



Submission Categories

Selected films from all categories will be presented to the public at the 26th Annual Screamfest Horror Film Festival currently scheduled to take place in October 6– 15th, 2026 (“SHFF26”). Since submission of a film constitutes acceptance of these Entry Rules & Regulations (by you and your agents), please review this document carefully.

Submitted projects must not:

- have screened or exhibited publicly in the Los Angeles County region
- have had ANY public screening (including cast and crew), broadcast, distribution, or exhibition before October 6th, 2026. *

Key Dates and Entry Fees

	Features (film length ≥ 40 minutes)	Extended Short (film length ≥ 26 – 39.9 minutes)	Short (film length 10 – 25.9 minutes)	Super Short (film length < 10 minutes)
Early	Apr 15, 2026 \$52	Apr 15, 2026 \$42	Apr 15, 2026 \$37	Apr 15, 2026 \$32
Regular	July 15, 2026 \$57	July 15, 2026 \$47	July 15, 2026 \$42	July 15, 2026 \$37
Final	Aug 1, 2026 \$67	Aug 1, 2026 \$57	Aug 1, 2026 \$52	Aug 1, 2026 \$47
Extended Final	Aug 15, 2026 \$82	Aug 15, 2026 \$72	Aug 15, 2026 \$67	Aug 15, 2026 \$62

ALL DEADLINES CLOSE AT 11:59 PM PST

Questions? Email info@screamfestla.com Submit Film: <https://screamfestla.com/submissions/submit-film>

A platform for independent filmmaking, Screamefest supports upcoming and established filmmakers from around the world, discovers franchise making films and introduces filmmakers through film premieres and post-screening activities. Feature films selected to the SHFF26 will be scheduled according to the discretion of the festival programmers. The festival requires that all films be submitted via a password-protected streaming URL link.

Please create this link in advance of beginning your online submission form. Links must remain active and accessible through October 6, 2026.

Work-In-Progress Submissions: Submissions may be in work-in-progress form; however, films that are not final cuts must be clearly marked Work in Progress (“WIP”) or Rough Cut with an indication of what will change or what is missing (e.g., temp sound, digital output, missing CGI, temporary soundtrack, etc.) either indicated in the project cut itself or within the copy display in the streaming link. As long as the streaming link remains the same and password does not change you may update the link with newer cuts as they are available until the deadline you submitted in closes. We recommend you submit your Work-In-Progress film on the final submission deadline.

Entry Fee Note: Entry fees are in U.S. Dollars, are per project and are non-refundable. The Festival reserves the right to disqualify a submission, without refund of any kind, if eligibility requirements are not met including if eligibility status changes post-submission.

Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration: ALL CATEGORIES:

- (1) You must fully comply with these Entry Rules & Regulations, including all deadlines, project length, entry material, and other requirements.
- (2) Non-English language projects must have English subtitles at the time submitted. Dialogue lists will not be accepted.
- (3) The project **MUST** maintain at **minimum a “Los Angeles County” premiere status prior to SHFF26 (“Premiere”; see criteria in charts, below) • “Los Angeles County” means the cities located within Los Angeles County not just the City of LA. If you are unsure, please email us.**
- (4) Both prior to and throughout SHFF26 (except as otherwise expressly noted below), the project must meet the following criteria (see applicable chart below)

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FEATURES & SHORTS Eligibility Chart	ELIGIBLE	INELIGIBLE
ANY public screening, commercial theatrical, television, or internet play in LA County before October 6, 2026		✓
Theatrical - Any limited exhibition (festivals) in the US excluding LA County and on/after January 1, 2025 (Short films - competing short films must be no more than a year old at the time of the festival)	✓	
Theatrical - Limited commercial exhibition only outside of the US and on/after January 1, 2025	✓	
Digital - Any digital broadcast available to US audiences (including via a non-password protected website, whether commercial or personal, e.g. Vimeo, YouTube, etc.)		✓
Digital - Limited internet broadcast available only outside of the US and on/before October 6, 2026.	✓	
Festival - Any exhibition held IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY as part of a film festival (except for SHFF26 screenings)		✓
For SELECTED films: theatrical, DVD, TV, digital and/or festival screenings scheduled to be held DURING SHFF26 but after the Feature's Premiere, if approved in advance by the Festival.	✓	
Digital Festival Screenings: projects that participated in virtual festivals in 2025-2026 are not eligible.		✓

Online Screenings: Films that have premiered online in 2025/2026 as part of a digital or online festival, will not be considered for SHFF26. Any project that is available commercially or pay-per-view in the US is not eligible.

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Eligibility Note: If at any point following its initial selection, the festival determines that a submission no longer meets all the eligibility criteria described above, such submission will be deemed ineligible

How to Enter

Apply online at <https://screamfestla.com/submissions/submit-film> or via Film Freeway at <https://filmfreeway.com/ScreamfestHorrorFilmFestival> and, after completing the online entry form, select “submit.” Please note the online entry form will require you to submit a password-protected URL that links to your film, so plan accordingly and be sure the project has been fully uploaded to the viewing platform and the link and password work prior to completing your online entry form.

Entry Materials

All entries must include the following:

- (1) An official SHFF26 online entry form, properly completed.
- (2) A private and/or password protected streaming link of the film.
- (3) The entry fee(s) for the film submission (see the “Entry Fees” section above), which are payable ONLY by credit card (American Express, Visa, MasterCard or Discover through PayPal).

Note: It is your sole responsibility to ensure that your online entry form is properly submitted. If you’ve submitted through the Screamfest platform and have not received an email confirmation, check your spam or junk folder in your mail application. You may email the Festival at info@screamfestla.com to follow up if you still cannot locate it.

If you have submitted through Film Freeway, please make your project status is marked as “IN CONSIDERATION”, otherwise you have not completed your submission with us. If you do not complete your submission with us on Film Freeway by the submission closing date, your submission will be removed.

It is also your responsibility to ensure the streaming link is functional and the link and password submitted are accurate. The password protected link must be active at least through October 6th, 2026. Regardless of your method of entry, all entry materials MUST be received by the Festival no later than the applicable deadlines referenced above. The Festival reserves the right to disqualify any submission, without refund of any kind, if it is not completed in accordance with these Entry Rules and Regulations.

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Multiple Entries

FEATURES and SHORTS: Each project must be individually submitted and accompanied by its own completed online entry form.

Re-Entry

If your project was submitted and considered for previous editions of the Screamefest Horror Film Festival, you may re-enter it if you have made significant changes and if all applicable eligibility requirements are met at the time of entry for SHFF26 (see above).

Your Film

Festival programmers select all films to be presented at SHFF26, with premiere status considered (see eligibility requirements above). Selected filmmakers will be notified by email or phone via the information provided on the submitted entry form. Make sure to update the festival with new contact information or any other festival correspondence prior to SHFF26 at info@screamefestla.com. If your project is accepted, your Premiere status will be confirmed with you and locked. **Should you accept any other festival selections that breaches this Premiere status commitment, the festival reserves the right to rescind the acceptance.**

IF YOUR FILM IS SELECTED

If your film is selected, please be advised you must fulfill the following requirements by the date(s) designated by the Festival:

- Filmmakers must deliver a final format (DCP) for festival screenings by September 15th. No exceptions will be permitted.
- For features and short films: DCP (must be DCI compliant)
- Production film stills
- Head shot of Director(s)
- Short biography of Director(s)
- Trailer link, synopsis, cast and crew and other film info that you will upload to your film content page.

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All entries selected into Screamfest grant Screamfest the right to use any footage from the preview screener and all submitted publicity photos and any other materials sent to us pertaining to this entry for SHFF26 promotional purposes, without limitations.

Projects selected to participate in SHFF26 will be shown in the date/time determined most appropriate by Festival programmers.

FEATURE FILMS

- Open to feature length films having at least a LA County “Premiere” at SHFF26 (see eligibility requirements above).
- Eligible for: Best Picture Best Director, Best Cinematography, Best Special Effects, Best Special Effects, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best SPFX Makeup, Best Editing and Best Musical Score.

SHORT FILMS

- Open to projects from all regions but must at least be a LA County “Premiere” (see eligibility requirements above).
- Eligible for: Best Short, Best Student Short Award. If enough Animated Horror Short films or Horror short comedies are selected for the festival, additional awards will be offered.
- Student Shorts must be produced through an accredited educational institution.
- Shorts will play either in a Shorts program usually held on the weekend of the festival or before a Feature film.

Awards

Films selected for the Screamfest Horror Film Festival’s competition sections are eligible to win the prestigious skull award designed by the legendary Stan Winston.