

96TH ACADEMY AWARDS® OF MERIT

RULE ONE AWARDS DEFINITIONS

1. Academy Awards of Merit shall be given annually to honor outstanding artistic and scientific achievements in theatrically released feature-length motion pictures, and to honor other achievements as provided for in these rules and approved by the Board of Governors.
2. Awards shall be conferred at annual Awards ceremonies.
3. Awards of Merit in the form of the gold statuette trophy of the Academy (Oscar) shall be conferred annually for the following achievements:

ACTING:	Performance by an actor in a leading role. Performance by an actor in a supporting role. Performance by an actress in a leading role. Performance by an actress in a supporting role.
ANIMATED FEATURE FILM:	Best animated feature film of the year.
ANIMATED SHORT FILM:	Best animated short film.
CINEMATOGRAPHY:	Achievement in cinematography.
COSTUME DESIGN:	Achievement in costume design.
DIRECTING:	Achievement in directing.
DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM:	Best documentary feature film.
DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM:	Best documentary short film.
FILM EDITING:	Achievement in film editing.
INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM:	Best international feature film of the year.
LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM:	Best live action short film.
MAKEUP AND HAIRSTYLING:	Achievement in makeup and hairstyling.
MUSIC:	For achievements in music written for motion pictures: <ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Original score.*b. Original song.*c. Original musical.*
BEST PICTURE:	Best motion picture of the year.
PRODUCTION DESIGN:	Achievement in production design. (The Academy statuette shall be given also for the set decoration on the picture that wins the Production Design award.**)
SOUND:	Achievement in sound.

VISUAL EFFECTS: Achievement in visual effects.

WRITING: For each of two classifications:

- a. Adapted screenplay.
- b. Original screenplay.

* May not be given every year. See special rules for this category for conditions of presentation.

** See special rules for this category for conditions of presentation for animated feature films.

4. The following Governors Awards shall be given at such times as in the judgment of the Board of Governors there are deserving recipients, but are not necessarily given each year:
 - a. IRVING G. THALBERG MEMORIAL AWARD (Thalberg Head). This award shall be given to a creative producer whose body of work reflects a consistently high quality of motion picture production. (See Rule Twenty-five.)
 - b. JEAN HERSHOLT HUMANITARIAN AWARD (Statuette). This award shall be given to an individual in the motion picture arts and sciences whose humanitarian efforts have brought credit to the industry. (See Rule Twenty-five.)
 - c. THE HONORARY AWARD (Statuette). This award shall be given to honor extraordinary distinction in lifetime achievement, exceptional contributions to the state of motion picture arts and sciences, or for outstanding service to the Academy. (See Rule Twenty-five.)
5. The following Special Awards may be given at such times as in the judgment of the Board of Governors there are deserving recipients, but are not necessarily given each year:
 - a. SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (Statuette). (See Rule Twenty-six.)
 - b. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL AWARDS. (See Rule Twenty-one.)
 - c. GORDON E. SAWYER AWARD (Statuette). (See Rule Twenty-seven.)
 - d. JOHN A. BONNER AWARD (Medallion). (See Rule Twenty-seven.)
 - e. AWARD OF COMMENDATION (Special Plaque). (See Rule Twenty-seven.)
 - f. OTHER SPECIAL AWARDS shall be given at such times as in the judgment of the Board of Governors there is a deserving recipient, but not necessarily each year. They shall be in such form as the Board of Governors may decide.

RULE TWO ELIGIBILITY

1. Eligibility for Academy Awards consideration is subject to Rules Two and Three, and to those special rules approved by the Board of Governors that follow.
2. All eligible motion pictures, unless otherwise noted (see Paragraph 9, below), must be:
 - a. feature length (defined as over 40 minutes),
 - b. publicly exhibited by means of 35mm or 70mm film, or in a 24- or 48-frame progressive scan Digital Cinema format with a minimum projector resolution of 2048 by 1080 pixels, source image format conforming to ST 428-1:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Image Characteristics; image compression (if used) conforming to ISO/IEC 15444-1 (JPEG 2000); and image and sound

files packaged as Digital Cinema Packages (DCPs) in the “SMPTE DCP” format. SMPTE DCP refers to SMPTE ST 429-2:2020 D-Cinema Packaging – DCP Operational Constraints and related specifications. (Blu-ray format does not meet Digital Cinema requirements.)

The audio in a Digital Cinema Package (DCP) is typically 5.1 or 7.1 channels of discrete audio. The minimum for a non-mono configuration of the audio shall be three channels as Left, Center, Right (a Left/Right configuration is not acceptable in a theatrical environment). In addition to channel-based audio, object-based audio may also be present as an immersive audio bitstream.

The discrete audio data shall be formatted in conformance with SMPTE ST 429-3:2007 D-Cinema Packaging – Sound and Picture Track File, SMPTE ST 428-2:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Audio Characteristics and SMPTE ST 428-12:2013 D-Cinema Distribution Master Common Audio Channels and Soundfield Groups. Immersive audio, if present, shall be formatted in conformance with SMPTE ST 2098-2:2019 Immersive Audio Bitstream Specification and SMPTE 429-18:2019 D-Cinema Packaging – Immersive Audio Track File and packaged in conformance with SMPTE 429-19:2019 D-Cinema Packaging – DCP Operational Constraints for Immersive Audio,

- c. for paid admission in a commercial motion picture theater in one of the six qualifying U.S. metro areas: Los Angeles County; City of New York [five boroughs]; the Bay Area [counties of San Francisco, Marin, Alameda, San Mateo and Contra Costa]; Chicago [Cook County, Illinois]; Miami [Miami-Dade County, Florida]; and Atlanta [Fulton County, Georgia],
 - d. for a theatrical qualifying run of at least seven consecutive days in the same commercial motion picture theater, during which period screenings must occur at least three times daily, with at least one screening beginning between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. daily,
 - e. advertised and exploited during their theatrical qualifying run in a manner normal and customary to theatrical feature distribution practices, and
 - f. released within the Awards year deadlines specified in Rule Three.
 - g. Drive-in theaters are included as a qualifying commercial venue in the above metro areas. Films must run for seven consecutive days with at least one screening daily.
3. Films that, in any version, receive their first public exhibition or distribution in any manner other than as a theatrical motion picture release will not be eligible for Academy Awards in any category. Nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution includes but is not limited to:
- Broadcast and cable television
 - PPV/VOD
 - DVD distribution
 - Inflight airline distribution
 - Internet transmission

Motion pictures released in such nontheatrical media **on or after the first day of their theatrical qualifying run remain eligible**. Also, up to fifteen percent of the running time of a film may be shown in a nontheatrical medium prior to the film’s qualifying run. (See also Paragraph 10 below.)

Film festivals may provide films online through either a transactional pay wall or password-protected entry, which will not affect the films’ eligibility for future Academy qualification. The Academy will allow an exemption for those films that are released online through a festival’s online platform, provided the filmmaker(s) submit proof of inclusion in the festival. With these provisions, films will be expected to comply with all other eligibility requirements for the 96th Academy Awards.

4. Eligibility is contingent on the receipt by the Academy of a completed Oscars Submission Form (General Entry), to be signed by the film's producer or distributor (unless waived by the Academy). DVDs or DCPs are not accepted in lieu of, or in addition to, the Oscars Submission Form. The Oscars Submission Form must be completed online at the Academy's Awards Submission site. The submission shall include:
 - a. full, complete and authentic screen credits from opening titles through end credits,
 - b. the name of the commercial motion picture theater where the film has screened, and
 - c. the dates and times of the theatrical qualifying run.
5. Eligibility for all awards shall first be determined by credits as they appear on the screen and/or as certified to the Academy by the producing companies, but final determination in any event shall be made by the Academy. The Academy shall not be bound by any contract or agreement relating to the sharing or giving of credit, and reserves the right to make its own determination of credit for purposes of Awards consideration.
6. In the event of any dispute concerning credits, the Academy reserves the right to declare any achievement ineligible or, alternatively, to reject all claims to credit, list credits as being in controversy, and withhold any award until the dispute is resolved.
7. The alteration of an achievement by changing a picture from the version shown in the theatrical qualifying run, upon which eligibility is based, shall subject such achievement to the risk of being declared ineligible by the Board of Governors.
8. Submissions which are essentially recordings of performances that were originally produced for another medium are not eligible for Awards consideration.
9. Motion pictures from all countries shall be eligible for the annual awards listed in Rule One Paragraph 3, as long as they satisfy the requirements of the other applicable rules and contain accurate and legible English-language subtitles if released in a language other than English.
10. Exceptions to the eligibility requirements and methods of qualifying listed in Rules Two and Three appear in the Special Rules for the Animated Feature Film award (see Rule Seven), the Animated Short Film award (see Rule Eight), the Documentary Feature Film award (see Rule Twelve), the Documentary Short Film award (see Rule Thirteen), the International Feature Film award (see Rule Fifteen), the Live Action Short Film award (see Rule Sixteen), and the Music awards (see Rule Eighteen).
11. The Academy shall resolve all questions of eligibility and rules.

RULE THREE THE AWARDS YEAR AND DEADLINES

1. The required theatrical qualifying run (described in Rule Two Paragraph 2) must begin between **January 1, 2023**, and **December 31, 2023**.
2. A motion picture first theatrically exhibited **inside** the U.S. prior to the theatrical qualifying run shall be eligible for submission, provided the prior exhibition is a theatrical preview or festival screening, or takes place in a commercial motion picture theater after January 1, 2022. No nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution may occur prior to the first day of the theatrical qualifying run.
3. A motion picture first theatrically exhibited **outside** the U.S. prior to the theatrical qualifying run shall be eligible for submission, provided the prior exhibition takes place in a commercial motion picture

theater after January 1, 2022. After the start of its initial theatrical engagement, a picture may be exhibited on television and other nontheatrical media, provided those exhibitions occur **outside** the U.S. **Inside** the U.S., no nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution may occur prior to the first day of the theatrical qualifying run.

4. Each picture may have only one theatrical qualifying run. The earliest theatrical exhibition that meets such definition shall be designated the picture's qualifying run.
5. For films which have their theatrical qualifying run between January 1, 2023, and June 30, 2023, all Oscars Submission Forms (General Entry) and accompanying full screen credits must be submitted to the Academy by **5 p.m. PT on Friday, September 15, 2023**. For films which have their theatrical qualifying run between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, entrants must submit all Oscars Submission Forms (General Entry) and accompanying full screen credits to the Academy by **5 p.m. PT on Wednesday, November 15, 2023**.
6. If the film's theatrical qualifying run occurs after December 1, 2023, the name of the qualifying theater and the dates and screening times of the run must be submitted to the Academy by **5 p.m. PT on Friday, December 1, 2023**.
7. **Friday, December 8, 2023**, is the last day to withdraw a film from Academy Awards consideration.
8. Exceptions to the above eligibility periods and submission deadlines appear in the Special Rules for the Animated Feature Film award (see Rule Seven), the Animated Short Film award (see Rule Eight), the Documentary Feature Film award (see Rule Twelve), the Documentary Short Film award (see Rule Thirteen), the International Feature Film award (see Rule Fifteen), the Live Action Short Film award (see Rule Sixteen), and the Music awards (see Rule Eighteen).

RULE FOUR SUBMISSION

1. "Every award shall be conditioned upon the delivery to the Academy of one print or one copy of every film nominated for final balloting for all Academy Awards. Such print or copy shall be in a format and of a quality equivalent to the film's theatrical release; if a film exists in more than one format, then the version deposited shall be the film print. Such print or copy shall become the property of the Academy, with the proviso, however, that the Academy shall not use such print or copy for commercial gain. Such print or copy shall be deposited with the Academy and, subject to matters not within its control, shall be screened by the Academy for the membership in advance of distribution of final ballots." (Academy Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 6.)
2. "Every award shall be conditioned upon the execution and delivery to the Academy by the recipient thereof of a receipt and agreement reading as follows:

I hereby acknowledge receipt of Academy Regulations for use of the Academy Award statuette and the phrase "Academy Award(s)" in advertising. In consideration of the signing of a similar agreement by other Academy Award nominees, I agree to comply with said regulations. I understand that on (date) I may receive from you a replica of your copyrighted statuette, commonly known as the "Oscar," as an award for (category) – (film title). I acknowledge that my receipt of said replica does not entitle me to any right whatever in your copyright, trade-mark and service-mark of said statuette and that only the physical replica itself shall belong to me. In consideration of your delivering said replica to me, I agree to comply with your rules and regulations respecting its use and not to sell or otherwise dispose of it or any other "Oscar" replica I have been awarded or have received, nor permit it or any other "Oscar" replica I have been awarded or have received to be sold or disposed of by operation of law, without first offering to sell it to you for the sum of \$1.00. You shall have thirty days after any such offer is made to you within which to accept it. This agreement shall be binding not only on me, but also on my

heirs, legatees, executors, administrators, estate, successors and assigns. My legatees and heirs shall have the right to acquire any "Oscar" statuette replica I have received, if it becomes part of my estate, subject to this agreement.

I agree that if I have heretofore received any Academy trophy I shall be bound by this receipt and agreement with the same force and effect as though I had executed and delivered the same in consideration of receiving such trophy." (Academy Bylaws, Article VIII, Section 7.)

3. In submitting a film for Academy Awards consideration in any category, the film's owners are deemed to have conveyed to the Academy the right to choose excerpts from the film and from all approved and available promotional materials relating to the film, including publicity stills, posters and electronic press kits, which are submitted to the Academy in connection with the film's Awards consideration, for incorporation by the Academy at its sole discretion, into the Academy Awards telecast for the year in which the film is in competition, and into all other media content produced by the Academy relating to films submitted for Awards consideration, which is not disparaging of those films, for exhibition by the Academy and its licensees in all forms of media until 30 days following the Academy Awards telecast. The owners also convey the right to use excerpts from such films and promotional materials subsequently for any nonprofit purposes of the Academy Museum, the Academy Foundation or Academy websites, in each case subject to the Academy's compliance with all applicable guild requirements relating to such uses. The owners shall have obtained all the aforementioned rights from the talent appearing in the film, as well as all other represented personnel. Owners of nominated films are obligated, if requested, to submit to the Academy a high-definition digital videotape of the film in either D-5 or HDCAM format and of all approved promotional materials relating to the film, in the highest quality formats available, no later than five days following the Academy's request for such materials. The Academy will maintain all materials under appropriate security. Owners of films submitted for Academy Awards consideration which receive a nomination must submit a 35mm or 70mm film print or unencrypted DCP to the Academy Film Archive for preservation purposes no later than one year following the nomination announcement. Film prints and DCI compliant DCPs must also be supplied immediately following the announcement to be screened at Academy venues for voting purposes.

RULE FIVE BALLOTING AND NOMINATIONS

1. Voting on all achievements shall be restricted to active and life Academy members.
2. All eligible films will be listed by the Academy on Reminder Lists of Eligible Releases for specific categories. Before the Academy makes the Reminder Lists available to voters, releasing companies may be required to check their productions as they will appear in the Reminder Lists and assume full responsibility for errors and omissions.
3. Individual reminder lists from which the nominations are voted shall refer only to the film in which the achievement was made, and not to any individual responsible, except in the case of nominations for Acting achievements, which name both the individual and the one picture wherein the achievement occurred.
4. Voting for nominations and awards shall be by secret ballot. Ballots shall be made available by the Academy, and completed ballots shall be received and tabulated by a firm of certified public accountants designated by the Academy President.
5. In the nominations voting, the marking and tabulation of all ballots shall be according to the preferential or reweighted range voting system. Votes for achievements in motion pictures not on the Reminder List will not be counted in the nominations balloting. Tabulation of final ballots shall be according to the plurality or preferential system. **No "write-in" votes shall be counted on the final ballot.**

6. Not more than five nominations shall be made for each award, except for the Best Picture award, which shall have ten nominations.
7. In the event a nominated achievement is declared ineligible by the Academy, it shall not be replaced, and the category will remain with one less nomination.
8. In the event that an achievement voted an award was done in collaboration, each of the eligible collaborators shall receive an award unless the number of awards is specifically limited by a category's special rules. In the event of a tie for first place in the final balloting, awards shall be given for both achievements.
9. The Board of Governors shall provide for such screenings or special meetings as may be desirable to ensure a full and fair consideration of the merits of all eligible achievements.
10. Each branch or other designated committee shall be permitted to formulate its own special rules, provided the final ballot presents not more than five achievements in each category, and that nominations and final voting in each category are restricted to active and life Academy members. All rules shall be presented for approval to the Board of Governors before implementation.

RULE SIX SPECIAL RULES FOR THE ACTING AWARDS

1. A Reminder List including up to **ten** eligible actresses and up to **ten** eligible actors for each eligible motion picture shall be made available along with nominations ballots to all active members of the Actors Branch, who shall vote in the order of their preference for not more than five acting achievements in each category: Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role, Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role, Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role, Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role.
2. The five acting achievements in each category receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the Acting awards.
3. A performance by an actor or actress in any role shall be eligible for nomination either for the leading role or supporting role categories. If, however, all the dialogue has been dubbed by another actor, the performance shall not be eligible for award consideration. Singing that is dubbed will not affect the performer's eligibility unless it constitutes the entire performance. The determination as to whether a role is a leading or supporting role shall be made individually by members of the branch at the time of balloting.
4. The leading role and supporting role categories will be tabulated simultaneously. If any performance should receive votes in both categories, the achievement shall be placed only on the ballot in that category in which, during the tabulation process, it first receives the required number of votes to be nominated. In the event that the performance receives the number of votes required to be nominated in both categories simultaneously, the achievement shall be placed only on the ballot in that category in which it receives the greater percentage of the total votes.
5. In the event that two achievements by an actor or actress receive sufficient votes to be nominated in the same category, only one shall be nominated using the preferential tabulation process and such other allied procedures as may be necessary to achieve that result.
6. In the event that an actor or actress receives a sufficient number of votes to be nominated for one achievement in one category and for another achievement in the other category, both achievements shall be eligible.

7. The Actors Branch Executive Committee shall have the right and responsibility to resolve all questions of eligibility, rules and the designation of award recipients.
8. Final voting for the Acting awards shall be restricted to active and life Academy members.

RULE SEVEN SPECIAL RULES FOR THE ANIMATED FEATURE FILM AWARD

I. DEFINITION

An animated film is defined as a motion picture in which movement and characters' performances are created using a frame-by-frame technique, and usually falls into one of the two general fields of animation: narrative or abstract. Some of the techniques of animating films include but are not limited to hand-drawn animation, computer animation, stop-motion, clay animation, pixilation, cutout animation, pinscreen, camera multiple pass imagery, kaleidoscopic effects created frame-by-frame, and drawing on the film frame itself. Motion capture and real-time puppetry are not by themselves animation techniques. An animated short film has a running time of 40 minutes or less. An animated feature film has a running time of more than 40 minutes. In an animated film, animation must figure in no less than 75 percent of the picture's running time. In addition, a narrative animated film must have a significant number of the major characters animated. If the picture is created in a cinematic style that could be mistaken for live action, the filmmaker(s) must also submit information supporting how and why the picture is substantially a work of animation rather than live action.

II. ELIGIBILITY

- A. Except as indicated above, motion pictures in this category must meet all the requirements in Academy Awards Rules Two, Three and Four.
- B. The Short Films and Feature Animation Branch Executive Committee shall have the right and responsibility to resolve all questions of eligibility and rules.

III. SUBMISSION

- A. For films qualifying between January 1, 2023, and June 30, 2023, entrants must submit all submission materials, including the digital upload of the film for streaming purposes, by 5 p.m. PT on **Friday, September 15, 2023**. For films qualifying between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, entrants must submit all submission materials, including the digital upload of the film for streaming purposes, by 5 p.m. PT on **Wednesday, November 15, 2023**.
- B. Films submitted in the Animated Feature Film category qualify for Academy Awards in other General Entry categories, including Best Picture. An animated feature film may be submitted in only one Awards year for Academy Awards consideration.
- C. Entrants must complete the online submission form located on the Academy's Awards Submission site and submit to the Academy the digital upload of the film for streaming purposes. The digital upload of the film submitted for Academy Awards consideration must be identical in content and length to the print or DCP that qualified. Films with a planned theatrical release before the end of the calendar year, but which will not have a locked picture by the submission deadline, may request an extension for the digital upload only. Films qualifying after the submission deadline must provide documentation from the qualifying theater confirming that the film will satisfy the release requirements.

- D. The significant dialogue or narration must be substantially in English, or the film must have English-language subtitles.
- E. The Academy will retain for its archives one film print or DCP of every film receiving a nomination. By submitting a film, the filmmaker agrees that the Academy has the right to make copies and distribute them for voting purposes only.

IV. NOMINEES AND AWARD RECIPIENTS

- A. An entry form naming the intended award recipient(s) and including the signatures of **all** the credited producer(s) and director(s) is required. This is to ensure that all parties are properly informed, and that agreement on the designated award recipient(s) is settled prior to submission.
- B. The award recipient(s) shall be designated by those responsible for the production of the film. The designated recipient(s) must be **the key creative individual(s) most clearly responsible for the overall achievement**. There is a maximum of FOUR designated nominees, one of whom must be the credited director who exercised directorial control, and the other(s) of whom must have a director or producer credit. In determining the number of producers eligible for nomination, a bona fide team of not more than two people shall be considered to be a single “producer” if the two individuals have had an established producing partnership as determined by the PGA’s Producing Partnership Panel.
- C. If a producer is named, that individual must have performed a major portion of the producing functions, in accordance with Academy producer criteria. Production companies or persons with the screen credit of co-director or any credit other than DIRECTOR or PRODUCER shall not be eligible as nominees for the film. Persons with screen credits of executive producer, co-producer, associate producer, line producer, produced in association with or any other credit shall not receive nominations or Academy statuettes. To qualify as a producer nominee for a nominated picture, the producer must have been determined eligible for a PGA award for the picture, or have appealed the PGA’s refusal of such eligibility.
- D. Final determination of the qualifying nominees for each nominated film will be made by the Short Films and Feature Animation Branch Executive Committee, including the right to name any additional qualified producer as a nominee.

V. VOTING

- A. All active and life Academy members will be invited to view the eligible submissions in the category. Those who opt in will be required to see a minimum percentage of submitted eligible films as defined by the current procedures.
- B. All submitted eligible films will be made available to the voting members. A nominations ballot shall be made available to all members of the Short Films and Feature Animation Branch. Members shall vote by secret ballot in the order of their preference for not more than five motion pictures. The five motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the Animated Feature Film award.
- C. Final voting for the Animated Feature Film award shall be restricted to active and life Academy members.

RULE EIGHT SPECIAL RULES FOR THE ANIMATED SHORT FILM AWARD

I. DEFINITION

- A. A short film is defined as an original motion picture that has a running time of 40 minutes or less, including all credits.
- B. This excludes from consideration such works as:
 - 1. previews and advertising films
 - 2. sequences from feature-length films, such as credit sequences
 - 3. unaired episodes of established TV series
 - 4. unsold TV series pilots
- C. An animated film is defined as a motion picture in which movement and characters' performances are created using a frame-by-frame technique, and usually falls into one of the two general fields of animation: narrative or abstract. Some of the techniques of animating films include but are not limited to hand-drawn animation, computer animation, stop-motion, clay animation, pixilation, cutout animation, pinscreen, camera multiple pass imagery, kaleidoscopic effects created frame-by-frame, and drawing on the film frame itself. Motion capture and real-time puppetry are not by themselves animation techniques. An animated short film has a running time of 40 minutes or less. An animated feature film has a running time of more than 40 minutes. In an animated film, animation must figure in no less than 75 percent of the picture's running time. In addition, a narrative animated film must have a significant number of the major characters animated. If the picture is created in a cinematic style that could be mistaken for live action, the filmmaker(s) must also submit information supporting how and why the picture is substantially a work of animation rather than live action. Documentary short films that are animated may be submitted in either the Animated Short Film category or the Documentary Short Film category, but not both.

II. ELIGIBILITY

- A. To be eligible for award consideration for the 96th Awards year, a short film must fulfill one of the following qualifying criteria. The eligibility period begins on October 1, 2022, and ends on September 30, 2023. This qualification must take place within two years of the film's completion date.
 - 1. The picture must have been publicly exhibited for **paid admission** in a commercial motion picture theater in one of the six qualifying U.S. metro areas: Los Angeles County; City of New York [five boroughs]; the Bay Area [counties of San Francisco, Marin, Alameda, San Mateo and Contra Costa]; Chicago [Cook County, Illinois]; Miami [Miami-Dade County, Florida]; and Atlanta [Fulton County, Georgia], for a run of at least seven consecutive days with at least one screening a day. The picture also must appear in the theater listings along with the appropriate dates and screening time(s). Drive-in theaters are included as a qualifying commercial venue in the above metro areas (films must run for seven consecutive days with at least one screening daily).

All eligible motion pictures must be publicly exhibited by means of 35mm or 70mm film, or in a 24- or 48-frame progressive scan Digital Cinema format with a minimum projector resolution of 2048 by 1080 pixels, source image format conforming to ST 428-1:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Image Characteristics; image compression (if used) conforming to ISO/IEC 15444-1 (JPEG 2000); and image and sound files packaged as Digital Cinema Packages (DCPs) in the “SMPTE DCP” format. SMPTE DCP refers to SMPTE ST 429-2:2020 D-Cinema Packaging – DCP Operational Constraints and related specifications. (Blu-ray format does not meet Digital Cinema requirements.)

The audio in a Digital Cinema Package (DCP) is typically 5.1 or 7.1 channels of discrete audio. The minimum for a non-mono configuration of the audio shall be three channels as Left, Center, Right (a Left/Right configuration is not acceptable in a theatrical environment). In addition to channel-based audio, object-based audio may also be present as an immersive audio bitstream.

The discrete audio data shall be formatted in conformance with SMPTE ST 429-3:2007 D-Cinema Packaging – Sound and Picture Track File, SMPTE ST 428-2:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Audio Characteristics and SMPTE ST 428-12:2013 D-Cinema Distribution Master Common Audio Channels and Soundfield Groups. Immersive audio, if present, shall be formatted in conformance with SMPTE ST 2098-2:2019 Immersive Audio Bitstream Specification and SMPTE 429-18:2019 D-Cinema Packaging – Immersive Audio Track File and packaged in conformance with SMPTE 429-19:2019 D-Cinema Packaging – DCP Operational Constraints for Immersive Audio.

Student films cannot qualify with a theatrical release.

OR

2. The film must have won a qualifying award at a competitive film festival, as specified in the Short Film Qualifying Festival List, regardless of any prior public exhibition or distribution by nontheatrical means. Proof of the award must be submitted with the entry. The Short Film Qualifying Festival List is available at www.oscars.org or may be obtained from the Academy.

OR

3. The film must have won a Gold, Silver or Bronze Medal award in the Academy's 2023 Student Academy Awards competition in the Animation or Alternative/Experimental categories.

All films must be submitted in a standard theatrical exhibition aspect ratio, in formats currently accepted by the Academy (see Paragraph II.A.1 above), no matter which other formats may have been used during their theatrical run or festival screening. Producers may provide screenings of films in specialized formats for Academy members, but attendance at such screenings is not required for voting purposes.

- B. A short film qualifying under Paragraph II.A.1 above may not be exhibited publicly or distributed anywhere in any nontheatrical form until **after** its qualifying theatrical release. Nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution includes but is not limited to:
 - Broadcast and cable television
 - PPV/VOD
 - DVD distribution
 - Inflight airline distribution
 - Internet transmission

Up to fifteen percent of the running time of a film is allowed to be shown in a nontheatrical medium prior to the film's theatrical release.

Films qualifying under Paragraph II.A.2 or II.A.3 above are exempted from this rule.

III. SUBMISSION

- A. Entrants must complete the online submission form located on the Academy's Awards Submission site, and submit to the Academy the digital upload of the film for streaming purposes, as well as all submission materials. Formats requiring special technical presentation that meet the technical specifications above will be given consideration if made available for Academy voting screenings in Los Angeles County.
- B. The short film submitted for Academy Awards consideration must be identical in content and length to the print or DCP that qualified.

- C. Dialogue or narration must be substantially in English or the film must have English-language subtitles.
- D. For films qualifying between October 1, 2022, and May 31, 2023, entrants must submit all submission materials, including the digital upload of the film for streaming purposes, by 5 p.m. PT on **Tuesday, August 15, 2023**. For films qualifying between June 1, 2023, and September 30, 2023, entrants must submit all submission materials, including the digital upload of the film for streaming purposes, by 5 p.m. PT on **Monday, October 16, 2023**.
- E. If a short film advances to the second round of voting, additional materials including a film print or DCP of the film will be required after the shortlist is announced. Shortlisted films must have the necessary clearances for commercial theatrical exhibition. Festival clearances are not sufficient.
- F. The Academy will retain for its archives one film print or DCP of every short film receiving a nomination for final balloting. The Academy will have the right, but not the obligation, to create a preservation copy of the picture at its own expense. By submitting a film, the filmmaker agrees that the Academy has the right to make copies and distribute them for voting purposes only.
- G. The nominee(s) should be the individual(s) most involved in the key creative aspects of the filmmaking process. **A maximum of two persons may be designated as nominees**, one of whom must be the credited director who exercised directorial control, and the other of whom must be in a key creative position. If a producer is named, that individual must have performed a major portion of the producing functions, in accordance with Academy producer criteria. Companies or organized groups shall not receive nominations or awards.
- H. All individuals with a “producer” or “produced by” credit on films that reach the semifinal round will automatically be vetted. The Short Films and Feature Animation Branch Executive Committee will determine which producer, if any, is eligible to receive a nomination. In the unlikely event of a dispute, filmmakers may appeal the Committee’s decision.
- I. No short film may be submitted more than once for Academy Awards consideration. A short film must be submitted in the same Awards year in which it qualifies.

IV. VOTING

- A. Excellence of the entries shall be judged on the basis of originality, entertainment and production quality without regard to cost of production or subject matter.
- B. All active and life members of the Short Films and Feature Animation Branch will be invited to view the eligible submissions in the Animated Short Film category. Those who opt in will be required to see a minimum percentage of submitted eligible films as defined by the current procedures. Members will vote by secret ballot in the order of their preference for not more than fifteen motion pictures. The fifteen motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall advance to next round of voting.
- C. To determine nominations, all active and life members of the Short Films and Feature Animation Branch will be invited to view the fifteen shortlisted Animated Short Films. A member must see all shortlisted films for the ballot to be counted. Those members who participated in the reviewing process and who viewed all of the selected pictures will receive ballots. Members shall vote in the order of their preference for not more than five motion pictures. The five motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the Animated Short Film award.
- D. Final voting for the Animated Short Film award shall be restricted to active and life members of the Academy who have viewed all of the nominated films.

**RULE NINE
SPECIAL RULES FOR THE
CINEMATOGRAPHY AWARD**

1. A Reminder List of all eligible motion pictures shall be made available along with a nominations ballot to all members of the Cinematographers Branch, who shall vote in the order of their preference for not more than five motion pictures.
2. The five motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the Cinematography award.
3. In accordance with Rule Two Paragraph 5, only principal position credit(s) shall be considered eligible for the Cinematography award.
4. Final voting for the Cinematography award shall be restricted to active and life Academy members.

**RULE TEN
SPECIAL RULES FOR THE
COSTUME DESIGN AWARD**

1. A Reminder List of all eligible motion pictures shall be made available along with a nominations ballot to all members of the Costume Designers Branch, who shall vote in the order of their preference for not more than five motion pictures.
2. To be eligible for the Costume Design award, the costumes for the picture must have been conceived by a costume designer. It is the intention of this rule to recognize the **designing** of costumes for their special use in narrative motion pictures. Eligibility shall be determined by the Costume Designers Branch members present at a meeting called specifically for that purpose prior to the start of nominations balloting.
3. In accordance with Rule Two Paragraph 5, only principal position credit(s) shall be considered eligible for the Costume Design award.
4. The five motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the Costume Design award.
5. Final voting for the Costume Design award shall be restricted to active and life Academy members.

**RULE ELEVEN
SPECIAL RULES FOR THE
DIRECTING AWARD**

1. A Reminder List of all eligible motion pictures shall be made available along with a nominations ballot to all members of the Directors Branch, who shall vote in the order of their preference for not more than five productions.
2. The five motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the Directing award.
3. Final voting for the Directing award shall be restricted to active and life Academy members.

RULE TWELVE SPECIAL RULES FOR THE DOCUMENTARY FEATURE FILM AWARD

I. DEFINITION

An eligible documentary film is defined as a theatrically released nonfiction motion picture dealing creatively with cultural, artistic, historical, social, scientific, economic or other subjects. It may be photographed in actual occurrence, or may employ partial reenactment, stock footage, stills, animation, stop-motion or other techniques, as long as the emphasis is on fact and not on fiction.

A feature-length film is defined as an original motion picture that has a running time of more than 40 minutes.

II. ELIGIBILITY

- A. To be eligible for awards consideration for the 96th Awards year, a documentary feature film must fulfill one of the following qualifying criteria. The eligibility period begins on January 1, 2023, and ends on December 31, 2023. This qualification must take place within two years of the film's completion date.
1. The picture must have been publicly exhibited for **paid admission** in a commercial motion picture theater in one of the six qualifying U.S. metro areas: Los Angeles County; City of New York [five boroughs]; the Bay Area [counties of San Francisco, Marin, Alameda, San Mateo and Contra Costa]; Chicago [Cook County, Illinois]; Miami [Miami-Dade County, Florida]; and Atlanta [Fulton County, Georgia], for a run of at least seven consecutive days. Screenings during the theatrical release must occur at least three times daily, with at least one screening beginning between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. daily. The motion picture must be advertised during its qualifying theatrical release in a manner normal and customary to theatrical feature distribution practices and may receive movie critic reviews. Drive-in theaters are included as a qualifying commercial venue in the above metro areas (films must run for seven consecutive days with at least one screening daily).

All eligible motion pictures must be publicly exhibited by means of 35mm or 70mm film, or in a 24- or 48-frame progressive scan Digital Cinema format with a minimum projector resolution of 2048 by 1080 pixels, source image format conforming to ST 428-1:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Image Characteristics; image compression (if used) conforming to ISO/IEC 15444-1 (JPEG 2000); and image and sound files packaged as Digital Cinema Packages (DCPs) in the “SMPTE DCP” format. SMPTE DCP refers to SMPTE ST 429-2:2020 D-Cinema Packaging – DCP Operational Constraints and related specifications. (Blu-ray format does not meet Digital Cinema requirements.)

The audio in a Digital Cinema Package (DCP) is typically 5.1 or 7.1 channels of discrete audio. The minimum for a non-mono configuration of the audio shall be three channels as Left, Center, Right (a Left/Right configuration is not acceptable in a theatrical environment). In addition to channel-based audio, object-based audio may also be present as an immersive audio bitstream.

The discrete audio data shall be formatted in conformance with SMPTE ST 429-3:2007 D-Cinema Packaging – Sound and Picture Track File, SMPTE ST 428-2:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Audio Characteristics and SMPTE ST 428-12:2013 D-Cinema Distribution Master Common Audio Channels and Soundfield Groups. Immersive audio, if present, shall be formatted in conformance with SMPTE ST 2098-2:2019 Immersive Audio Bitstream Specification and SMPTE 429-18:2019 D-Cinema Packaging – Immersive Audio Track File and packaged in conformance with SMPTE 429-19:2019 D-Cinema Packaging – DCP Operational Constraints for Immersive Audio.

OR

2. The film must have won a qualifying award at a competitive film festival, as specified in the Documentary Feature Film Qualifying Festival List, regardless of any prior public exhibition or distribution by nontheatrical means. Proof of the award must be submitted with the entry. The Documentary Feature Film Qualifying Festival List is available at www.oscars.org or may be obtained from the Academy.

OR

3. The film must have been submitted in the International Feature Film category as its country's official selection for the 96th Academy Awards.
- B. Works that are essentially promotional or instructional are not eligible, nor are works that are essentially unfiltered records of performances.
- C. Only individual documentary works are eligible. This excludes from consideration such works as:
- multi-part or limited series,
 - episodes extracted from a larger series,
 - segments taken from a single "composite" program, and
 - alternate versions of ineligible works.
- D. **Films that, in any version, receive a nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution before their qualifying theatrical release as defined in Paragraph II.A.1 above will not be eligible for Academy Awards consideration.** Nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution includes but is not limited to:
- Broadcast and cable television
 - PPV/VOD
 - DVD distribution
 - Inflight airline distribution
 - Internet transmission

Up to fifteen percent of the running time of a film is allowed to be shown in a nontheatrical medium prior to the film's theatrical release.

Films qualifying under Paragraph II.A.2 or II.A.3 above are exempted from this rule.

III. SUBMISSION

- A. For films qualifying between January 1, 2023, and June 30, 2023, entrants must submit all submission materials, including the digital upload of the film for streaming purposes, by 5 p.m. PT on **Tuesday, August 15, 2023**. For films qualifying between July 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023, entrants must submit all submission materials, including the digital upload of the film for streaming purposes, by 5 p.m. PT on **Monday, October 2, 2023**.
- B. The picture must be submitted in the same Awards year in which it first qualifies. Documentaries submitted for the 96th Academy Awards in any category will not be eligible for consideration in subsequent Awards years in any category.
- C. Entrants must complete the online submission form located on the Academy's Awards Submission site and submit to the Academy the digital upload of the film for streaming purposes. The digital upload of the film submitted for Academy Awards consideration must be identical in content and length to the print or DCP that qualified. For films with a planned theatrical release before the end of

the calendar year, but which will not have a locked picture by the submission deadline, entrants may request an extension for the digital upload only. For films qualifying after the submission deadline, entrants must provide documentation from the qualifying theater confirming that the film will satisfy the release requirements.

- D. The significant dialogue or narration must be substantially in English, or the film must have English-language subtitles.
- E. Filmmakers whose entries advance to the shortlist must submit either one 35mm or 70mm film print or one DCP of the film after the shortlist is announced. The Academy will retain for its archives one film print or DCP of every film receiving a nomination. By submitting a film, the filmmaker agrees that the Academy has the right to make copies and distribute them for voting purposes only.

IV. NOMINEES AND AWARD RECIPIENTS

- A. The nominee(s) should be the individual(s) most involved in the key creative aspects of the filmmaking process. Normally **two or three persons may be named as nominees, one of whom must be the credited director who exercised directorial control, and the other(s) of whom must have a director or producer credit.** If a producer is named, that individual must have performed a major portion of the producing functions, in accordance with Academy producer criteria. Production companies or persons with the screen credit of executive producer, co-producer or any credit other than director or producer shall not be eligible as nominees for the motion picture. In determining the number of producers eligible for nomination, a bona fide team of not more than two people shall be considered to be a single "producer" if the two individuals have had an established producing partnership as determined by the PGA's Producing Partnership Panel.
- B. All individuals with a "producer" or "produced by" credit on films that reach the semifinal round will automatically be vetted. To qualify as a producer nominee for a nominated picture, the producer must have been determined eligible by the PGA for the picture, or have appealed the PGA's refusal of such eligibility. Final determination of the qualifying producer nominees for each nominated picture will be made by the Documentary Branch Executive Committee, including the right to name any additional qualified producer as a nominee.

V. VOTING

- A. All active and life members of the Documentary Branch will be invited to view the eligible submissions in the category and will be required to see a minimum number as defined by the current procedures. Members will vote by secret ballot in the order of their preference for not more than fifteen motion pictures. The fifteen motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall advance to next round of voting.
- B. To determine nominations, all active and life members of the Documentary Branch will be invited to view the fifteen shortlisted Documentary Feature Films. A member must see all shortlisted films for the ballot to be counted. Members shall vote in the order of their preference for not more than five motion pictures. The five motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the Documentary Feature Film award.
- C. Final voting shall be restricted to active and life members of the Academy who have viewed all of the nominated documentaries.

VI. OTHER RULES

- A. Documentaries submitted in this category may also qualify for awards in other categories if they meet the specified requirements and submission deadlines.
- B. The Documentary Branch Executive Committee shall resolve all questions of eligibility and rules.

**RULE THIRTEEN
SPECIAL RULES FOR THE
DOCUMENTARY SHORT FILM AWARD**

I. DEFINITION

An eligible documentary film is defined as a theatrically released nonfiction motion picture dealing creatively with cultural, artistic, historical, social, scientific, economic or other subjects. It may be photographed in actual occurrence, or may employ partial reenactment, stock footage, stills, animation, stop-motion or other techniques, as long as the emphasis is on fact and not on fiction.

A short film is defined as an original motion picture that has a running time of 40 minutes or less, including all credits.

II. ELIGIBILITY

A. To be eligible for awards consideration for the 96th Awards year, a documentary short film must fulfill one of the following qualifying criteria. The eligibility period begins on October 1, 2022, and ends on September 30, 2023. This qualification must take place within two years of the film's completion date.

1. The picture must have been publicly exhibited for **paid admission** in a commercial motion picture theater in one of the six qualifying U.S. metro areas: Los Angeles County; City of New York [five boroughs]; the Bay Area [counties of San Francisco, Marin, Alameda, San Mateo and Contra Costa]; Chicago [Cook County, Illinois]; Miami [Miami-Dade County, Florida]; and Atlanta [Fulton County, Georgia], for a run of at least seven consecutive days with at least one screening a day. The picture also must be advertised during its run in a manner normal and customary to theatrical distribution practices. Drive-in theaters are included as a qualifying commercial venue in the above metro areas.

All eligible motion pictures must be publicly exhibited by means of 35mm or 70mm film, or in a 24- or 48-frame progressive scan Digital Cinema format with a minimum projector resolution of 2048 by 1080 pixels, source image format conforming to ST 428-1:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Image Characteristics; image compression (if used) conforming to ISO/IEC 15444-1 (JPEG 2000); and image and sound files packaged as Digital Cinema Packages (DCPs) in the “SMPTE DCP” format. SMPTE DCP refers to SMPTE ST 429-2:2020 D-Cinema Packaging – DCP Operational Constraints and related specifications. (Blu-ray format does not meet Digital Cinema requirements.)

The audio in a Digital Cinema Package (DCP) is typically 5.1 or 7.1 channels of discrete audio. The minimum for a non-mono configuration of the audio shall be three channels as Left, Center, Right (a Left/Right configuration is not acceptable in a theatrical environment). In addition to channel-based audio, object-based audio may also be present as an immersive audio bitstream.

The discrete audio data shall be formatted in conformance with SMPTE ST 429-3:2007 D-Cinema Packaging – Sound and Picture Track File, SMPTE ST 428-2:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Audio Characteristics and SMPTE ST 428-12:2013 D-Cinema Distribution Master Common Audio Channels and Soundfield Groups. Immersive audio, if present, shall be formatted in conformance with SMPTE ST 2098-2:2019 Immersive Audio Bitstream Specification and SMPTE 429-18:2019 D-Cinema Packaging – Immersive Audio Track File and packaged in conformance with SMPTE 429-19:2019 D-Cinema Packaging – DCP Operational Constraints for Immersive Audio.

Student films cannot qualify with a theatrical release.

OR

2. The film must have won a qualifying award at a competitive film festival, as specified in the Documentary Short Film Qualifying Festival List, regardless of any prior public exhibition or distribution by nontheatrical means. Proof of the award must be submitted with the entry. The Documentary Short Film Qualifying Festival List is available at www.oscars.org or may be obtained from the Academy.

OR

3. The film must have won a Gold, Silver or Bronze Medal award in the Academy's 2023 Student Academy Awards competition in the Documentary category.
- B. Works that are essentially promotional or instructional are not eligible, nor are works that are essentially unfiltered records of performances.
- C. Only individual documentary works are eligible. This excludes from consideration such works as:
- multi-part or limited series,
 - episodes extracted from a larger series,
 - segments taken from a single "composite" program,
 - alternate versions of ineligible works, and
 - documentary short films created from materials substantially taken from or cut down from completed, publicly exhibited feature-length documentaries.
- D. **Films that, in any version, receive a nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution before their qualifying theatrical release as defined in Paragraph II.A.1 above will not be eligible for Academy Awards consideration.** Nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution includes but is not limited to:
- Broadcast and cable television
 - PPV/VOD
 - DVD distribution
 - Inflight airline distribution
 - Internet transmission

Up to fifteen percent of the running time of a film is allowed to be shown in a nontheatrical medium prior to the film's theatrical release.

Films qualifying under Paragraph II.A.2 or II.A.3 above are exempted from this rule.

III. SUBMISSION

- A. For films qualifying between October 1, 2022, and May 31, 2023, entrants must submit all submission materials, including the digital upload of the film for streaming purposes, by 5 p.m. PT on **Tuesday, August 15, 2023**. For films qualifying between June 1, 2023, and September 30, 2023, entrants must submit all submission materials, including the digital upload of the film for streaming purposes, by 5 p.m. PT on **Monday, October 16, 2023**.
- B. The picture must be submitted in the same Awards year in which it first qualifies. Documentaries submitted for the 96th Academy Awards in any category will not be eligible for consideration in subsequent Awards years in any category.
- C. Entrants must complete the online submission form located on the Academy's Awards Submission site and submit to the Academy the digital upload of the film for streaming purposes. The digital

upload of the film submitted for Academy Awards consideration must be identical in content and length to the print or DCP that qualified.

- D. The significant dialogue or narration must be substantially in English, or the film must have English-language subtitles.
- E. Filmmakers whose entries advance to the shortlist must submit either one 35mm or 70mm film print or one DCP of the film after the shortlist is announced. The Academy will retain for its archives one film print or DCP of every film receiving a nomination. By submitting a film, the filmmaker agrees that the Academy has the right to make copies and distribute them for voting purposes only.

IV. NOMINEES AND AWARD RECIPIENTS

- A. The nominee(s) should be the individual(s) most involved in the key creative aspects of the filmmaking process. **A maximum of two persons may be designated as nominees, one of whom must be the credited director who exercised directorial control, and the other of whom must have a director or producer credit.** If a producer is named, that individual must have performed a major portion of the producing functions, in accordance with Academy producer criteria. Production companies or persons with the screen credit of executive producer, co-producer or any credit other than director or producer shall not be eligible as nominees for the motion picture.
- B. All individuals with a “producer” or “produced by” credit on films that reach the semifinal round will automatically be vetted. The Documentary Branch Executive Committee will determine which producer, if any, is eligible to receive a nomination. In the unlikely event of a dispute, filmmakers may appeal the Committee’s decision.

V. VOTING

- A. All active and life members of the Documentary Branch will be invited to view the eligible submissions in the category and will be required to see a minimum number as defined by the current procedures. Members will vote by secret ballot in the order of their preference for not more than fifteen motion pictures. The fifteen motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall advance to next round of voting.
- B. To determine nominations, all active and life members of the Documentary Branch will be invited to view the fifteen shortlisted Documentary Short Films. A member must see all shortlisted films for the ballot to be counted. Members shall vote in the order of their preference for not more than five motion pictures. The five motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the Documentary Short Film award.
- C. Final voting shall be restricted to active and life Academy members who have viewed all of the nominated documentaries.

VI. OTHER RULES

The Documentary Branch Executive Committee shall resolve all questions of eligibility and rules.

RULE FOURTEEN SPECIAL RULES FOR THE FILM EDITING AWARD

- 1. A Reminder List of all eligible motion pictures shall be made available along with a nominations ballot to all members of the Film Editors Branch, who shall vote in the order of their preference for not more than five motion pictures.

2. The five motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the Film Editing award.
3. In accordance with Rule Two Paragraph 5, only film editors who hold principal position credit(s) shall be considered eligible for the Film Editing award.
4. Final voting for the Film Editing award shall be restricted to active and life Academy members.

RULE FIFTEEN SPECIAL RULES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM AWARD

I. DEFINITION

An international film is defined as a feature-length motion picture (over 40 minutes) **produced** outside the United States of America and its territories with a predominantly (more than 50%) non-English dialogue track. Animated and documentary feature films are permitted.

II. ELIGIBILITY

- A. The country-selected film must be first released in the country of origin no earlier than December 1, 2022, and no later than October 31, 2023, and be first publicly exhibited for at least seven consecutive days in a commercial motion picture theater for the profit of the producer and exhibitor. In order for films to more easily meet theatrical exhibition requirements, the Academy will allow films to qualify outside the country of origin, provided the film is theatrically exhibited outside of the United States and its territories for at least seven consecutive days in a commercial motion picture theater for paid admission.

Submissions must be in 35mm or 70mm film, or in a 24- or 48-frame progressive scan Digital Cinema format with a minimum projector resolution of 2048 by 1080 pixels, source image format conforming to ST 428-1:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Image Characteristics; image compression (if used) conforming to ISO/IEC 15444-1 (JPEG 2000); and image and sound files packaged as Digital Cinema Packages (DCPs) in the “SMPTE DCP” format. SMPTE DCP refers to SMPTE ST 429-2:2020 D-Cinema Packaging – DCP Operational Constraints and related specifications. (Blu-ray format does not meet Digital Cinema requirements.)

The audio in a Digital Cinema Package (DCP) is typically 5.1 or 7.1 channels of discrete audio. The minimum for a non-mono configuration of the audio shall be three channels as Left, Center, Right (a Left/Right configuration is not acceptable in a theatrical environment). In addition to channel-based audio, object-based audio may also be present as an immersive audio bitstream.

The discrete audio data shall be formatted in conformance with SMPTE ST 429-3:2007 D-Cinema Packaging – Sound and Picture Track File, SMPTE ST 428-2:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Audio Characteristics and SMPTE ST 428-12:2013 D-Cinema Distribution Master Common Audio Channels and Soundfield Groups. Immersive audio, if present, shall be formatted in conformance with SMPTE ST 2098-2:2019 Immersive Audio Bitstream Specification and SMPTE 429-18:2019 D-Cinema Packaging – Immersive Audio Track File and packaged in conformance with SMPTE 429-19:2019 D-Cinema Packaging – DCP Operational Constraints for Immersive Audio.

- B. The film must be advertised and exploited during its qualifying theatrical release in a manner considered normal and customary to theatrical feature distribution practices. The film need not have been released in the United States.
- C. **Films that, in any version, receive a nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution before their qualifying theatrical release will not be eligible for Academy Awards consideration.**

Nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution includes but is not limited to:

- Broadcast and cable television
 - PPV/VOD
 - DVD distribution
 - Inflight airline distribution
 - Internet transmission
- D. The recording of the original dialogue track as well as the completed picture must be predominantly (more than 50%) in a language or languages other than English. **Accurate, legible English-language subtitles are required.**
- E. The submitting country must confirm that creative control of the film was largely in the hands of citizens or residents of the submitting country.
- F. Should a selection committee not disclose up-to-date and/or accurate information related to a submitted film's citizenship, business-related affiliation or credit on a selected film, designated credits, production details and release information, a film will be deemed ineligible.
- G. The International Feature Film Executive Committee shall resolve all questions of eligibility and rules.

III. SUBMISSION

- A. Each country shall be invited to submit its best film to the Academy. Selection of that film shall be made by **one** approved organization, jury or committee, of which at least 50% must include artists and/or craftspeople from the field of motion pictures. A list of the selection committee members must be submitted to the Academy no later than **Tuesday, August 15, 2023**, or by the submission deadline published by the Academy. Countries submitting for the first time, or which have not submitted for the previous five years, must present a list of selection committee members and application materials for Academy approval by December 31, 2023, for eligibility in the following (97th) Awards year. A country need not submit a film every year for Awards consideration.
- B. **Only one film will be accepted from each country as the official selection.** Films should be submitted to the Academy as soon as they are selected.
- C. The Academy will provide online access to each country's approved selection committee so that the producer of the selected film can supply full production information.
- D. The following submission materials must be submitted to the Academy by **5 p.m. PT on Monday, October 2, 2023**:
- Completed online submission forms
 - Digital upload of the film for streaming purposes
 - [For Internal Use Only] A secure and password-protected link to the film. This is required to test non-English dialogue.
 - Full cast and credits list
 - Director's biography and photograph
 - A designated key frame for streaming display artwork
 - A poster from the film's theatrical release, for archival purposes
 - Proof of the film's qualifying theatrical release, including but not limited to advertising
- E. Entrants whose films advance to the shortlist must submit either one 35mm or 70mm film print or one DCP of the film after the shortlist is announced. By submitting a film, the filmmakers agree that the Academy has the right to make copies and distribute them for voting purposes only. The Academy will retain for its archives one print of every motion picture receiving a nomination for the International

Feature Film award.

IV. VOTING

- A. International Feature Film nominations will be determined in two rounds of voting:
 - 1. All active and life Academy members will be invited to view the eligible submissions in the category. Those who opt in will be required to see a minimum number of submitted eligible films as defined by the current procedures. Members will vote by secret ballot in the order of their preference for not more than fifteen motion pictures. The fifteen motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall advance to next round of voting.
 - 2. All active and life Academy members will be invited to view the fifteen shortlisted films in the category. A member must see all shortlisted films for the ballot to be counted. Members shall vote in the order of their preference for not more than five motion pictures. The five motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the International Feature Film award.
- B. Final voting for the International Feature Film award shall be restricted to active and life Academy members who have viewed all five nominated films.
- C. The Academy statuette (Oscar) will be awarded to the film and accepted by the director on behalf of the film's creative talents. For Academy Awards purposes, the country will be credited as the nominee. The director's name will be listed on the statuette plaque after the country and film title.

V. ADVERTISING AND PUBLICITY RESTRICTIONS

In addition to complying with the Awards Rules for the 96th Academy Awards, all participants in the Awards competition are also bound by the Awards Campaign Promotional Regulations concerning the promotion of eligible films and are subject to the penalties provided therein, including the potential declaration of ineligibility by the Board of Governors for violation of those guidelines.

VI. ELIGIBILITY IN OTHER CATEGORIES

- A. International Feature Film submissions may be submitted for consideration for the 96th Academy Awards in other categories, including Best Picture, provided they comply with the rules governing those categories.
- B. Films submitted for consideration in the International Feature Film category for the 96th Academy Awards are **NOT** eligible for consideration in other awards categories in the subsequent year, nor could the films have been submitted in other awards categories in a previous year.

RULE SIXTEEN SPECIAL RULES FOR THE LIVE ACTION SHORT FILM AWARD

I. DEFINITION

- A. A short film is defined as an original motion picture that has a running time of 40 minutes or less, including all credits.
- B. This excludes from consideration such works as:
 - 1. previews and advertising films
 - 2. sequences from feature-length films, such as credit sequences

3. unaired episodes of established TV series
 4. unsold TV series pilots
- C. A live action film uses imagery created primarily through practical photographic techniques used to capture physical actors, props, sets, and locations. **Documentary short films will not be accepted in the live action category.** If the picture is created in the cinematic style of a documentary, the filmmaker(s) must also submit information supporting how and why the picture is substantially a work of fiction rather than a documentary.

II. ELIGIBILITY

- A. To be eligible for award consideration for the 96th Awards year, a short film must fulfill one of the following qualifying criteria. The eligibility period begins on October 1, 2022, and ends on September 30, 2023. This qualification must take place within two years of the film's completion date.
1. The picture must have been publicly exhibited for **paid admission** in a commercial motion picture theater in one of the six qualifying U.S. metro areas: Los Angeles County; City of New York [five boroughs]; the Bay Area [counties of San Francisco, Marin, Alameda, San Mateo and Contra Costa]; Chicago [Cook County, Illinois]; Miami [Miami-Dade County, Florida]; and Atlanta [Fulton County, Georgia], for a run of at least seven consecutive days with at least one screening a day. The picture also must appear in the theater listings along with the appropriate dates and screening time(s). Drive-in theaters are included as a qualifying commercial venue in the above metro areas (films must run for seven consecutive days with at least one screening daily).

All eligible motion pictures must be publicly exhibited by means of 35mm or 70mm film, or in a 24- or 48-frame progressive scan Digital Cinema format with a minimum projector resolution of 2048 by 1080 pixels, source image format conforming to ST 428-1:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Image Characteristics; image compression (if used) conforming to ISO/IEC 15444-1 (JPEG 2000); and image and sound files packaged as Digital Cinema Packages (DCPs) in the “SMPTE DCP” format. SMPTE DCP refers to SMPTE ST 429-2:2020 D-Cinema Packaging – DCP Operational Constraints and related specifications. (Blu-ray format does not meet Digital Cinema requirements.)

The audio in a Digital Cinema Package (DCP) is typically 5.1 or 7.1 channels of discrete audio. The minimum for a non-mono configuration of the audio shall be three channels as Left, Center, Right (a Left/Right configuration is not acceptable in a theatrical environment). In addition to channel-based audio, object-based audio may also be present as an immersive audio bitstream.

The discrete audio data shall be formatted in conformance with SMPTE ST 429-3:2007 D-Cinema Packaging – Sound and Picture Track File, SMPTE ST 428-2:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Audio Characteristics and SMPTE ST 428-12:2013 D-Cinema Distribution Master Common Audio Channels and Soundfield Groups. Immersive audio, if present, shall be formatted in conformance with SMPTE ST 2098-2:2019 Immersive Audio Bitstream Specification and SMPTE 429-18:2019 D-Cinema Packaging – Immersive Audio Track File and packaged in conformance with SMPTE 429-19:2019 D-Cinema Packaging – DCP Operational Constraints for Immersive Audio.

Student films cannot qualify with a theatrical release.

OR

2. The film must have won a qualifying award at a competitive film festival, as specified in the Short Film Qualifying Festival List, regardless of any prior public exhibition or distribution by nontheatrical means. Proof of the award must be submitted with the entry. The Short Film Qualifying Festival List is available at www.oscars.org or may be obtained from the Academy.

OR

3. The film must have won a Gold, Silver or Bronze Medal award in the Academy's 2023 Student Academy Awards competition in the Narrative or Alternative/Experimental categories.

All films must be submitted in a standard theatrical exhibition aspect ratio, in formats currently accepted by the Academy (see Paragraph II.A.1 above), no matter which other formats may have been used during their theatrical run or festival screening. Producers may provide screenings of films in specialized formats for Academy members, but attendance at such screenings is not required for voting purposes.

- B. A short film qualifying under Paragraph II.A.1 above may not be exhibited publicly or distributed anywhere in any nontheatrical form until **after** its qualifying theatrical release. Nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution includes but is not limited to:
 - Broadcast and cable television
 - PPV/VOD
 - DVD distribution
 - Inflight airline distribution
 - Internet transmission

Up to fifteen percent of the running time of a film is allowed to be shown in a nontheatrical medium prior to the film's theatrical release.

Films qualifying under Paragraph II.A.2 or II.A.3 above are exempted from this rule.

III. SUBMISSION

- A. Entrants must complete the online submission form located on the Academy's Awards Submission site, and submit to the Academy the digital upload of the film for streaming purposes, as well as all submission materials. Formats requiring special technical presentation that meet the technical specifications above will be given consideration if made available for Academy voting screenings in Los Angeles County.
- B. The short film submitted for Academy Awards consideration must be identical in content and length to the print or DCP that qualified.
- C. Dialogue or narration must be substantially in English or the film must have English-language subtitles.
- D. For films qualifying between October 1, 2022, and May 31, 2023, entrants must submit all submission materials, including the digital upload of the film for streaming purposes, by 5 p.m. PT on **Tuesday, August 15, 2023**. For films qualifying between June 1, 2023, and September 30, 2023, entrants must submit all submission materials, including the digital upload of the film for streaming purposes, by 5 p.m. PT on **Monday, October 16, 2023**.
- E. If a short film advances to the second round of voting, additional materials including a film print or DCP of the film will be required after the shortlist is announced. Shortlisted films must have the necessary clearances for commercial theatrical exhibition. Festival clearances are not sufficient.
- F. The Academy will retain for its archives one film print or DCP of every short film receiving a nomination for final balloting. The Academy will have the right, but not the obligation, to create a preservation copy of the picture at its own expense. By submitting a film, the filmmaker agrees that the Academy has the right to make copies and distribute them for voting purposes only.

- G. The nominee(s) should be the individual(s) most involved in the key creative aspects of the filmmaking process. **A maximum of two persons may be designated as nominees**, one of whom must be the credited director who exercised directorial control, and the other of whom must have a director, producer, or writer credit. If a producer is named, that individual must have performed a major portion of the producing functions, in accordance with Academy producer criteria. Companies or organized groups shall not receive nominations or awards.
- H. All individuals with a “producer” or “produced by” credit on films that reach the semifinal round will automatically be vetted. The Short Films and Feature Animation Branch Executive Committee will determine which producer, if any, is eligible to receive a nomination. In the unlikely event of a dispute, filmmakers may appeal the Committee’s decision.
- I. No short film may be submitted more than once for Academy Awards consideration. A short film must be submitted in the same Awards year in which it qualifies.

IV. VOTING

- A. Excellence of the entries shall be judged on the basis of originality, entertainment and production quality without regard to cost of production or subject matter.
- B. All active and life Academy members will be invited to view the eligible submissions in the Live Action Short Film category. Those who opt in will be required to see a minimum number of submitted eligible films as defined by the current procedures. Members will vote by secret ballot in the order of their preference for not more than fifteen motion pictures. The fifteen motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall advance to next round of voting.
- C. To determine nominations, all active and life Academy members will be invited to view the fifteen shortlisted Live Action Short Films. A member must see all shortlisted films for the ballot to be counted. Those members who participated in the reviewing process and who viewed all of the selected pictures will receive ballots. Members shall vote in the order of their preference for not more than five motion pictures. The five motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the Live Action Short Film award.
- D. Final voting for the Live Action Short Film award shall be restricted to active and life members of the Academy who have viewed all of the nominated short films.

RULE SEVENTEEN SPECIAL RULES FOR THE MAKEUP AND HAIRSTYLING AWARD

I. DEFINITION

Makeup refers to any change in the appearance of a performer’s face, head, or body created by the application of cosmetics, three-dimensional materials, prosthetic appliances, or facial hair applied directly to the performer’s face, head, or body. Hairstyling refers to any change in the appearance of a performer through hairstyling, wigs or hairpieces applied directly to the performer.

Makeup and hairstyling, as achievements or crafts, shall be determined by the Makeup Artists and Hairstylists Branch Executive Committee.

II. ELIGIBILITY AND VOTING

- A. Makeup Artists and Hairstylists Branch members of the Academy shall attend meetings to review a Reminder List of all eligible motion pictures. Artists from the eligible films may provide portfolios demonstrating their makeup and hairstyling achievements. While portfolios are not required for

achievements to be considered, they are encouraged to help inform branch members. Portfolios should highlight the work that appears in the film and include before-and-after photos whenever possible. Portfolios will be retained and housed for research use at the Academy's Margaret Herrick Library.

Selected credited makeup artists and hairstylists of the motion pictures under consideration for the Makeup and Hairstyling award shall be required to provide the committee with written descriptions explaining the procedures used to create the makeup and hairstyling achievements, and the names and titles of the primary individuals – not to exceed three in number – directly involved with, and principally responsible for, the makeup and hairstyles achieved.

Up to three statuettes may be awarded in the Makeup and Hairstyling category, when there are three primary and essential contributors to the achievement.

- B. The Makeup Artists and Hairstylists Branch members shall meet and vote by secret ballot in the order of their preference for not more than ten motion pictures to be considered for the Makeup and Hairstyling award. The ten motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall advance to next round of voting. Recommendations will be made to the Makeup Artists and Hairstylists Branch Executive Committee for specific individual achievements from each picture to be considered for the award.
- C. The Executive Committee will request that producers provide opportunities to view their motion pictures through advance screenings or screeners. This is especially encouraged in instances where a film will be released after the selection meeting to determine the ten pictures that will be considered for nomination. If, and only if, the film is not available by two weeks prior to the selection meeting, excerpts may be submitted.
- D. The producers, or directors, and responsible makeup artists and hairstylists of the motion pictures selected for Awards consideration shall be required to provide the committee with film or digital excerpts of selected scenes showing the achievements. If a motion picture is shortlisted, the Academy will provide a list of format requirements. For archival purposes, an archival key (aka DKDM) for the composition playlist must also be provided. Excerpts must be from the final release version of the motion picture and shall not exceed seven minutes in total running time. All elements of the excerpt should be presented exactly as they appeared in the final release version of the motion picture and should focus on the makeup and hairstyling achievements under consideration. Each excerpt must start and finish without an editorial or sound blend between excerpts. If the clip does not meet these requirements, it may not be shown.

The producers shall provide the Academy the right to use the excerpts for any voting purposes, and for any nonprofit purposes of the Academy Museum, the Academy Foundation or Academy websites.

- E. For nomination purposes, eligibility of the contributor(s) to the makeup and/or hairstyling achievement shall be determined by the Makeup Artists and Hairstylists Branch Executive Committee.
- F. Makeup Artists and Hairstylists Branch members shall meet to screen the excerpts from the motion pictures (see Paragraph II.D above). All Makeup Artists and Hairstylists Branch members who have seen all ten of the shortlisted films will vote in the order of their preference for not more than five motion pictures. The five motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the Makeup and Hairstyling award.

Makeup Artists and Hairstylists Branch members unable to attend the voting screening, but who have seen all the motion pictures under consideration, will receive ballots.

- G. Final voting for the Makeup and Hairstyling award shall be restricted to active and life Academy members.

- H. Such other rules or modifications as may be necessary for the proper conduct of this award shall be adopted by the Makeup Artists and Hairstylists Branch Executive Committee, subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.

RULE EIGHTEEN SPECIAL RULES FOR THE MUSIC AWARDS

I. CATEGORIES

A. Original Score:

An original score is a substantial body of music that serves as original dramatic underscoring and is written specifically for the motion picture by the submitting composer(s).

B. Original Song:

An original song consists of words and music, both of which are original and **written specifically for the motion picture**. There must be a clearly audible, intelligible, substantive rendition (not necessarily visually presented) of both lyric and melody, used in the body of the motion picture or as the first music cue in the end credits.

C. Original Musical:

An original musical consists of not fewer than five original songs (as defined in Paragraph I.B above) by the same writer or team of writers, either used as voiceovers or visually performed. Each of these songs must be substantively rendered, clearly audible, and intelligible, and must further the storyline of the motion picture. An arbitrary group of songs unessential to the storyline will not be considered eligible.

II. ELIGIBILITY

- A. The work must be the result of a creative interaction between the filmmaker(s) and the composer(s) and/or songwriter(s) who have been engaged to work directly on the motion picture.
- B. A score must be created specifically for the eligible feature-length motion picture and comprise a minimum of 35% of the total music in the film.
1. If a score does not meet the minimum 35%, the composer may submit a letter to the Branch Executive Committee, stating reasons for the score to be accepted for consideration. All letters must be received by the due dates published by the Academy for the current Awards cycle.
 2. The decision of the Music Branch Executive Committee shall be final.
- C. In cases such as sequels and franchises from any media, the score must consist of more than 80% newly composed music which does not contain any pre-existing themes borrowed from previous scores in the franchise.
- D. The work must be recorded for use in the motion picture **prior** to any other usage, including public performance or exploitation through any media whatsoever.
- E. Only the **principal composer(s) or songwriter(s)** responsible for the conception and execution of the work **as a whole** shall be eligible for an award. Expressly excluded from eligibility are all of the following:

1. partial contributors (i.e., any writer not responsible for the overall design of the work)
 2. contributors working on speculation
 3. performers, producers and/or arrangers not responsible for the creation of the original song or score
 4. music supervisors
- F. A score shall not be eligible if:
1. it has been diluted by the use of pre-existing music, or
 2. it has been diminished in impact by the predominant use of songs or any music not composed specifically for the film by the submitting composer, or
 3. it has been assembled from the music of more than one composer.
- G. No more than one statuette will normally be given in the Original Score category. A second statuette may be awarded when two credited composers function as equal collaborators, each contributing fully to the original dramatic underscore for the film.
- H. In cases where three or more credited composers function as equal collaborators, a single statuette may be awarded to the group. Each composer must agree to the single "group statuette" option by signing and returning a Group Award form prior to the submission deadline. Final determination of the awardable composers in the group will be made by the Music Branch Executive Committee.
- I. No more than two statuettes will normally be given in the Original Song category. A third statuette may be awarded when there are three essentially equal writers of a song. The Music Branch Executive Committee has the right, in what it alone determines to be a very rare and extraordinary circumstance, to award a fourth statuette.
- J. In cases where five or more credited songwriters function as collaborators, a single statuette may be awarded to the group. Each songwriter must agree to the single "group statuette" option by signing and returning a Group Award form prior to the submission deadline. Final determination of the awardable songwriters in the group will be made by the Music Branch Executive Committee.
- K. In the case of an original musical, the composer or adapter of the instrumental score may qualify for an award if their contribution is deemed relevant and substantial.
- L. The Music Branch Executive Committee shall resolve all rules interpretations and all questions of eligibility.
- M. It is within the sole and confidential discretion of the Board of Governors to determine what awards, if any, shall be given.

III. SUBMISSION

- A. For an achievement to be eligible for nomination in any of the Music categories, the submission must be initiated either personally by the songwriter or composer, or by their authorized representative, or by an authorized representative of the distributing studio of that film.
- B. Submission forms must be signed by all submitting writers and must be accompanied by a complete final music cue sheet listing all music cues.
- C. Original Song submissions must further be accompanied by:

- A vocal lead sheet
 - A digital video clip of no more than three minutes of each song, showing how the song is used in the motion picture
 - A completed “Original Song Contribution Form,” obtainable from the Awards Submission site. The Music Branch Executive Committee will review all submission materials when making the determination of award-eligible songwriters.
 - No more than three (3) songs from any one film may be submitted for Original Song, regardless of writer(s).
- D. Original Score submission forms must further be accompanied by:
- A completed “Music Breakdown Form” obtainable from the Awards Submission site
 - A final cue sheet
 - In cases where other non-submitting composers have contributed original music in the film – either by shared authorship of cues or by additional cues not shared with the submitting composer – a letter signed by ALL listed composers explaining the contribution of each must be submitted to the Music Branch Executive Committee by the submission deadline along with all other required materials.
- E. The composer’s on-screen credit and submission form, as well as the actual cue sheet for the music as used in the film and supplied by the film company, shall be used by the Music Branch Executive Committee to help determine the eligibility of the score.
- F. Submissions may be made prior to the film’s Los Angeles County qualifying run but must be made no later than 60 days after such opening, or by the submission deadline of **5 p.m. PT on Wednesday, November 1, 2023**, whichever comes first. New submissions will not be accepted beyond this date; however, for existing submissions an extension may be granted at the Academy’s discretion **only** for the purposes of delivery of supplemental materials such as video clips or final cue sheets.
- G. The Music Branch Executive Committee has the right, but not the obligation, to submit any eligible works in all three categories, but must do so no later than the submission deadline published by the Academy.

IV. VOTING

- A. Works shall be judged on their effectiveness, craftsmanship, creative substance and relevance to the dramatic whole, and only as presented within the motion picture. Extended, revised, enhanced or alternate versions outside of the film shall not be considered.
- B. Films eligible for Original Score and film clips of eligible Original Songs shall be viewed by all members of the Music Branch who will vote in the order of their preference for not more than fifteen achievements in each category. The fifteen achievements receiving the highest number of votes in each category shall advance to next round of voting.
- C. Five nominees for Original Song and five nominees for Original Score will then be chosen by a second round of balloting. Members shall vote in the order of their preference for not more than five achievements in each category. The five achievements receiving the highest number of votes in each category shall become the nominations for final voting for the award.
- D. No more than two songs from any one film by the exact same writers may be shortlisted. If more than two songs from a film by the exact same writers are in contention, the two songs with the most votes will advance to the shortlist. However, no more than two songs from any one film, regardless of writers, may be nominated for the Original Song award.
- E. If there are twenty-five or fewer qualified works submitted in any category, the Music Branch Executive Committee may recommend to the Board of Governors that nominations be limited to

three. If there are nine or fewer qualifying works submitted in any category, the Executive Committee may recommend to the Board of Governors that no award be given in that category for the current Awards year.

- F. The category of Original Musical may be activated only by special request of the Music Branch Executive Committee to the Board of Governors in a year when the field of eligible submissions is determined to be of sufficient quantity and quality to justify award competition.
- G. Final voting for each category shall be restricted to active and life Academy members.

**RULE NINETEEN
SPECIAL RULES FOR THE
BEST PICTURE OF THE YEAR AWARD**

1. A Reminder List of all eligible motion pictures shall be made available along with a nominations ballot to all active and life members of the Academy.
2. Eligibility in the Best Picture category is contingent upon submission of the Representation and Inclusion Entry Form (RAISE), and the motion picture meeting the requirements of two out of the four Representation and Inclusion Standards.
3. All active and life members of the Academy shall vote in the order of their preference for not more than ten motion pictures. The ten motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the Best Picture award.
4. The individual(s) who shall be credited for Academy Awards purposes must have screen credit of "producer" or "produced by." Persons with screen credits of executive producer, co-producer, associate producer, line producer, produced in association with or any other credit shall not receive nominations or Academy statuettes. The nominees will be those three or fewer producers who have performed the major portion of the producing functions. In determining the number of producers eligible for nomination, a bona fide team of not more than two people shall be considered to be a single "producer" if the two individuals have had an established producing partnership as determined by the PGA's Producing Partnership Panel. To qualify as a producer nominee for a nominated picture, the producer must have been determined eligible for a PGA award for the picture, or have appealed the PGA's refusal of such eligibility. Final determination of the qualifying producer nominees for each nominated picture will be made by the Producers Branch Executive Committee, including the right to name any additional qualified producer as a nominee.
5. The Producers Branch Executive Committee shall resolve all questions of eligibility and rules.
6. Final voting for the Best Picture award shall be restricted to active and life Academy members.

**RULE TWENTY
SPECIAL RULES FOR THE
PRODUCTION DESIGN AWARD**

1. A Reminder List of all eligible motion pictures shall be made available along with a nominations ballot to all members of the Production Design Branch, who shall vote in the order of their preference for not more than five motion pictures.
2. The five motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the Production Design award.

3. Prior to the start of nominations voting, a meeting of the Production Design Branch shall be held to rule on the eligibility of all productions for Awards consideration. Eligibility for this award shall be limited to the production designer and set decorator **primarily responsible** for the design of the production and the execution of that concept. An art director may be considered eligible for the Production Design award only when a production designer is absent from the credits. When the environment of a film is substantially composed of animation and digital artistry, the designer most responsible for that achievement also may be considered. In the case of fully animated feature films, the production designer alone shall be considered; a set decorator shall not be considered unless physical sets were constructed for that film.
4. The Production Design Branch shall have the discretion to give more weight to design than to execution. Any submission requesting award eligibility for more than one production designer, more than one set decorator, more than one art director or an additional artist, exhibiting extraordinary circumstances, must be accompanied by a letter of justification submitted by the producer and the production designer to the Academy no later than 5 p.m. PT on November 15, 2023. These circumstances will be reviewed at a special meeting of the Production Design Branch; however, in no case will more than one additional award be considered.
5. Except as indicated above, recognition in the form of the Academy statuette shall be given for the production design and for the set decoration of the motion picture receiving the Production Design award.
6. Final voting for the Production Design award shall be restricted to active and life Academy members.

**RULE TWENTY-ONE
SPECIAL RULES FOR THE
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL AWARDS**

1. Academy Awards for scientific and technical achievement shall be made by the Board of Governors upon recommendation of the Scientific and Technical Awards Committee. Awards may be given for devices, methods, formulas, discoveries, or inventions of special and outstanding value to the motion picture arts and sciences.
2. Except in extraordinary circumstances, no awards shall be given posthumously. No awards shall be given where all recipients are deceased. No Academy Award of Merit may be given posthumously.
3. The Academy President shall appoint outstanding representatives of the motion picture and technical fields to serve on the Scientific and Technical Awards Committee. The committee will be dissolved upon the completion of its annual term.
4. To avoid conflicts of interest, individuals directly involved with any achievement under awards consideration shall not participate on the awards committee and its advisory groups. Further, members of the committee and its advisory groups who have a personal connection with any achievement shall not be present during deliberation and shall abstain from voting on the achievement. Finally, individuals who work at the same organization as a potential award recipient but who are not associated with the achievement may participate but shall abstain from voting on the achievement.
5. Awards for scientific and technical achievement may be granted in any of the following three classifications:

**ACADEMY AWARD OF MERIT
(Academy Statuette)**

For those achievements that have an extraordinary influence upon the advancement of the motion picture arts and sciences.

**SCIENTIFIC AND ENGINEERING AWARD
(Academy Plaque)**

For those achievements that exhibit a high level of engineering and are important to the progress of the motion picture arts and sciences.

**TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
(Academy Certificate)**

For those achievements that sufficiently contribute to the progress of the motion picture arts and sciences.

6. The committee shall familiarize itself with all motion picture scientific and technical achievements of the current Awards year. To assist the committee, an official public announcement will be made, and requests shall be sent to individuals and organizations engaged in scientific and technical developments for motion pictures, inviting them to submit any information they may have regarding achievements that may have been developed within their own or in any other organizations.
7. A list of all areas of potential achievements under consideration shall be widely publicized to permit anyone with claims of prior or relevant invention, or of achievements similar to those under consideration, to bring them to the attention of the committee.
8. In evaluating the submitted achievements, the committee shall strive to seek out other items similar to those being considered for awards. If such items are discovered, they may be considered on an equal basis.
9. The committee shall then conduct a series of meetings and examinations and shall arrange for such demonstrations as are necessary to evaluate the achievements properly and make recommendations for action by the Board of Governors.
10. The committee may appoint advisory groups for each technical classification in which there are achievements to be considered. The chair of each advisory group shall be one of the members of the advisory group and shall conduct its meetings and discussions.
11. Each advisory group shall consider all achievements in its field. The advisory groups shall evaluate those achievements and forward their conclusions to the Scientific and Technical Awards Committee in the form of a written report prepared by the respective advisory group chairs.
12. All voting by the Scientific and Technical Awards Committee shall be done by secret ballot. All decisions as to award recommendations and classifications shall require a two-thirds majority vote of those attending and not abstaining.
13. The committee shall carefully evaluate all information regarding the actual authorship of each achievement being considered for an award and shall, at its sole discretion, identify the individual(s) and/or organization(s) to be recognized. The committee shall recommend to the Board of Governors the person(s) and/or organization(s) to whom an award shall be made, the classification of award and the text thereof.
14. In recommending awards, the committee will judge to the best of its ability the scientific and technical merits of the achievements, but does not warrant that the person or persons who are named on the award were responsible for the origin or development of the entire achievement.
15. Full claim for originality and development of each achievement must be established to the satisfaction of the committee. If any controversy should arise as to the origin or authorship of an achievement, the committee may request that the Board of Governors postpone action until proper credit is established.

16. It shall be within the discretion of the committee to recommend that no awards be given.
17. It shall be within the discretion of the committee to review any Academy Award conferred for scientific and technical achievement to determine subsequent to the granting of such award whether the classification of such achievement should be elevated by reason of its contribution to the motion picture arts and sciences, and to recommend elevation in classification to the Board of Governors.
18. Such other rules as may be considered necessary for the proper conduct of these awards shall be adopted by the Scientific and Technical Awards Committee, subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.

**RULE TWENTY-TWO
SPECIAL RULES FOR THE
SOUND AWARD**

1. A Reminder List of all eligible motion pictures shall be made available along with a nominations ballot to all members of the Sound Branch.
3. Preliminary voting shall produce a shortlist of ten motion pictures. Sound Branch members shall vote in order of their preference for not more than ten pictures to be considered for the Sound award. The ten motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall advance to next round of voting.
4. The Academy must receive the names of the individuals responsible for the work through the Oscars Submission Form (General Entry) by the General Entry submission deadline, 5 p.m. PT on November 15, 2023.
5. The Sound Branch Executive Committee will request that producers provide opportunities to view their motion pictures via the Academy Screening Room, advance theatrical screenings or screeners. This is required in instances where a title will be released after the preliminary voting cycle opens for shortlist selection.
6. When a motion picture is shortlisted, the sound team responsible for the motion picture selected for Awards consideration shall be required to provide a DCP of one continuous clip from their film's release master, highlighting the sound achievements. This clip will be screened by the Sound Branch at a nominating screening, prior to nominations voting. For archival purposes, a DCDM must be provided.
 - a. Clips must be from the final release version of the motion picture and may be up to ten (10) minutes in total running time per title.
 - b. Each clip must be exactly as it appears in the final release version; no cuts, edits or audio manipulation of the clip will be permitted, beyond what is technically required to create the presentation reel.
 - c. The excerpted clip must be presented in the same sound format(s) as used in the final release version of the motion picture. All submissions should be supplied as a fully authored DCP, with NO encryption.
 - d. If the clip does not meet these requirements, the producers shall be notified and given an opportunity to make corrections within the deadline period; otherwise it will not be exhibited.
 - e. The producers shall provide the Academy the right to use the reel for any voting purposes, and for any nonprofit purposes of the Academy Museum, the Academy Foundation or Academy websites.
 - f. A multimedia file version of the clip shall be provided for use in the production of the Academy Awards telecast.
 - g. Clips shall become the property of the Academy and placed in the Academy Film Archive, with the proviso that the Academy will not use the clips for commercial gain.

6. To determine nominations, all Sound Branch members will vote in the order of their preference for not more than five of the motion pictures from the shortlist. The five motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the Sound award.
7. No more than six individuals per motion picture shall be named as designated nominees for the Sound award.
8. Eligibility for this award shall be limited to the creative team comprised of, in the following order:

- a. no more than one production sound mixer

The production sound mixer is the individual who served in that capacity for at least 2/3 of the principal photography schedule. Should there be two individuals whose respective time on the show was less than the 2/3 minimum, the producer must submit a letter to the Sound Branch Executive Committee by the deadline published by the Academy, explaining the eligibility of the designated nominee. The Sound Branch Executive Committee will make a final determination of eligibility.

- b. no more than two supervising sound editors

The sound editing supervisor(s) must have been directly involved in and primarily responsible for the planning, creation, direction and execution of the sound design and editing for the motion picture. The supervisor(s) must be the primary creative decision maker and principal interpreter of the director's vision to the sound editing team. The supervisor(s) must approve the sound effects and their specific placement in the show, coordinate the creation of newly designed sound and Foley effects, and coordinate the editing of both production and post-sync dialogue. The supervisor(s) must participate and contribute during the creation of the pre-mixes as well as be present throughout the entire final sound mix. In the event the above responsibilities are divided, both co-supervisors must adhere to the above criteria.

- c. no more than three rerecording mixers

No more than three eligible co-rerecording mixers who have contributed substantially to the final sound mix shall be designated for Academy Awards purposes. The rerecording mixer(s) must have combined the various sound elements into the final soundtrack under the approval of the director. They must have been present for all creative decisions, and executed any changes, alterations or fixes requested by the director. Rerecording mixers who only provided pre-dubs or pre-mixes, or materials for international versions, are not eligible.

For the ten shortlisted films, each potentially eligible sound team member must submit a letter to the Sound Branch Executive Committee describing their contributions in detail. Letters must be received by the deadline published by the Academy.

9. Should any nominated individual have performed multiple roles on one production (such as supervising sound editor and rerecording mixer), that individual will receive only one citation in the nomination and one statuette.
10. The Sound Branch Executive Committee has the right to return any eligibility question to the creative team (including the producer and director) for their resolution. The creative team must demonstrate overwhelming support and consensus for any exception. If the creative team is unable to agree, the Executive Committee reserves the right to deem that title ineligible.

11. Special Circumstances

In the event that a member of the team responsible for the sound of a motion picture is deemed noteworthy but does not conform to the breakdown of roles in Paragraph 8 above, the individuals

named in the Oscars Submission Form (General Entry) from the Academy's Submission site may deviate from the aforementioned breakdown in Paragraph 8.

- a. The submission must include those responsible for production sound mixing, sound editing supervision and rerecording mixing of the film. These positions may not be exchanged for a special circumstance request.
 - b. A letter of explanation regarding any requested exceptions to Paragraph 8 must be submitted to sound@oscars.org by 5 p.m. PT on November 15, 2023.
 - c. The letter of explanation shall be submitted by the producer or director and include written support for the exception from a majority of the eligible sound team.
 - d. The Sound Branch Executive Committee will review the request and accompanying letter(s).
 - e. The decision of the Sound Branch Executive Committee on special circumstances eligibility shall be final.
12. The Theater Sound Inspection Committee shall inspect and approve the projection sound systems of the Academy's theaters prior to the annual screening of nominated achievements. No changes may be made in the sound systems after final approval by the Committee. Any standard release print (DCP) that plays on the normal projection sound system of the Academy's theaters requires no special approval of the Committee. Any production that deviates from the normal sound system, or requires modification of the system, must be approved by a majority of the Committee before the final check of the system. Notification of such deviation or modification requirements must be submitted to the Academy at least three weeks in advance of the theater inspection meeting. At the post-nomination screenings (AKA "nomination screenings") movies will be run at the Academy Standard sound level.
13. Final voting for the Sound award shall be restricted to active and life Academy members.
14. Such other rules or modifications as may be necessary for the proper conduct of this award shall be adopted by the Sound Branch Executive Committee, subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.

RULE TWENTY-THREE SPECIAL RULES FOR THE VISUAL EFFECTS AWARD

1. The Academy President shall appoint a chair who will preside over an Executive Committee that is composed of active and life members of the Visual Effects Branch.
2. The Visual Effects Branch Executive Committee shall review a reminder list of all eligible films and, through a series of meetings, shall vote online to select a maximum of twenty films for further consideration. Achievements shall be judged within the parameters defined by the Executive Committee and on the basis of:
 - a. consideration of the contribution the visual effects make to the overall production, and
 - b. the artistry, skill, fidelity, and technical achievement with which the visual illusions are achieved.
3. To avoid conflicts of interest, committee members having a personal connection with any achievement shall not be present during deliberation and shall abstain from voting on the achievement. Individuals who worked directly on the film in any capacity, but who are not associated with the achievement, may participate but shall abstain from voting on the achievement.

4. The Executive Committee will request that producers provide opportunities to view their films through advance screenings or screeners. This is especially encouraged when a film will be released after November 15, 2023. If the film is not available by two weeks prior to the selection meeting, excerpts may be submitted.
5. The producers of the twenty films under further consideration (or their designees) shall be requested to provide the committee with the following:
 - a. The names and titles of the primary individuals – not to exceed four in number – directly involved with, and principally responsible for, the visual effects achieved and a description of their contributions. **Additional names will not be considered.** The Visual Effects award is a craft award. For that reason, producers, coordinators and executives are not eligible for this award, unless they acted in the capacity of craftspeople with primary creative responsibility for the achievement.
 - b. Executive Committee supplementary video – not to exceed three minutes in total running time – providing firsthand information from the lead visual effects supervisor regarding precisely what was created as a visual or mechanical effect, in order to arrive at the finished work.
6. Any disputes concerning the list of designated nominees that is submitted by the film's producers will not be accepted without a formal appeal. Appeals should contain short statements from the individuals concerned, and from team members working directly with the individuals, as appropriate. Appeals must be submitted to the committee by December 15, 2023.
7. The producers of the ten films that will be considered for nomination (or their designees) shall be requested to provide the committee with the following:
 - a. Written descriptions and visual material illustrating the procedures used to create the effects.
 - b. The Bake-Off reel – not to exceed ten minutes in total running time – containing excerpts from the digital release DCP of the motion picture. The Bake-Off reel will present the effects shots in movie order, with minor exceptions allowed. This composition playlist must reference only the theatrical release DCP media essence files. Producers wishing to submit a film excerpt reel instead may do so, provided the motion picture was originally released in that format. In this case, a duplicate excerpt reel from the composite release print must be provided for archiving. All formats containing narration are required to include closed captioning.
 - c. Intro Before and After reel – not to exceed three minutes in total running time – showing the progression of a minimum of two steps in the creation of a finished shot, from raw plate to finished product, or – in the case of shots or sequences created entirely off the set – storyboards, concept art or previsualization. The audio should be silent (MOS) overlaid with voice-over narration explaining the material that is either prerecorded or provided by an attending designated nominee. The content of this reel should be directly related to the material in the Bake-Off reel. All formats containing overlaid narration are required to include closed captioning.
 - d. A multimedia file version of the composition playlist or excerpt reel for use in the production of the Academy Awards telecast.
 - e. Display artwork used to represent the film on the Academy Screening Room.
8. The producers shall provide the Academy the right to use the excerpts for any voting purposes, and for any nonprofit purposes of the Academy Museum, the Academy Foundation or Academy websites.

9. Visual effects, as an achievement or a craft, shall be determined by the Visual Effects Branch Executive Committee. Eligibility of the submitted body of work and contributor(s) to the achievement, for nomination purposes, shall also be determined by the committee.
10. Active voting members of the Visual Effects Branch shall be eligible to view the excerpts of the ten films under consideration at the annual nominating screening which is required viewing to vote. Written descriptions of the effects shall be made available to all active branch members prior to the screening.
11. The producers (or their designees) may attend the nominating screening, however, only the designated nominees will be allowed to address branch members.
12. Following the running of the excerpts and discussion relative to the achievements, voting shall be conducted as follows:
 - a. An online ballot shall be submitted by all eligible voting members of the Visual Effects Branch on the ten films under consideration.
 - b. Five films shall be selected, using reweighted range voting, to become the nominations for final voting for the Visual Effects award.
 - c. Final voting for the Visual Effects award shall be restricted to active and life Academy members.
13. Composition playlists and excerpt reels shall become the property of the Academy and be placed in the Academy Film Archive, with the proviso that the Academy will not use the excerpts for commercial gain.
14. Such other rules or procedures necessary for the proper conduct of this award shall be adopted by the Visual Effects Branch Executive Committee, subject to the approval of the Board of Governors.

**RULE TWENTY-FOUR
SPECIAL RULES FOR THE
WRITING AWARDS**

1. An award shall be given for the best achievement in each of two categories:
Adapted Screenplay
Original Screenplay
2. To be eligible in either Writing category, an explicit screenwriting credit must be present in the film's legal billing. Credited production companies are ineligible for consideration in the Writing categories.
3. The Writers Branch Executive Committee will review the legal billing for all eligible titles. Reminder Lists of all eligible screenplays in each category shall be made available along with nominations ballots to all members of the Writers Branch, who shall vote in the order of their preference for not more than five screenplays in each category.
4. The five screenplays in each category receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the Writing awards.
5. The Writers Branch Executive Committee shall resolve all questions of eligibility and rules.
6. Final voting for the Writing awards shall be restricted to active and life Academy members.

**RULE TWENTY-FIVE
RULES FOR THE
GOVERNORS AWARDS**

I. DEFINITIONS

The Governors Awards include the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award, the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award and the Honorary Award. They are determined and bestowed by the Board of Governors.

II. NOMINATING AND VOTING PROCEDURES

- A. Nominations for the Governors Awards shall be made at an annually designated meeting of the Board of Governors. Nominations for all three awards shall be conducted as a single procedure in which a nominee is named along with the award for which they are proposed.
- B. When the nominations are closed, voting shall be conducted by secret ballot. The governors shall indicate their preference for a Governors Award by selecting one candidate from among the names listed. The candidate who receives a majority of the votes shall then stand for further consideration. If a tie occurs, a run-off vote between the tied candidates shall take place until a preferred candidate is determined.
- C. If after the first round no candidate receives a majority of the votes, all candidates with less than 10% of the votes shall be eliminated and the remaining candidates shall stand for a second round of voting. If after the second round of voting no candidate receives a majority of the votes, the one candidate receiving the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated and the remaining candidates shall be voted upon. If, during any round of voting in which no candidate receives a majority, there are two or more candidates tied with the lowest number of votes, and if they do not comprise more than half of the entire field of candidates still under consideration, then all of those candidates who are tied with the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated. If those tied with the lowest number of votes comprise more than half of the remaining field, then the governors shall vote by ranking those who are tied in order of preference; the resulting top vote-getter shall remain on the ballot and the others shall be eliminated. This process of elimination shall continue until a candidate with a majority is determined.
- D. A second and third Governors Award may also be presented, following the same nominating and voting procedures as described above. A fourth Governors Award may be presented only if a majority of governors present first vote that a fourth award should be given. If the vote to give a fourth Governors Award is passed, the award will be decided using the same nominating and voting procedures as described.

III. LIMITATIONS

- A. No more than **four** Governors Awards may be presented in a given Awards year.
- B. No more than one Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award and one Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award may be presented in a given Awards year. There is no such restriction on the Honorary Award.
- C. No proxies shall be permitted in balloting for any Governors Award.
- D. No Governors Award shall be voted posthumously.
- E. No sitting member of the Board of Governors shall be eligible to receive a Governors Award.
- F. No individual shall be eligible to receive any particular Governors Award more than once.

**RULE TWENTY-SIX
RULES FOR THE
SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

1. This award shall be given for an achievement which makes an exceptional contribution to the motion picture for which it was created, but for which there is no annual award category. Such award shall only be conferred, however, for achievements in productions that also qualify under Rules Two and Three.
2. Nominations for the Special Achievement Award shall be made at a special meeting of the Board of Governors.
3. Following completion of the nominations for this award, a secret ballot shall be taken on which the governors vote for the nominee of their preference. The nominee receiving the highest numerical score shall be considered further in a second secret ballot to determine if this award shall be given. If the achievement receives a vote of **two-thirds** of the governors present, the person(s) named as being responsible for the achievement shall receive the Special Achievement Award.
4. No proxies shall be permitted in balloting for the Special Achievement Award.
5. Such other rules or modifications as may be necessary for the proper conduct of this award shall be adopted by the Board of Governors.

**RULE TWENTY-SEVEN
RULES FOR THE
SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SPECIAL AWARDS**

1. The Scientific and Technical Special Awards may include:
 - a. **GORDON E. SAWYER AWARD** (Statuette). This award shall be given to an individual whose technological contributions have made an extraordinary and lasting impact on the motion picture industry.
 - b. **AWARD OF COMMENDATION** (Special Plaque). This award shall be given in recognition of special technical achievements in the motion picture arts and sciences.
2. The Service Awards may include:
 - a. **JOHN A. BONNER AWARD** (Medallion). This award shall be given to an individual in recognition of extraordinary service to the motion picture industry.
3. A Special Awards Review Subcommittee will identify potential candidates for the **Gordon E. Sawyer Award** and the **John A. Bonner Award**. This committee will be composed of the chair and vice chair of the Scientific and Technical Awards Committee, the chair of the Awards Committee, three other members of the Awards Committee, and five Academy members selected by the President.
 - a. Any candidate must be endorsed by two members of the Special Awards Review Subcommittee to be considered.
 - b. The Special Awards Review Subcommittee will form surrogate groups to investigate the candidates' careers and contributions.

- c. Each surrogate group will produce a report on each candidate which will include a minimum of **three** letters of recommendation from active Academy members.
4. The Scientific and Technical Awards Committee may propose candidates for the **Award of Commendation** and forward their recommendations to the Awards Committee for consideration.
5. No sitting member of the Board of Governors shall be eligible to receive the Gordon E. Sawyer Award or the John A. Bonner Award, and shall remain ineligible for a period of three years after their term has ended. Governors are eligible for the Award of Commendation.
6. No current employee of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences shall be eligible for the Gordon E. Sawyer Award or the John A. Bonner Award, and shall remain ineligible for a period of three years after their employment has ended. Employees are eligible for the Award of Commendation.
7. The names of the proposed award recipients, along with the corresponding summary reports and letters of recommendation, will be brought before the Awards Committee. A vote of **two-thirds** of the committee members is necessary to approve and endorse each proposal to be presented to the Board of Governors.
8. The names of the award recipients approved by the Awards Committee, along with the corresponding summary reports and letters of recommendation, will then be brought before the Board of Governors for consideration. A vote of **two-thirds** of the Board of Governors is necessary to bestow any of these awards.
9. No more than one Gordon E. Sawyer Award and one John A. Bonner Award may be presented in a given Awards year. There is no such restriction on the Award of Commendation.
10. All voting will be done by secret ballot. No proxies shall be permitted in balloting for any of these Special Awards. No Special Awards shall be voted posthumously.
11. Presentation of these awards is made at a special event honoring scientific and technical achievements.