



MITTEN MAP FILM COMPETITION

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES (3 pages)

Mitten Map Film Competition (MMFC) is a project developed by the Michigan Film Festival (MFF) organizers to encourage filmmakers to produce new short films with a Michigan perspective. The films will be juried by an MFF committee and exhibited at the festival.

Prizes for best film will be awarded in two categories:

General and college student: Cash prize \$1000

Student K-12 (with ID): Cash prize \$200

Guideline summary:

Films must not be longer than ten (10) minutes in length, including credits if any. There is no minimum length, so long as the required elements are included. All styles and genres of film are accepted, including experimental and documentary. Films will be judged in large part based on how well the required elements fit relevantly into the story and/or aesthetics.

Required elements in films:

1. Each film **MUST** contain a shot where a character uses their own hands to represent the state of Michigan (residents of the U.P. know how to put the “rabbit” over the “mitten” when necessary) and then points to the location on their hand to refer to a geographical location on this hand “map” of Michigan.
2. Each film **MUST** contain a reference (can be very creative here: spoken reference, main object, minor prop, background image, etc) to **ONE** of the following state symbols:
 - a. State bird: Robin
 - b. State stone: Petoskey Stone
 - c. State nickname: The Wolverine State

- d. State flower: Apple Blossom
- e. State tree: White Pine

A selected group of submitted films will be exhibited during MFF and awards will be presented after the screening.

Please note: Films determined by the MFF committee to contain adult themes will be screened separately from general audience selections.

SUBMITTED MATERIALS

- Films must be submitted on DVD, aspect ratio 4:3 or 16:9.
- Completed entry form and check or money order for appropriate fee payable to West Michigan Film Video Alliance (partner organization and treasurer for MFF). Please write the title of the film on check or money order.
- No submissions will be accepted if postmarked after the entry date of July 15, 2009 unless the MFF committee agrees to special considerations.
- Do not send originals, films cannot be returned.
- Entry fees are as follows:
 - General/College Student: \$25
 - Student K-12 (with ID): \$10
- DEADLINE: Must be postmarked by July 15, 2009.

ENTRY REGULATIONS

- To qualify for the Mitten Map Film Competition, the film must be no longer than ten (10) minutes in length including credits and must contain the two required elements as listed in the summary above.
- Entrants must submit non-original DVD (NTSC only, 4:3 or 16:9 aspect ratio) for judging and possible screening. The DVDs must be clearly labeled with Entrant's name, film title and running time.
- No DVDs will be accepted if sent C.O.D.
- DVDs **WILL NOT BE RETURNED**. Do not send originals.
- Works in progress will not be accepted.

- Submissions will not be considered unless accompanied by the appropriate fee, completed entry form, a synopsis and a description of the two required elements. We are not able to waive entry fees.
- All entries that include language must be in English or contain English subtitles.
- The MFF committee must authorize exceptions to the festival regulations.

All submissions should be sent to (check payable to WMFVA):

Michigan Film Festival

PO Box 3665

Grand Rapids, MI 49501

DEADLINES AND FEES

Do not send originals, films cannot be returned.

Entry fees are as follows:

General/College Student: \$25

Student K-12 (with photocopy of ID): \$10

DEADLINE: Must be postmarked by July 15, 2009.