



The WeScreenplay Short Script Competition

Rules and Information

MISSION: The WeScreenplay Shorts Competition’s mission is to connect talent short film writers with Oscar nominated short film directors and creators for advice on how to create emotionally impactful storytelling in the short format.

FEEDBACK: WeScreenplay believes that every entrant of a contest should benefit from entering – whether the writer wins or not – that is why we offer one page of feedback on every short script that is entered.

JUDGING: Judging will be based on all aspects that make stories great – character, plot, originality, dialogue, craft, structure.

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
- Catharsis – Does the short drive an emotion (laughter, shock, sadness) in the reader

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 Semi-Finalist scripts.

4th Round – Occurs for all of the Finalist scripts to determine the winners.

5th 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).

WESCREENPLAY

DEADLINES:

Deadlines	Date	Entry Cost
Early Bird	April 15th, 2020	\$39.99
Regular	May 15th, 2020	\$49.99
Late	June 15th, 2020	\$59.99
Final	July 15th, 2020	\$69.99

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
Quarterfinalists	August 15th, 2020	Top 20%
Semifinalists	September 15th, 2020	Top 10%
Finalists	October 15th, 2020	Top 5%
Winners	November 15th, 2020	Winners

WESCREENPLAY

PRIZES:

The focus of short scripts is to get them produced to highlight the writer's skill. As such, the prize is particularly focused on the Oscar contenders in the jury. The winners will receive notes and advice from these Oscar nominees and winners about their project.

Place	Prizes	Prize Cash Value
Grand Prize	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to \$3,000 matching in crowd sourcing• Free year of TSL 360• 3 Free Basic Coverages• Notes from Oscar nominated jury members	Up to \$3,000+
2 nd and 3 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Free year of TSL 360• 1 Free Basic Coverage• Notes from Oscar nominated jury members	\$250+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.
 - 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.
 - d. 35 pages or under.
 - e. 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.
 - f. 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.
3. Screenplays entered may be in any genre or combination of genres. All will be treated equally and read by an unbiased panel of judges.
4. 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.
5. Screenplays submitted must not have been previously sold or produced **unless** said sale or production was competed with no financial gain to the writer.

WESCREENPLAY

6. For a submission to be valid it must be accompanied with the appropriate payment based on the submission deadlines. Any scripts over 35 pages will be charged an extra \$1 per page.
7. 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.
8. Alterations can be re-uploaded at coverfly.com for \$5.
9. 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.
10. There is no limit on the number of scripts a writer or writing team may submit.
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.
14. WeScreenplay reserves the right to delay announcements for any reason. Delay may last up to but never more than 90 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. Any prize winners may be required to sign an affidavit validating their entry into the contest.
18. Any cash prize winners of over \$599 will be required to file a W-9 before the cash prize is distributed.
19. Any winners may have their name, script title, and picture used for any WeScreenplay promotions or promotions of our sponsors or affiliates.
20. 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.



21. 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.
22. VOID WHERE PROHIBITED.
23. 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.
24. BY ENTERING THE CONTEST YOU ACKNOWLEDGE THAT YOU HAVE READ AND AGREE TO THESE CONDITIONS. You agree to release and hold harmless Industry Arts LLC, Red Ampersand Inc, WeScreenplay, and 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.