

SUBMITTING TO OPEN WOUND FILM FESTIVAL 2014 FAQ

1) WHEN ARE THE SUBMISSION DEADLINES AND WHAT ARE THE FEES?

EARLY SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

U.S. and INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS (7 minutes or less including credits)
Sunday, April 13, 2014 - FREE ENTRY

U.S. and INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS (75 minutes or longer)
Sunday, April 13, 2014 - \$5 entry fee

U.S. and INTERNATIONAL TRAILERS/TEASERS (120 seconds or less)
Sunday, April 13, 2014 - \$5 entry fee

OFFICIAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

U.S. and INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS (7 minutes or less including credits)
Thursday, July 31, 2014 - \$5 entry fee

U.S. and INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS (75 minutes or longer)
Thursday, July 31, 2014 - \$10 entry fee

U.S. and INTERNATIONAL TRAILERS/TEASERS (120 seconds or less)
Thursday, July 31, 2014 - \$5 entry fee

LATE SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

U.S. and INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS (7 minutes or less including credits)
Sunday, August 31, 2014 - \$10 entry fee

U.S. and INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILMS (75 minutes or longer)
Sunday, August 31, 2014 - \$20 entry fee

U.S. and INTERNATIONAL TRAILERS/TEASERS (120 seconds or less)
Sunday, August 31, 2014 - \$5 entry fee

These are the dates that films must arrive at our office in Albuquerque, NM. They are NOT postmark deadlines. We handle all submissions identically, regardless of which deadline you choose. Late deadline submissions are processed and screened in exactly the same manner as early and official deadline submissions are-- the only difference is the higher submission fee. We encourage you to submit as early as possible!

Please note that your film MUST arrive at our office no later than the deadline for which you have registered. For example, if you pay \$10 to register your Short Film for the Official Submission deadline and we receive it after July 31, you will be prompted to make an additional payment of \$20 in order to bring your account up to date. We will not view your film until this payment is received. For this reason, you need to submit your

film online to <https://filmfreeway.com/festival/openwoundfilmfestival> and encourage you to also mail your film to us well in advance of the deadline for which you have registered!

2) WHAT ARE YOUR SUBMISSION CATEGORIES AND HOW DO I CHOOSE THE RIGHT ONE FOR MY FILM?

ALL FILMS MUST NOT EXCEED AN 'R' RATING.

Open Wound Film Festival has the right to determine whether or not we feel any submitted film that has not been rated by the MPAA has exceeded an 'R' rating, and can refuse to screen any films that we feel do, including for online screening.

U.S. NARRATIVE FEATURE FILMS:

Any narrative work of fiction with a running time of 75 minutes or more. In order to qualify as a U.S. Narrative Feature Film, the submitted project must be either scripted or improvisational fiction, and at least half of the project's financing must originate from within the United States. Narrative features have no premiere requirements or prior screening restrictions-- they may have had any number of public theatrical exhibitions, been released on DVD, Blu-ray or on-demand, and may have been broadcast on television or the internet and still retain eligibility. Also we do not require that your film have not screened previously at other festivals.

INTERNATIONAL NARRATIVE FEATURE FILMS:

Any narrative work of fiction with a running time of 75 minutes or more. In order to qualify as an International Narrative Feature Film, the submitted project must be either scripted or improvisational fiction, and more than half of the project's financing must originate from outside of the United States. International narrative features have no premiere requirements or prior screening restrictions-- they may have had any number of public theatrical exhibitions, been released on DVD, Blu-ray or on-demand, and may have been broadcast on television or the internet and still retain eligibility. If the native language of the film is not in English, your submission is required to be subtitled in English prior to submission.

U.S. SHORT FILMS:

Any narrative film of U.S. origin with a running time of less than 7 minutes, including credits. In order to qualify as a U.S. Short Film, at least half of the submitted project's financing must originate from within the United States. Short Films have no premiere requirements or prior screening restrictions-- they may have had any number of public theatrical exhibitions, been released on DVD, Blu-ray or on-demand, and may have been broadcast on television or the internet and still retain eligibility.

INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS:

Any narrative film of non-U.S. origin with a running time of less than 7 minutes,

including credits. In order to qualify as an International Short Film, more than half of the submitted project's financing must originate from outside of the United States. Short Films have no premiere requirements or prior screening restrictions-- they may have had any number of public theatrical exhibitions, been released on DVD, Blu-ray or on-demand, and may have been broadcast on television or the internet and still retain eligibility. If the native language of the film is not in English, your submission is required to be subtitled in English prior to submission.

U.S. FEATURE FILM TRAILERS AND TEASERS:

Any narrative trailer or teaser of U.S. origin with a running time of less than 120 seconds, including all company names, logos, and ending credit slate promoting the feature. In order to qualify as a U.S. Short Film, at least half of the submitted project's financing must originate from within the United States. Short Films have no premiere requirements or prior screening restrictions-- they may have had any number of public theatrical exhibitions, been released on DVD, Blu-ray or on-demand, and may have been broadcast on television or the internet and still retain eligibility.

INTERNATIONAL FEATURE FILM TRAILERS AND TEASERS:

Any narrative trailer or teaser of non-U.S. origin with a running time of less than 120 seconds, including all company names, logos, and ending credit slate promoting the feature. In order to qualify as a U.S. Short Film, at least half of the submitted project's financing must originate from within the United States. Short Films have no premiere requirements or prior screening restrictions-- they may have had any number of public theatrical exhibitions, been released on DVD, Blu-ray or on-demand, and may have been broadcast on television or the internet and still retain eligibility. If the native language of the trailer or teaser is not in English, your submission is required to be subtitled in English prior to submission.

All short films (domestic and international) fall under the Short film category. All Features (domestic and international) fall under the Feature film category. All Trailers/Teasers (domestic and international) fall under the Trailers/Teasers category.

3) WHAT ARE THE FESTIVAL PROGRAM CATEGORIES AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR EACH?

Open Wound Film Festival is comprised of two Competition program categories and several non-competition program categories: Narrative Feature Films (includes international films), Horror Short Films (includes international films) and Trailers/Teasers (includes international films). You must submit to one of the three specific categories! If your film is accepted into the Festival, our Programming team will inform you of your acceptance, and will release a schedule of screenings. Selected Trailers/Teasers will screen before every single block of programming including guest films and competition film screenings.

At the core of our Festival program are our competition categories. Films that are

selected to be in one of these two program categories are eligible for Jury Prizes in their respective sections:

OFFICIAL SELECTION FEATURE FILMS (3 Narrative U.S. & International Feature Films):

We will be screening three Official Selection films out of all entries. These features will be screened alongside other features screening with our celebrity guests, and will also be seen by screening houses looking for new independent films to release and distribute.

All Features will need to have a running time of 75 minutes or more, and one grand prize will be awarded from by our Celebrity Guest Jury, for best Official Selection Feature.

SHORT FILM COMPETITION (15 U.S. & International Short Films):

All short films in competition are selected to play in one screening block, and all accepted shorts are eligible for awards in our Shorts Competition. Short Films must have a total running time of less than 7 minutes, including credits. There are no premiere or prior screening restrictions for short films. Shorts may have been released via any home video outlet, broadcast on television or the internet, and/or publicly screened anywhere in the world and still remain eligible for our Shorts Competition. All short films at the Festival will compete for jury prizes within their specific categories (Best Overall Film, Best Director, Best Cinematography, Best Actor or Actress, Best Gore, Best Original Killer/Creature/Character, and there will also be an Audience Favorite Award).

4) HOW DO YOU DISTINGUISH SHORT FILMS FROM FEATURE FILMS?

Films with running times of less than 7 minutes including credits are classified as Shorts. Films that are 75 minutes or longer are classified as Features. Trailers/Teasers must be 120 seconds or less. For this festival we will not be accepting films not fitting within those specific time restrictions. You should select your submission category based on what the final projected running time of the film will be, including credits. The only requirement is that your film must be submitted online to <https://filmfreeway.com/festival/openwoundfilmfestival> and recommended also fit as a digital file on a single DVD or flash drive.

5) HOW DO YOU DETERMINE WHETHER A FILM IS CONSIDERED U.S. OR INTERNATIONAL?

In almost all cases, this is determined by the primary source of the film's funding. If 50% or more of the film's financing came from sources within the United States, it qualifies as a U.S. Film. If more than 50% of the film's financing came from international sources, it qualifies as an International Film. Please select your submission category based on the primary source of financing, but we do reserve the right to make a final judgment call based on a number of other factors, such as the primary shooting location, language(s) spoken in the film, and the nationalities of key members of a film's cast and crew.

6) WHICH FORMATS DO YOU ACCEPT FOR SUBMISSIONS?

To screen in any of the categories specified, all Features, Short Films, and Trailers/Teasers must be submitted digitally for consideration. The specifications for all projects are:

Your file name should be as follows: TITLE_LAST NAME_FIRST NAME

Fill out, print, then scan and email or mail your application and signed contract/rules and regulations form from <http://www.openwoundfilms.com/#!/untitled/c24vq>

NO DIGITAL SIGNATURES WILL BE ACCEPTED.

You will also submit your film through this same process.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

VIDEO: H.264 Format. 24 FPS. 1920x1080. Multi-pass encoding. 15 Mbps Bitrate. 16x9 preferred.

AUDIO: AAC Format. 48.000 kHz rate. Stereo. 320 kbps Bitrate.

All films additionally submitted as a hard copy through mail, should be on a single disc, and we would prefer that discs be sent in a simple paper sleeve in order to cut down on waste. Please ensure that your disc plays in several standard players before it is mailed to us! We will also accept your file on a flash drive, but we will be unable to return the drives and discs to the submitters.

Please be sure to write or print the following information directly on the face of your disc:

Name of film. Running time. Submitter's name. State or Country of origin. A contact email, and phone number. Tracking number (provided by your online submission through Freeway). And please list if it is a short film, trailer, teaser, or feature film.

7) WHERE DO I SEND MY SUBMISSION?

You should be submitting your film through <https://filmfreeway.com/festival/openwoundfilmfestival>

You will still need to fill out the application through Freeway to submit your film.

All submissions are encouraged to be mailed to us at the address below as a hard copy back up. PLEASE be sure to write your Freeway tracking number on the front of your envelope -- this will help ensure that your submission is processed as quickly as possible!

Open Wound Film Festival
2824 Palo Verde Dr NE, Unit B
Albuquerque, NM 87112
Tracking #: (write your tracking number here!)

8) HOW OLD CAN MY FILM BE AND STILL QUALIFY FOR SUBMISSION?

Any film submitted for 2014 Festival consideration can have been made at any time. It will still need to fit the technical specifications in section 6 to be considered for screening.

9) CAN I SUBMIT MY FILM AS A ROUGH CUT?

All films will be screened and judged as if they are a completed film. If your film is incomplete, which could include missing visual or sound fx, credits, sound design, tight editing, etc, our programming staff and Judging Panel will watch each with the assumption that is the completed film. So please keep that in mind when submitting. This is in regards to ALL submissions, Shorts, Features, as well as Trailers/Teasers.

10) CAN I SUBMIT MY FILM WITH A TEMPORARY MUSIC TRACK?

We will not screen anything that does not have the proper clearances for artwork, music, and other copyrighted material. If your film doesn't include original music, we reserve the right to not screen your film. It is the filmmaker's responsibility to attain clearance for all registered trademarks, music, logo usage, products, artwork, etc.

11) AM I REQUIRED TO OBTAIN RIGHTS CLEARANCE FOR MUSIC OR OTHER COPYRIGHTED MATERIAL INCLUDED IN MY FILM?

From a legal standpoint, you must clear all copyrighted materials included in your film before you can publicly screen it. However, Open Wound Film Festival does not check to ensure that you have obtained clearance for these materials at any point during the application process, nor will we be held responsible for any inclusion of uncleared materials in your film. It is the sole responsibility of the entity submitting the project to secure permission from the copyright holder of the material in question, whether it is music, stock footage, or any other elements that could violate an existing copyright.

Films that are accepted into the Festival must sign a waiver stating that materials used in the film do not violate any existing copyright. Quite often, rights holders offer reduced rates for festival films, so you should contact them directly to avoid any potential rights infringements. Open Wound Film Festival does reserve the right to not screen a film that does not have clearance of copyrighted materials.

12) IF MY FILM HAS AIRED ON TELEVISION, MAY I STILL SUBMIT IT?

If your film is a short (less than 7 minutes in length including credits), it is still eligible even though it has been broadcast on television. If your feature-length film (75 minutes or longer) had one or more nationwide television airings in one or more countries, that particular cut is NOT eligible for submission. However, it may be submitted if the version that aired on TV is significantly different from the one you wish to submit. For example, a feature that aired in an hour-long TV slot may still be submitted if a longer cut is created for the purposes of theatrical distribution. Though we reserve the right to make a final determination on any given film's submission eligibility, those that were broadcast

locally or regionally and did not receive a nationwide television broadcast in any country are still eligible to submit the same cut that was broadcast.

13) DO I REALLY HAVE TO FILL OUT THE ONLINE APPLICATION AND CONTRACT?

All submissions must be issued a unique Tracking Number in order to be recognized by our system. The only way to get a Tracking Number is to fill out the online application at <https://filmfreeway.com/festival/openwoundfilmfestival>

Unregistered submissions will not be viewed! If you are having trouble with the online form, please e-mail us at openwoundfilmfestival@gmail.com and we will be glad to help guide you through the process. You must scan and email or mail your signed paperwork. WE DO NOT ACCEPT DIGITAL SIGNATURES.

14) WHAT SHOULD I INCLUDE WITH MY SUBMISSION?

After you have completed the online application, all we need from you is a single copy of your film. In an effort to cut down on waste, we ask that you do not send printed press or promotional materials to us—we require all promotional materials, including photos, posters, etc, to be as files included on a SEPARATE disc, clearly labeled as promotional materials, along with the film title, director or submitter's name, and state/country of origin. Quite often, films sent to us in standard size retail DVD or Blu-ray cases will become dislodged during shipping, resulting in scratched, unplayable discs, so we recommend mailing your film in a paper sleeve or slim jewel or clamshell case. Please refrain from taping your disc to any surface, as tape residue may also render your disc unplayable. Our preferred method of packaging is a medium (approximately 6" x 9"), bubble padded envelope. It is not necessary to wrap your disc in bubble wrap and mail it to us in an oversized box. Doing so will only make it more difficult for us to process your film once it is received.

Please do not use a paper label on your disc! There are many different variables with stickers and paper labels that could render your disc unplayable-- a permanent marker (such as a Sharpie) will work just fine. Discs with text or graphics printed directly on the surface are also acceptable.

15) WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO GET MY FILM TO PLAY?

We will make every effort to view your disc or online screener, but in the event that we are unable to view your film, we will attempt to contact you to request another copy using the primary contact information that you provided on your application. This is further reason to send a hard copy as well as your digital submission. However, there is no guarantee that we will get your replacement disc in time, and we must give preference to those who sent in a working copy to begin with. For this reason, we ask that you make absolutely sure that your file on your disc or flash drive plays all the way through BEFORE you send it to us! If your disc arrives broken, will also make every attempt to contact you for a replacement.

16) WILL YOU NOTIFY ME IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE MY FILM?

Due to the volume of submissions we receive, we are unable to contact each applicant individually if we do not receive his or her film. It is your responsibility to make sure that your package makes its way to our office. Between online submission, and hard copy, there is no reason we shouldn't have received your film. If you are concerned for some reason that your film may not reach us, contact us at openwoundfilmfestival@gmail.com for further instructions.

17) CAN I SUBMIT A NEWER CUT OF MY FILM AFTER I'VE ALREADY SUBMITTED AN EARLIER VERSION?

Sending in replacement cuts after you have already submitted a prior version of the film can cause a great deal of confusion throughout the screening process and it is also not fair to those who sent in a cut prior to their selected submission deadline. If, for example, you pay \$5 to submit your feature film to us by the early deadline, you may not send us a replacement cut once that deadline has passed. We reserve the right to disqualify, without refund of any or all submission fees, any applicant who attempts to avoid submission fees by sending in a replacement cut of their film after their selected deadline has passed. **WE WILL ONLY VIEW THE FIRST CUT OF YOUR FILM THAT WE RECEIVE!**

18) CAN YOU RETURN MY DVD OR FLASH DRIVE TO ME ONCE YOU'RE DONE WITH IT?

Unfortunately, we are unable to return any physical materials that are sent to us. However, we do take the security of this process very seriously-- at no point will your disc leave our hands, and once our submissions process is over, all discs are recycled.

19) IS THERE A SCREENPLAY COMPETITION AT THE FESTIVAL?

We do not currently have a screenplay competition, nor do we accept screenplay submissions. It is our hope to add this to our 2015 program.

20) DO I NEED TO MEET A MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT IN ORDER TO SUBMIT A FILM?

No, we encourage filmmakers of all ages to submit their work. However, we do not have any separate categories or programs specifically related to young or student filmmakers. All submitted films will compete against each other for available slots in each program. If you are under the age of 18 and your film is accepted, we will require signed, written permission from your parent or legal guardian before we are able to screen your film.

21) HOW MANY FILMS MAY I SUBMIT?

You may submit as many films as you'd like, but you only need to create one account. Upon doing so, you may fill out individual applications for multiple films. We do not offer reduced rates in fees for multiple submissions. If you submit three films, you must pay the submission fees for all three of them. Please do not submit multiple projects on

the same disc. If we receive a submission with multiple films on one disc, we will only consider the first film included.

In regards to the free Early Bird entry, you may only submit one film for the free price. Any additional films submitted will have the base cost of \$5, whether they're still submitted in Early Bird category, or submitted during regular entry. Films submitted during the Late Deadline will still cost that amount as specified. If fees are not paid for additional films including during the Early Bird entry time, we will not screen them until the fees are paid.

22) WHAT IF MY CONTACT INFORMATION OR ANYTHING ELSE ABOUT MY SUBMISSION CHANGES AFTER I'VE FILLED OUT THE APPLICATION?

You may log into your account at www.filmfreeway.com at any time to update or revise your application. We will use the public contact information from your application to contact you regarding problems with your submission and to notify you of your acceptance status, so please ensure that this information is always kept up-to-date.

23) CAN I MAKE TRAILERS, CLIPS, AND/OR SCENES OF MY FILM AVAILABLE ONLINE?

Yes. Posting footage or scenes from your film on the Internet does not affect its eligibility for any submission category. It is also acceptable for cast and crew to use scenes from your film for the purposes of an exhibition reel.

24) WHEN WILL I FIND OUT WHETHER OR NOT MY FILM WAS SELECTED?

We will contact you via e-mail on or before Sunday, September 14, 2014. Please make sure that the e-mail address you provided on your application will be operational at that time. If your e-mail address changes after you've filled out the application, please log into your account and update it. We will not be held responsible for any failed delivery of notification! If you haven't heard from us by September 19, 2014, please contact us at openwoundfilmfestival@gmail.com for an official notification.

25) IF MY FILM IS SELECTED FOR THE FESTIVAL, WHAT PROJECTION FORMATS DO YOU ACCEPT?

We only accept digital formats for Open Wound Film Festival. All festival films will be put into a single program.

Your file name should be as follows: TITLE_LAST NAME_FIRST NAME

Fill out, print, then scan and email or mail your application and signed contract/rules and regulations form from <http://www.openwoundfilms.com/#!/untitled/c24vq>

NO DIGITAL SIGNATURES WILL BE ACCEPTED. You will also submit your film through this same process.

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS:

VIDEO: H.264 Format. 24 FPS. 1920x1080. Multi-pass encoding. 15 Mbps Bitrate. 16x9 preferred.

AUDIO: AAC Format. 48.000 kHz rate. Stereo. 320 kbps Bitrate.

We will be screening all compiled films into a program, which will be screened on an industry standard digital projector through an industry standard DVD player or laptop.

26) YOU DON'T ACTUALLY WATCH ALL OF THESE SUBMISSIONS, RIGHT?

Assuming all applications and entry fees are submitted, we will be viewing each and every single entry, and our programming staff will be determining which films get picked as our Official Selection Features, as well as who competes in the Short Horror Film Competition, which will then be judged for all awards by our celebrity guest Jury Panel.

27) WHAT TYPES OF FILMS ARE YOU LOOKING FOR? WHAT STANDS OUT?

We celebrate the independent spirit of interesting and original storytelling. Diverse voices and films that push the limits of style and narrative also excite us, but there is no single aesthetic that we look for over any other. We are mainly looking for great films and interesting points of view. Anything that you feel fits into a 'horror' genre will be considered, which does include several cross genres. Use your best judgment on what you submit. If our programming panel feels that your film doesn't fit in a horror program, it may not be accepted to screen. That includes on the website.

28) IF MY FILM IS NOT CHOSEN, MAY I SPEAK WITH A PROGRAMMER FOR NOTES OR FEEDBACK?

Unfortunately, no. While we would love to speak with each individual filmmaker about their films, it simply isn't viable for us to correspond with all filmmakers each year in this manner. We view far more worthy films each year than we have room to play, so please don't be discouraged if your film isn't accepted.

29) WHERE DOES MY SUBMISSION FEE GO?

Open Wound Film Festival is offering a unique plan for all submission fees. Every single dime collected in film submissions goes directly into Cash Prizes, T-shirts, Posters, and other Prize Packages. The amount to potentially win, will fluxuate completely by amount collected. The more people that submit films, the more cash and other prizes you can win!

30) HOW DOES SCREENING OF ALL SUBMITTED FILMS WORK?

Another unique aspect to our festival, is that all films submitted (that have properly filled

out all paperwork and paid entry fees and abides by the rules) will be screened at <http://www.openwoundfilms.com/#!/films/cwzt>

There is no particular order to how they are listed on the site to screen, aside of the competition films will be listed at the top, then followed by all other submissions. The Teasers/Trailers will also be screened below the films. All submissions to be eligible to screen on the website, will also need to provide a link to where the film is already loaded online (such as vimeo, youtube, etc) where we will embed the direct link so that your film will show up and play right from one page collectively.

Feature films will have the same specifications to be screened on the site. They will also be required to be a SINGLE file on said website link. We will not screen films that are loaded in multiple segments online. At the submitter's discretion, the submitted Features can also opt to have us host your Trailer/Teaser of said film instead.

Open Wound Film Festival reserves the right to refuse to screen any of the films on the website that haven't followed the specifications and guidelines, or if we feel it exceeds an 'R' rating.

31) WHEN DOES THE 2014 SOUTHWEST SHRIEKFEST TAKE PLACE?

The Festival will take place in Santa Fe, New Mexico at Buffalo Thunder Casino and Resort as a part of the Santa Fe Comic Con on October 24th – 26th, 2014. We hope to see you there!