

The **Elgin Short Film Festival** (hereinafter referred to as the "ESFF") is a competitive film festival. Juries will screen all qualified film competition entries in the categories of "Live Action" and "Animated". The top three films in each category will be screened for the public via online streaming and in person at the **Elgin Short Film Festival on the evening of Saturday, September 18, 2021.**

Awards and monetary prizes will be presented to the top three overall films as voted on by the ESFF Finalist Judges and the viewing audience. A special People's Choice Award will be awarded from the top finalists based on votes cast by the audience during the intermission of the festival.

The mission of the Elgin Short Film Festival is to create a platform for filmmakers to reach the widest possible audience for their work. We encourage all interested filmmakers to apply and experience the art of short cinema in the beautiful Hemmens Cultural Center.

General Rules:

Since submission of a film constitutes acceptance of these Entry Rules & Regulations (by filmmakers and their agents), please review this document carefully.

To be eligible for consideration, entrants must fully comply with the following Rules & Regulations, including deadline and entry material requirements and selected film requirements.

Films must be no more than twenty (20) minutes in length (including credits).

1. Films must be **received** no later than August 20, 2021. Early Entry rates are available for entries received by July 30, 2021. See page 2 for details. The ESFF Committee may temporarily prohibit the acceptance of film entries or may advance the aforementioned submission deadline to any date prior to August 20, 2021 in the ESFF Committee's sole discretion without prior notice.
2. All entries must be either in English, contain English subtitles, or be dubbed in English.
3. ESFF will accept films that are the equivalent of an MPAA 'R' rating. However, the ESFF reserves the right to reject submissions which it considers inappropriate in the sole discretion of the ESFF Committee (e.g., submissions which contain excessive nudity, violence or vulgarity).

4. Films that have been previously submitted to the Elgin Short Film Festival, with the exception of 2020 entries, are NOT eligible for competition.
5. Films must be submitted electronically through the Film Freeway website at: <https://filmfreeway.com/festival/ElginShortFilmFestival>.
6. All entries must be a complete film. Submitted works that are deemed by the ESFF Committee to be a "work in progress," "rough cut," or a portion of a larger work **will not be accepted.**
7. Entrant confirms and warrants that he/she has the required legal authority to submit the entry into the Festival and to use all music, images, and content in the entry.
8. Submitted works must not have been commercially exhibited in the U.S. or publicly broadcast.
9. Selected films may be promoted through all media types and outlets for promotional purposes by the Hemmens Cultural Center and the City of Elgin. In addition, ESFF reserves the right to re-screen selected projects at events and promotional showcases featuring festival highlights.
10. Entrants must be 18 years of age or older. Underage filmmakers must have their film submitted by a parent or guardian over the age of 18.



EARLY ENTRY Deadline: Friday, July 30, 2021

Competition Entry Deadline: Friday, August 20, 2021

<https://filmfreeway.com/festival/ElginShortFilmFestival>

Each Early Entry: \$40

Each Entry: \$50

Film Competition Awards:

Awards will be presented only to the entrant(s) of the winning films as identified on the entry form. Awards will be presented on September 18, 2021 during the Elgin Short Film Festival at The Hemmens Cultural Center. Awards are based on overall merit of the entries. Jury members reserve the right not to grant an award.

Each ESFF finalist will receive four (4) passes to the ESFF on the evening of September 18, 2021. A listing and synopsis of the finalist films will be featured in the ESFF Program Book. ESFF reserves the right to edit program copy.

Judging & Selection: Preliminary judging will be done by the Elgin Short Film Festival Selection Committee prior to the evening of the film festival to determine the top five finalists in each category. If a film is selected for screening, a Festival officer will contact the entrant by phone or email.

Next-In Finalists: The top two selected films in each category, as voted on by the Selection Committee, will automatically make the finals. The next three selected films in each category will be screened as part of the **Elgin Fringe Festival** (September 2021, dates TBD). The film in each category receiving the most audience votes will be included for Festival presentation.

Final judging will be done by the members of the ESFF Judging Panel. Additional points will be awarded based on votes cast by members of the audience attending the screening. Combined audience votes will have the weight of one Judge.

Awards will be given as follows:

- **First Place** for Best Film: **Trophy and \$1,000**
- **Second Place** for Best Film: **Trophy and \$500**
- **Third Place** for Best Film: **Trophy and \$300**
- **The People's Choice Award** (based on audience votes cast during intermission): **Trophy**

Unless otherwise agreed to by the Elgin Short Film Festival committee in writing, awards will be given to the winning person(s) (as identified in the ESFF Entry Form) and will be fulfilled approximately 6 – 8 weeks after the conclusion of the ESFF or submission of required paperwork, whichever is later.

Award eligibility is subject to any restrictions or conditions imposed by these competition guidelines and rules or by applicable laws and regulations (international, federal, state or otherwise), and the award recipient is responsible for all applicable taxes, customs, tariffs, insurance and similar charges or costs (if any).

Notification:

The Selected Finalists will be notified directly by an ESFF Committee member.

To ensure timely notification - if your contact information changes between entry submission and our notification date please email changes immediately to:

elginshortfilmfest@cityofelgin.org

Entry materials cannot be returned.

Entry Deadlines and Fees:

- ✓ **Entries accepted beginning April 1, 2021**
- ✓ **Competition Entry Deadline – Received by August 20, 2021**
- ✓ **Entry Fee: \$50 per film / \$20 per film for students or supporting sponsor organizations.**
A copy of a current school ID must accompany entries to receive the student discount.
- ✓ **EARLY Entry Deadline - Received by July 30, 2021**
- ✓ **EARLY Entry Fee: \$40 per film / \$20 per film for students or supporting sponsor organizations.**
A copy of a current school ID must accompany entries to receive the student discount.

Enter Electronically at:

<https://filmfreeway.com/festival/ElginShortFilmFestival>

For more information visit:

www.hemmens.org/annualfilmfestival

Eligibility:

Employees, boards or commissions, public officials or agents of the City of Elgin, including but not limited to, members of the Cultural Arts Commission or members of the Judging Committee and Panel, and employees of Festival sponsors; and their immediate family (i.e., spouse, parents and step-parents, siblings, and step-siblings, children and step-children) and household members (anyone who shares the same residence at least three months per year) of each such employee or officer are not eligible for any cash award or prize relative to the ESFF. The ESFF is subject to all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Participation constitutes entrant's full and unconditional agreement to these official rules and the ESFF judging committee's and the City of Elgin's decisions, which are final and binding in all matters related to the ESFF. Winning a prize or award is contingent upon fulfilling all requirements set forth herein.

Acceptance of Festival Rules:

By entering, each participant agrees to: (a) comply with and be bound by the official rules and decisions of the ESFF judges which are binding and final and all matters relating to the competition; (b) release and hold harmless the City of Elgin, its employees, officers and officials, and any City of Elgin board or commission, including, but not limited to, the Cultural Arts Commission and its members from and against any and all claims, expenses, and liability of whatsoever nature, including, but not limited to, negligence and damages of any kind to

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persons and property, including but not limited to invasion of privacy (under appropriation, intrusion, public disclosure of private facts, false light in the public eye or other legal theory), defamation, slander, liable, violation of right of publicity, infringement of trademark, copyright or other intellectual property rights, property damage, or death or personal injury arising out of or relating to a participant's entry, creation of an entry or submission of an entry, participation in the ESFF, acceptance or use or misuse of any prize, and/or the broadcast, exploitation or use of an entry; and (c) indemnify, defend and hold harmless the City of Elgin, its boards and commissions, employees, officers and public officials from and against any and all claims, expenses and liabilities (including, but not limited to, attorneys' fees) arising out of or relating to an entrant's participation in the ESFF and/or entrant's acceptance, use or misuse of any prize or award.

Participation in the ESFF constitutes the winner's consent to the City's and its agents' use of any prize winner's name, likeness, photograph, voice, opinions, and/or hometown and state for promotional purposes in any media, without further payment or consideration.

The City of Elgin reserves the right to cancel, suspend and/or modify the ESFF, or any part of it, if any fraud, technical failures or any other factor beyond the City of Elgin's reasonable control impairs the integrity or proper functioning of the ESFF, as determined by the City of Elgin in its sole discretion. The City of Elgin reserves the right in its sole discretion to disqualify any individual it finds to be tampering with the entry process or the operation of the ESFF or to be acting in violation of the official rules or any other aspect of the ESFF in any disruptive manner. Any attempt by any person to deliberately undermine the legitimate operation of the ESFF may be a violation of criminal and/or civil law, and should such an attempt be made, the City of Elgin reserves the right to seek damages from any such person to the fullest extent permitted by law. The failure to enforce any terms of the official rules shall not constitute a waiver of that provision.

The City of Elgin, its officers, employees, officials, volunteers and any of its boards and commissions, including but not limited to, the Cultural Arts Commission (the "Released Parties") are not responsible for and shall not be liable for: (1) any incorrect or inaccurate information, whether caused by entrants, printing errors or by any of the equipment or programming associated with or utilized in the ESFF; (2) technical failures of any kind, including, but not limited to malfunctions, interruptions, or other technical disruptions; (3) unauthorized human intervention in any part of the entry process; (4) technical or human error which may occur in the administration of the ESFF or the processing of entries; or (5) any injury or damage to persons or property which may be caused, directly or indirectly, in whole or in part, from entrant's participation in the ESFF or receipt or use or misuse of any prize. If for any reason an entrant's entry is confirmed to have been erroneously deleted, lost or otherwise destroyed or corrupted, entrant's sole remedy is another entry in the ESFF if practicable, in the sole discretion of the Released Parties.

No more than the stated number and amount of prizes will be awarded. In the event that production, technical, programming or other reasons cause more than the stated number of prizes as set forth in these official rules to be claimed, the Released Parties reserve the right to award only the stated number of prizes.

Entrant agrees that: (i) any and all disputes, claims and causes of action arising out of or in connection with the ESFF or any prizes awarded other than those concerning the administration of the ESFF or the determination of a winner, shall be resolved individually, without resort to any form of class action; (ii) any and all disputes, claims and causes of action arising out of or in connection with the ESFF, or any prizes awarded, shall be subject to and governed by the laws of the State of Illinois and venue for the resolution of any such disputes, claims and causes of action shall be in the Circuit Court of Kane County, Illinois without jury; (iii) any and all claims, judgments and awards shall be limited to direct compensatory damages incurred, including costs associated with entering the ESFF, but in no event attorneys' fees; and (iv) under no circumstances shall any entrant be permitted to obtain awards for, and entrant hereby waives all rights to claim punitive, incidental and consequential damages and any other damages, (other than for direct compensatory damages for which documentation is provided) and any and all rights to have damages multiplied or otherwise increased. Notwithstanding anything provided herein, in no event shall the City be liable for any monetary damages for any reason, regardless of fault, for a monetary amount in excess of \$100.00.

Your submitted entry form constitutes full acceptance of all entry rules and requirements. The producers/directors listed warrant that they are the owners of the film, including the copyright therein, and have the authority to enter the film into the Elgin Short Film Festival (ESFF). They further warrant that they have obtained all required authorizations, consents and releases from others including, but not limited to, those appearing in or rendering services in connection with the film. Failure to comply with these rules will render the entry ineligible and entry fees will not be refunded. By submitting the entry form, you agree to defend and hold harmless the Elgin Short Film Festival, The Hemmens Cultural Center, the City of Elgin, and members of the ESFF committee from any and all liability related to ownership, use and/or display of the film(s) you have entered.

ALL SUBMISSION FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.



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