The **NextLens Online Film Festival** will showcase talented and innovative aspiring filmmakers from South Carolina from ages 16 and up.

Honorees are selected from South Carolina high schools, colleges and universities. Hosted each Spring, the online film festival will feature some of the brightest young producers and their creative short films.

Submissions for the Spring 2027 online film festival will open September 28, 2026. Find other important dates below:

- **Submissions close:** January 22, 2027
- **Honorees selected by:** February 19, 2027
- **Honorees announced by:** March 8, 2027
- **Online Film Festival dates:** March 15-26, 2027

During the festival, selected short films will be featured online at scetv.org, SCETV Education YouTube and Facebook pages, SCETV+, PBS.org, the PBS and SCETV apps. Honorees will also receive a trophy and a media interview with SCETV.

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Technical Specifications for Short Film Submission

Contact: Chris Olivas - Digital Media Manager, SCETV, colivas@scetv.org

We are looking forward to your submissions! By following these specifications, you'll ensure that your short film will be viewed, and if chosen, presented in the best possible quality and meets the technical standards. Note that your selected submission may need editorial adjustments to meet SCETV's quality standards.

Please read through all the specifications below and contact Chris if you have any questions.

Video Format and Codec

- **File Format**:
  - .MOV
  - .MP4
- **Video Codec**:
  - ProRes 422 (for MOV)
  - H.264 (for MP4)
- **Resolution**:
  - 3840x2160 (4K)
  - 1920x1080 (Full HD)
- **Aspect Ratio**:
  - **Standard**: 16:9
  - **Alternative**: 4:3, 2.35:1 (Scope), or other depending on the film's composition and artistic style
- **Frame Rate**:
  - 30 or 24 fps (frames per second)

Audio Specifications

- **Audio Codec**:
  - **Preferred**: AAC (for MP4), Linear PCM (for MOV)
  - **Alternative**: MP3
- **Audio Channels**:
  - **Standard**: Stereo (2 channels)
  - -12db max
- **Sample Rate**:
  - **Standard**: 48 kHz
- **Bit Depth**:
  - **Standard**: 16-bit or 24-bit

File Size

- **Recommendation**: Ensure the file size is manageable for submission; typically, less than 10 GB is advisable, but adhere to specific festival guidelines.

Subtitles and Captions

- **Format**: SRT, SCC, or embedded within the video file
- **Language**: Include subtitles in the primary language and translations (if applicable).

Metadata

- **Include**: Title, Director's name, Interviewee's names and titles, Runtime, Synopsis, Genre, and Contact information

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How Films Are Selected

Find the rubric guidelines below for the selection process.

1. Quality of Storytelling (30 points)

- **Engagement (10 points):**
  - 10: The story captivates the audience from start to finish.
  - 7-9: The story is engaging but has minor lapses in interest.
  - 4-6: The story is somewhat engaging but has several dull moments.
  - 1-3: The story fails to engage the audience.
  - 0: No discernible story.
- **Clarity (10 points):**
  - 10: The narrative is clear and easy to follow.
  - 7-9: The narrative is mostly clear with minor confusing elements.
  - 4-6: The narrative has several unclear or confusing elements.
  - 1-3: The narrative is very difficult to follow.
  - 0: The narrative is incoherent.
- **Creativity (10 points):**
  - 10: The story is highly original and imaginative.
  - 7-9: The story is creative but somewhat conventional.
  - 4-6: The story has some creative elements but is mostly conventional.
  - 1-3: The story lacks creativity.
  - 0: The story is unoriginal.

2. Craft (25 points)

- **Technical Quality (10 points):**
  - 10: The video demonstrates exceptional technical quality (e.g., lighting, sound, editing).

    - 7-9: The video is technically solid with minor flaws.
    - 4-6: The video has several technical issues.
    - 1-3: The video has major technical flaws.
    - 0: The video is technically poor.
- **Cinematography (5 points):**
    - 5: The cinematography is outstanding and enhances the story.
    - 4: The cinematography is good and supports the story.
    - 3: The cinematography is adequate but not particularly notable.
    - 2: The cinematography is below average.
    - 1: The cinematography is poor.
    - 0: The cinematography is ineffective.
- **Editing (5 points):**
    - 5: The editing is seamless and greatly enhances the narrative flow.
    - 4: The editing is good with only minor issues.
    - 3: The editing is adequate but has noticeable issues.
    - 2: The editing is below average.
    - 1: The editing is poor.
    - 0: The editing disrupts the narrative flow.
- **Performance (5 points):**
    - 5: The performances are exceptional and believable.
    - 4: The performances are good with minor issues.
    - 3: The performances are adequate but not particularly strong.
    - 2: The performances are below average.
    - 1: The performances are poor.
    - 0: The performances are unconvincing.

3. Innovation (20 points)

- **Concept (10 points):**
    - 10: The concept is highly innovative and original.
    - 7-9: The concept is innovative with some originality.
    - 4-6: The concept has some innovative elements but is largely conventional.
    - 1-3: The concept lacks innovation.
    - 0: The concept is entirely unoriginal.
- **Execution (10 points):**
    - 10: The innovative elements are executed flawlessly.
    - 7-9: The innovative elements are executed well with minor flaws.

- 4-6: The innovative elements are executed adequately but with noticeable issues.
- 1-3: The innovative elements are poorly executed.
- 0: The innovative elements are not executed.

4. Impact (15 points)

- **Emotional Impact (10 points):**
  - 10: The video has a profound emotional impact.
  - 7-9: The video has a strong emotional impact.
  - 4-6: The video has a moderate emotional impact.
  - 1-3: The video has a minimal emotional impact.
  - 0: The video has no emotional impact.
- **Memorability (5 points):**
  - 5: The video is highly memorable and leaves a lasting impression.
  - 4: The video is memorable with some lasting impact.
  - 3: The video is somewhat memorable.
  - 2: The video is mostly forgettable.
  - 1: The video is entirely forgettable.
  - 0: The video has no memorable qualities.

5. Diversity (10 points)

- **Representation (5 points):**
  - 5: The video showcases a diverse range of voices and perspectives.
  - 4: The video includes some diversity but is somewhat limited.
  - 3: The video has minimal diversity.
  - 2: The video lacks diversity.
  - 1: The video reinforces stereotypes.
  - 0: The video excludes diverse perspectives.
- **Cultural Sensitivity (5 points):**
  - 5: The video is highly culturally sensitive and respectful.
  - 4: The video is mostly culturally sensitive with minor issues.
  - 3: The video is moderately culturally sensitive but has noticeable issues.
  - 2: The video is minimally culturally sensitive.
  - 1: The video is culturally insensitive.
  - 0: The video is offensive or harmful.

Total: 100 points

Scoring Guide:

- 90-100: Outstanding submission
- 80-89: Excellent submission
- 70-79: Good submission
- 60-69: Fair submission
- Below 60: Needs improvement