

The Diverse Voices Screenplay Contest by WeScreenplay

Rules and Information

MISSION: Diverse Voices strives to provide a contest that is purely focused on promoting and encouraging diverse voices in Hollywood. The contest encourages stories that are told from perspectives that are often underrepresented in Hollywood today. This includes writers of color, women writers, writers with disabilities, writers over 40, writers in the LGBTQ+ community, and any other voices and stories that are currently underrepresented in Hollywood.

GIVING BACK: For every entry Diverse Voices receives, we are donating \$3 to Array to ensure that children of every background and all starts in life have a chance to become storytellers.

FEEDBACK: WeScreenplay believes that every entrant of a contest should receive something, that is why we include at least 1-page of written feedback from the first-round judge for every entrant.

JUDGING: Judging will be based on all aspects that make stories great – character, plot, originality, dialogue, craft, structure, appeal, etc. Budget and marketability will not be considered for this contest.

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 Round – All scripts are read by a first round judge and receive at least 1-page of written feedback.

2nd Round – Occurs for all Semi-Finalist scripts.

3rd Round – Occurs for all of the Finalist scripts to determine the winners.

4th Round -- The top 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	Feb 15th, 2019	\$55
Regular	March 15th, 2019	\$65
Final	April 15th, 2019	\$75

FEEDBACK OPTIONS:

All entries receive free written feedback.

*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
Semi-Finalists	May 15th, 2019	Top 200
Finalists	June 15th, 2019	Top 50
Winners	July 15th, 2019	Grand Prize and Category Winners

*****ALL FINALISTS:** All finalists will be asked to answer in about 250 words how their voice, experience, or story represents a new and diverse perspective for Hollywood. WeScreenplay is specifically looking to encourage and promote underrepresented stories and writers.***



PRIZES:

The Grand Prize Winner and some category winners as determined by the jury will be promoted to producers, agents, and managers through e-mail distribution from WeScreenplay and all Finalists will be publically recognized through our website and e-mail lists.

The Grand Prize Winner and the First-Place Winner in each category will be invited for a Diverse Voices Lab in Los Angeles for hands on development with industry executives, WeScreenplay staff, writers, and each other.

Place	Prizes	Prize Cash Value
Grand Prize	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Grant of \$1,000</u>• Flight (up to \$500 roundtrip) and lodging for four nights in Los Angeles with mentors to develop your work.• Distribution to Producers, Agents, and Managers• Free entrance to any WeScreenplay Competition	\$2,000 + Script Distribution to Managers, Producers, and Agents
First Place in Each Category	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flight (up to \$500 roundtrip) and lodging for four nights in Los Angeles with mentors to develop your work.• Free entrance to any WeScreenplay Competition	\$1,000 each
Finalists Top 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Free entrance to any WeScreenplay Competition	\$85 Each

RULES AND ELIGIBILITY:

1. 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 won't be disqualified.
 - b. Include a title page with no name(s) of the writer or writing team.
 - c. 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 120 pages, it will likely not be more than 23,000 words.
 - d. 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 not be a sequel to or prequel to any script or movie not owned by the writer or writing team.
 - e. Be written in English. However, scripts from anywhere in the world will be accepted.
2. Writer must be 18 years of age or older at the time of submission.

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3. To be eligible for the Grand Prize, finalists must answer a prompt that aligns with the Diverse Voices Mission within 10 days of the finalist announcement. The prompt will be “How does your voice, experience, or story represents a new and diverse perspective for Hollywood?”
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. Screenplays of 3 different formats will be accepted: Feature, TV, or Short. All will compete for the Grand Prize, but will each have their unique honorable mention.
6. Entrant’s total earnings for screenwriting for either film or tv, produced or unproduced, must not exceed \$50,000 in the past 18 months or exceeded \$300,000 in the past 10 years. This **excludes** any prize money from competitions or fellowships and only applies to fund or money transferred in exchange for an option or sale of a script, treatment, idea, intellectual property, or other writing for filming. Money earned from acting, directing, producing, or any other film work outside of writing is not included.
7. Screenplays submitted must not have been previously sold or produced **unless** said sale or production was competed with no financial gain to the writer.
8. For a submission to be valid it must be accompanied with the appropriate payment based on the submission deadlines. Any scripts over 120 pages will be charged an extra \$1 per page at any deadline.
9. Adding feedback to rounds of competition will not impact the scoring of the screenplay or its chances of winning or placing in the competition.
10. 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.
11. Alterations can be re-uploaded at coverfly.com for \$5.
12. 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.
13. There is no limit on the number of scripts a writer or writing team may submit.
14. Prizes are award per script and teams of writers are expected to divide prizes on their own accord. WeScreenplay will send prizes to the writer who submits the project and will in no way be responsible for how the prizes are distributed among the writing teams.
15. 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.
16. 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 Semi Finalist Announcement.

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17. 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.
18. 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.
19. 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.
20. Any prize winners may be required to sign an affidavit validating their entry into the contest.
21. Any cash prize winners of over \$599 will be required to file a W-9 before the cash prize is distributed.
22. Any winners may have their name, script title, and picture used for any WeScreenplay promotions or promotions of our sponsors or affiliates.
23. 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.
24. If a writer is under 18 at the time of entry, any cash prize won will be distributed in the form of equal value coverage or contest entries for WeScreenplay. No cash will be awarded if under 18 years old.
25. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED.
26. Except where prohibited by law, participation in the contest constitutes each entrant's consent to WeScreenplay and its agents' and contest sponsor's use of entrants' names, likenesses, photographs, and/or personal information for promotional purposes in any media, worldwide, without further payment or consideration. All uses of a entrants' information are in accordance with our Privacy Policy.
27. BY ENTERING THE CONTEST YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU HAVE READ AND AGREE TO THESE CONDITIONS. You agree to release and hold harmless Red Ampersand Inc, WeScreenplay, its subsidiary, parent and affiliated companies, prize contributors, judges, screenplay readers, sponsors, and any other organizations responsible for administering, advertising or promoting the Contest, and every one of their respective members, directors, employees, agents and representatives (collectively, the "Released Parties") past and present from and against any and all claims, expenses, and liability, including but not limited to damages and negligence to property and persons, including but not limited to invasion of privacy, defamation, slander, libel, violation of right of publicity, copyright, infringement of trademark or other intellectual property rights relating to a participant's entry, participation in the Contest and/or acceptance or use or misuse of Prize.