest **may enter** so long as it is NOT the same script that won in a previous year. Any other placement in former years does not disqualify the script from being entered this year.
25. The submitter must be 18 years of age or older.