

BRITISH INDEPENDENT FILM AWARDS

PROCESS, ENTRY RULES AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS 2019

CONTENTS:

TIMELINE & ENTRY FEES	2
LIST OF CATEGORIES	
ADJUDICATION PROCESS	4
FILM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS i. Independent ii. British	5
FILM RELEASE REQUIREMENTS i. British features ii. British short films iii. International features	6
CATEGORY RULES & REQUIREMENTS	8
HOW TO ENTER	
QUALIFYING FESTIVALS LISTS	
STATEMENT TAMPLATES	

TIMELINE

Мау	Short film entries open
5th June	Feature film entries open
8 th August	Entry deadline 1
16 th August	Free entry deadline (shorts & features)
22 nd August	Entry deadline 2
30th August	Final entry deadline
13 th September	Screening deadline (all films must be available to be seen by voters by this date)
13th September - 4th October	Round 1 voting
w/c 14th October	Longlist announcements
21st - 28th October	Round 2 voting
30th October	Nominations announcement
w/c 15th November	Craft winners announcement
1st December	BIFA ceremony

ENTRY FEES

Entries for short films will remain free until the 8th August. Thereafter, each film entry will incur an entry fee at the following rates:

Timeline	Entry fee – short films
May to 8 th August	Free
9 th to 22 nd August	£15
23 rd to 30 th August	£30

Friday 30th August is the final entry deadline for short films.

Feature film entry fees will be announced upon the opening of feature film entries in early June.

CATEGORIES

Category Named nominees / recipie		Eligible films	Winner decided by	
Best British Independent Film	ependent Film Producer(s)		BIFA voters	
Best Director	Director	British features	Main Jury	
Best Screenplay	Screenwriter(s)	British features	Main Jury	
Best Actor	Lead actor	British features	Main Jury	
Best Actress	Lead actress	British features	Main Jury	
Best Supporting Actor	Supporting actor	British features	Main Jury	
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Best Supporting Actress The Douglas Hickox Award (Best Debut Director)	Supporting actress British Director	British features British features	Main Jury New Talent Jury	
Best Debut Screenwriter	British Screenwriter(s)	British features	New Talent Jury	
Breakthrough Producer	British Producer(s)	British features	New Talent Jury	
Most Promising Newcomer	British lead & supporting actors & actresses	British features	New Talent Jury	
Best Documentary	Director	British features	Main Jury	
The Raindance Discovery Award	Proposed by entrant, confirmed by Subgroup and Nomination Committee	British features	Main Jury	
Best Casting	Casting Director	British features	BIFA voters	
Best Cinematography	Director of Photography	British features	BIFA voters	
Best Costume Design	Costume Designer	British features	BIFA voters	
Best Editing	Editor	British features	BIFA voters	
Best Effects	Special Effects Supervisor(s) Visual Effects Supervisor(s)	British features	BIFA voters	
Best Make-Up & Hair Design	Make-Up Designer Hair Designer	British features	BIFA voters	
Best Music	Composer or Music Supervisor	British features	BIFA voters	
Best Production Design	Production Designer	British features	BIFA voters	
Best Sound	Sound Designer or Sound Department (Sound Designer, Supervising Sound Editor, Production Mixer and Re- recording Mixer)	British features	BIFA voters	
Director, Screenwriter(s),				
Best British Short Film	Producer(s)	British short films	BIFA voters	
Best International	Director, Screenwriter(s),	International	DIFAviators	
Independent Film	Producer(s)	features	BIFA voters Nomination	
The Richard Harris Award	British actor	Individual	Committee & Board	
The Variety Award	Actor	Individual	Nomination Committee & Board	
The Special Jury Prize	Decided by Jury	Individual or organisation	Main Jury	



ADJUDICATION PROCESS

BIFA receives around 250 feature film and 350 short film entries every year. Consecutive rounds of voting amongst BIFA's voters and jurors reduce the entries to the longlists (Round 1), nominations (Round 2) and winners (Round 3) in each category.

BIFA's diverse pool of over 600 voters consists of previous winners and nominees and other leading film professionals from across the industry. Around half of these voters take part in voting for the nominations (Rounds 1 and 2) each year and all voters are invited to vote for the winners in certain categories.

Voters are convened into 'subgroups' dedicated to particular categories for the first two rounds of voting. The adjudication process is discussion-based and the subgroups meet multiple times to before votes are cast confidentially.

The winners in most categories are decided by two juries, the Main Jury and the New Talent Jury, both newly-appointed each year.

The winners in the following categories are decided by votes open to all of BIFA's voters who have watched the nominations:

- Best British Independent Film
- Best International Independent Film
- Best British Short Film
- The nine Craft categories

BIFA's Nomination Committee oversees the adjudication and voting processes and has the responsibility of making final decisions in all matters pertaining to entries, eligibility requirements, rules and processes. The Nominations Committee also meet with subgroup representatives to scrutinize and confirm voting results.

BIFA also presents honorary awards, which are bestowed either by BIFA's Board and Nomination Committee or by its independent juries. These honorary awards include the Richard Harris Award, the Variety Award and the Special Jury Prize.

More details about the BIFA voting and adjudication process can be found here: <u>https://www.bifa.film/about/voting-and-adjudication/</u>

FILM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In all cases, final decisions about a film's eligibility rest with BIFA's Nomination Committee. Under exceptional circumstances, inclusion and consideration of films which do not strictly comply with the below criteria will be subject to the discretion of the Committee. If you have questions about your film's eligibility, please contact BIFA on <u>hello@bifa.film</u>.

INDEPENDENT

BIFA considers the following eight companies to be 'major studios':

20 th Century Fox	Paramount
Amazon	Sony
Disney	Universal
Netflix	Warner Bros

Where there is any major studio substantially funding the production of a film, the total budget must not exceed \$20 million. Any major studio involvement in the financing or production of a film will be assessed by BIFA. Films are not defined as 'independent' strictly on the terms of financing. The origination of a film (i.e. whether it was initially conceived inside or outside of a studio system) will also be taken into account when assessing the independence of studio-backed films.

<u>BRITISH</u>

BIFA considers a film to be 'British' if it:

 Has been produced or majority co-produced by a British production company(ies) or is in receipt of at least 51% of its production budget from British sources

AND

• Includes sufficient creative elements from the UK, e.g. key creative team, lead cast and HODs

This applies to shorts and feature films entering all categories except for Best International Independent Film.

Where an individual must be British to qualify for an award, such as in the debut categories, or for the purposes of identifying the nationality of a film, we may ask entrants if they or others who worked on a film have a British passport or the right to hold one. If you are unsure, please use this test: <u>https://www.gov.uk/check-british-citizen</u>



FILM RELEASE REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible, feature films must be intended for theatrical release and must screen to a paying public audience either at a qualifying festival or on general release during the eligibility period.

This year, the eligibility period is 1 December 2018 to 30 November 2019.

Where formal distribution is confirmed after a qualifying festival screening, the festival screening remains as the qualifying eligibility criterion for BIFA.

No re-releases may be entered. Once entered, a film can be withdrawn up to a week before the first round of voting opens. Films that are withdrawn at this point can be entered in subsequent years, if eligible. Otherwise, previously entered films are not eligible.

BRITISH FEATURES

- Must be intended for theatrical release
- Must be over 70 minutes in running time
- Must screen:
 - On general release in the UK during the eligibility period, for a run consisting of at least seven screenings in aggregate
 - OR
 - At a British film festival **or** at one of BIFA's qualifying international film festivals during the eligibility period (see the list on page 14 of this document)

Films that are between 40 and 70 minutes in length may be eligible if they have a theatrical release in the UK during the eligibility period.

Where formal distribution is confirmed after a qualifying festival screening, the festival screening remains as the qualifying eligibility criterion for BIFA. Films which have a qualifying festival screening but are scheduled for theatrical release after 31 January 2020 may choose whether to enter in the current year or to wait until next year. Please contact BIFA to discuss this via <u>hello@bifa.film</u>.

BRITISH SHORTS

- Must have been completed on or after 1 May 2018
- Must be under 40 minutes in running time
- Must be narrative, documentary or animation (music videos, fashion films and art films are ineligible)
- Must:
 - Screen as part of the official selection at one of BIFA's qualifying festivals for short films during the eligibility period (see the list on page 14 of this document)

OR

• Screen on one of BIFA's recognised online channels during the eligibility period (see the list on page 15 of this document)

OR

• Win an award during the eligibility period

INTERNATIONAL FEATURES

- Must be intended for theatrical release
- Must be over 70 minutes in running time
- Must have confirmed UK distribution
- Must screen:



• On general release in the UK during the eligibility period, for a run consisting of at least seven screenings in aggregate

OR

• At one of BIFA's qualifying international festivals during the eligibility period (see the list on page 14 of this document)

International features may also be entered if they have won an award at one of BIFA's qualifying international film festivals and are available for voters to watch.

CATEGORY RULES & REQUIREMENTS

Films may be submitted to as many or as few categories as entrants wish. However, voters or the Nomination Committee may choose to consider a film in additional categories to those submitted.

Credits and eligibility decisions are based on the credits featured on exhibited prints of the film.

Films entered to British feature film categories must be assessed against the BFI's Diversity Standards as part of the entry process, unless they have already been assessed. There is no a requirement for films to meet the Standards, simply to be assessed against them. You can find out more about the BFI Diversity Standards here: <u>https://www.bfi.org.uk/supporting-uk-film/diversity-inclusion/bfi-diversity-standards</u>

Films entered to British feature film categories must also supply information about their production budget and production staff. This information is used by BIFA to analyse the state of the British film industry and does not affect a film's entry or chance to be nominated in any way.

Category/ies	Named nominee(s) / Award recipients	Additional rules	Statement required?
Best British Independent Film	Fully-credited writers, producers and directors		
	Other producer credits, such as Associate, Executive, etc. are not eligible for this award.		
	Co-directors and co-writers are only eligible where there are no lead directors or writers credited		
Best International Independent Film	Fully-credited writers, producers and directors		
	Other producer credits, such as Associate, Executive, etc. are not eligible for this award.		
	Co-directors and co-writers are only eligible where there are no lead directors or writers credited		
Best Director	Director(s)		
	Co-directors are only eligible where there is no lead director credited		

Category/ies	Named nominee(s) / Award recipients	Additional rules	Statement required?
Best Screenwriter	Screenwriter(s) Co-writers are only eligible where there is no lead screenwriter credited. 'Additional Material by', 'Original Story by' and similar credits are not eligible		
Best Actor Best Actress Best Supporting Actor Best Supporting Actress	Lead & supporting performers	Entrants may select which category a performer should be considered for but BIFA's Nomination Committee reserves the right to make final decisions about performers' category placement	
The Douglas Hickox Award (Best Debut Director)	Director(s) Must hold, or have the right to hold, a British passport Co-directors are only eligible where there is no lead director credited	For a British director for their debut fiction feature film. Previous television or documentary credits do not disqualify an individual from consideration. Documentaries are ineligible in this category unless an exception is granted by BIFA's Nomination Committee	
Best Debut Screenwriter	Screenwriter(s) Must hold, or have the right to hold, a British passport Co-writers are only eligible where there is no lead screenwriter credited. 'Additional Material by', 'Original Story by' and similar credits are not eligible	For a British screenwriter for their debut fiction feature film. Previous television or documentary credits do not disqualify an individual from consideration.	

Category/ies	Named nominee(s) / Award recipients	Additional rules	Statement required?
Breakthrough Producer	Producer(s) Must hold, or have the right to hold, a British	For a British producer for their first or second documentary or fiction feature film.	Statement required
	passport	Where a producer wishes to be considered	
	Other producer credits, such as Associate, Executive, etc. are not eligible for this award	for the award for their second feature film, BIFA's subgroup and Nomination Committee will assess whether the producer's first film could be considered their industry breakthrough	
Most Promising Newcomer	Lead & supporting performers Must hold, or have the right to hold, a British passport	For British performers taking their first significant role in a theatrical feature film. Eligiblity of performers with significant theatre or TV credits will be determined by the Nomination Committee	
The Raindance Discovery Award	Entrants may propose individuals from their production team to be the nominee in this category. However, the final decision on nominees is at the discretion of the Discovery subgroup and the Nomination Committee	This award highlights innovation, uniqueness of vision, maverick filmmaking and risk-taking, generally in fiction films with a budget under £500k	Statement required
Best Documentary	Director(s) Co-directors are only eligible where there is no lead director credited	Films should be non-fiction and photographer in actual occurrence or employ partial re-enactment, stock footage, stills, animation, stop-motion or other techniques, as long as the emphasis is on fact and not on fiction	
Best British Short Film	Fully-credited writers, producers and directors Other producer credits, such as Associate, Executive, etc. are not eligible for this award.	Films must be under 40 minutes in length. Music videos, fashion / art films and promos are not considered eligible.	
	Co-directors and co-writers are only eligible where there are no lead directors or writers credited		

Category/ies	Named nominee(s) / Award recipients	Additional rules	Statement required?
Best Casting	Casting Director		Statement required
Best Cinematography	Director of Photography		Statement required
Best Costume Design	Costume Designer		Statement required
Best Editing	Editor Other editing credits, such as Assistant or Co-Editor, are not eligible		Statement required
Best Effects	Special Effects Supervisor and/or Visual Effects Supervisor		Statement required Effects breakdown reel required
Best Make-Up & Hair Design	Make-Up & Hair Designer	Prosthetics Designers are also eligible in this category	Statement required
Best Music	Composer or Music Supervisor	This category is for both composition of original music for a film and supervision of sourced music. The nominees accepted should reflect the proportion of original and source music: where over 70% of the music is either original or source, we would expect only the composer or supervisor to be listed accordingly	Statement required Music Cue Sheet required, plus breakdown of % original and sourced music
Best Production Design	Production Designer		Statement required



Category/ies	Named nominee(s) / Award recipients	Additional rules	Statement required?
Best Sound	Sound Designer, Supervising Sound Editor, Production Mixer, Re-Recording Mixer	Nominees in this category may be entered individually (e.g. just the Sound Designer) or as a team	Statement required

Statement formats for the Craft categories, Breakthrough Producer and the Raindance Discovery Award can be found at the end of this document.

Only one award trophy will be issued to the winner of each category. Where multiple nominees have been accepted by BIFA, additional trophies can be purchased in the event of an award win.

Named nominees will each receive an invitation to the awards, up to a maximum of three invitations per category. Invitations are per nominee, not per nomination (so those nominated twice do not get two tickets).



HOW TO ENTER

Entries to BIFA can be made by a film's distributor or another representative, such as the producer, a sales agent or a festivals & awards advisor. If duplicate entries are made BIFA will contact the entrants to clarify which one to proceed with.

To enter a film to BIFA:

- i) Create an account (or log in to your existing account) here: <u>https://members.bifa.film/entries</u>
- ii) Complete an entry form for the type of film that you wish to enter
- iii) If an entry fee is applicable, it will need to be paid on submission of the entry to BIFA.

It is the responsibility of the entrant to ensure that a film is entered correctly and no additional category entries will be accepted after 6 September.

ACCESS TO ENTERED FILMS

Entrants must provide BIFA voters with access to their entered film, ideally via an online screener. DVDs and access to screenings are also accepted. If BIFA voters cannot watch the film by 13 September the Nomination Committee may disqualify it from the competition.

All decisions made by BIFA and its Board and Committees are final and no correspondence will be entered into as to why particular entries were or were not nominated.

QUALIFYING INTERNATIONAL FESTIVALS

AFI Fest Berlin Film Festival Cannes Film Festival London Film Festival New York Film Festival San Sebastian Film Festival Sundance Film Festival SxSW Telluride Film Festival Toronto International Film Festival Tribeca Film Festival Venice Film Festival

Festival name	Month	Website
Aesthetica Short Film Festival	Nov	asff.co.uk
AFI Docs Film Festival	June	afi.com/afidocs
AFI Fest	Nov	afi.com/afifest
BAFTA – Film nominated	Feb	bafta.org
BAFTA Cymru – Film nominated	Oct	bafta.org/wales
BAFTA Scotland – Film nominated	Nov	<u>bafta.org/scotland</u>
Bechdel Test Fest	Annual	bechdeltestfest.com
Berlin International Film Festival	Feb	<u>berlinale.de</u>
BFI Flare	Mar	<u>bfi.org.uk/flare</u>
BFI Future Film Festival	Feb	<u>bfi.org.uk/bfi-future-film</u>
BFI London Film Festival	Oct	<u>lff.org.uk</u>
British Urban Film Festival	June	britishurbanfilmfestival.co.uk
Cambridge Film Festival	Sept	cambridgefilmfestival.org.uk
Cannes International Film Festival	May	festival-cannes.org
Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film	Feb	<u>clermont-filmfest.com</u>
Cork International Film Festival	Nov	<u>corkfilmfest.org</u>
Deaffest	May	deaffest.co.uk
East End Film Festival	Apr	eastendfilmfestival.com
Edinburgh International Film Festival	June	www.edfilmfest.org.uk
Encounters International Short Film Festival	Sept	encounters-festival.org.uk
Foyle Film Festival	Nov	www.foylefilmfestival.org
Glasgow Short Film Festival	Mar	glasgowfilm.org/glasgow-short-film-festival
Hamburg International Short Film	June	festival.shortfilm.com
Iris Prize	Oct	irisprize.org
Leeds International Film Festival	Nov	leedsfilm.com
London Int'l Documentary Festival	Nov & Jun	lidf.co.uk

QUALIFYING FESTIVALS FOR SHORT FILMS



London Short Film Festival	Jan	shortfilms.co.uk
Los Angeles Int'l Short Film Festival	Sept	lashortsfest.com
Norwich Film Festival	Nov	norwichfilmfestival.co.uk
Open City Docs	Sept	opencitylondon.com
Oska Bright	Nov	carousel.org.uk/oska-bright-film-festival
Palm Springs International ShortFest	June	psfilmfest.org
Raindance Film Festival	Sep- Oct	raindance.co.uk
Rotterdam International Film Festival	Feb	filmfestivalrotterdam.com
S.O.U.L. Film Festival	June	soulfilm.co.uk
Sheffield Doc/Fest	June	sheffdocfest.com
Sundance Film Festival	Jan	www.sundance.org
SXSW Short Film Program	March	sxsw.com
The Shortest Nights	June	shortsightedcinema.com
The Smalls	Sept	thesmalls.com
Toronto International Film Festival	Sept	<u>tiff.net</u>
Tribeca Film Festival	Apr	tribecafilm.com
UK Jewish Film Festival	Mar	ukjewishfilm.org
Underwire Film Festival	Nov	underwirefestival.com
Venice Film Festival	Sept	labiennale.org

QUALIFYING ONLINE CHANNELS FOR SHORT FILMS

Channel name	Website
VICE	<u>vice.com</u>
The Guardian Docs	theguardian.com
New York Times Op-Docs	nytimes.com
Field of Vision	fieldofvision.org
NOWNESS	nowness.com
BBC Three	bbc.co.uk/bbcthree
Channel 4	<u>channel4.com</u>



BIFA 2019 STATEMENT TEMPLATE THE RAINDANCE DISCOVERY AWARD

Film name:

- 1) Please indicate whom from your writing/directing/producing team you would like to put forward for this award (it can be individuals from one, two or all three positions)
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- 2) Please describe which particular achievements in the making of this film make the people you've put forward candidates for this award. What were their unique contributions? (100 words per person)
- 3) How does your entered film display uniqueness of vision or risk-taking? How did the people that you've put forward for the award help achieve this? (200 words)
- 4) Are there any outstanding achievements in the film's marketing or distribution that you think make the film a contender for the Raindance Discovery Award? (150 words)



BIFA 2019 STATEMENT TEMPLATE BREAKTHROUGH PRODUCER

All information given in statements is confidential to BIFA voters and will not be released publicly or shared with third parties.

Film name: Producer name:

- 5) Please let us know the film's production budget.
- 6) Please describe any unique or outstanding achievements made by the producer in the making of their film that you believe make them a contender for the Breakthrough Producer award. (200 words)
- 7) The Breakthrough Producer award looks at potential and trajectory as well as achievement. Please give use some insight into the producer's career so far and what effect winning the Breakthrough Producer award might have. (150 words)
- 8) If there are additional producers listed on the film who are not eligible for the Breakthrough Producer award: What was the division of duties between the producer entered to this award and the other producers listed on the film? (100 words)
- 9) If this is not the producer's first feature film, please let us know why this film should be considered their 'breakthrough' over previous work. (100 words)

BIFA 2019 STATEMENT TEMPLATE CRAFT CATEGORIES

Best Casting	 Please describe any outstanding achievements by the Casting Director that should be taken into consideration by BIFA voters when voting for the Best Casting award. For example: Were there unusual challenges in the casting process that they overcame, or innovative casting techniques put to use? Did they discover exciting new talent or cast an experienced actor in a career-defining role? Did their casting decisions significantly impact the production of the film in an unexpected way? How well does the casting serve the characters? Was anybody else (director, producers) involved in the casting process for any of the performers? Had any performers already been cast before you joined the project?
Best Cinematography	 Please describe any outstanding achievements by the Cinematographer that should be taken into consideration by BIFA voters when voting for the Best Cinematography award. For example: Were there unusual challenges in shooting the film that they overcame, or innovative cinematography techniques put to use? Did they make any significant creative contributions that impacted the director's vision and the final film?
Best Costume Design	 Please describe any outstanding achievements by the Costume Designer that should be taken into consideration by BIFA voters when voting for the Best Costume Design award. For example: Were there unusual challenges in designing, procuring or creating the costumes that they overcame, or innovative costume design techniques put to use? Did they respond to their brief in a particularly creative way, or make decisions that had a significant creative impact on the final film? Is there a particular item of costume that they're especially proud of?

Best Editing	 Please describe any outstanding achievements by the Editor that should be taken into consideration by BIFA voters when voting for the Best Editing award. For example: Were there unusual challenges in editing the film that they overcame, or innovative editing techniques put to use? Did they do something particularly creative or new with an established genre or type of film? Did they make any significant creative contributions that impacted the director's vision and the final film?
Best Effects	 Please describe any outstanding achievements by the VFX and/or SFX Supervisor(s) that should be taken into consideration by BIFA voters when voting for the Best Effects award. For example: Were there unusual challenges in producing effects for the film that they overcame, or innovative techniques put to use? Are there any particular scenes or effects that voters should pay attention to? Is there a particular effect or scene that they're espoecially proud of? Entrants will also be asked to submit a short effects breakdown video
Best Make-Up & Hair Design	 Please describe any outstanding achievements by the Make Up and/or Hair Designer(s), or by Prosthetics Designers if applicable, that should be taken into consideration by BIFA voters when voting for the Best Make-up & Hair Design award. For example: Were there unusual challenges in the designing or production of the make up and/or hair for the film that they overcame, or innovative techniques put to use? Did they respond to their brief in a particularly creative way, or make decisions that had a significant creative impact on the final film? Is there a particular item of Make-Up & Hair design that they're especially proud of?

Best Music	 Please describe any outstanding achievements by the Composer or Music Supervisor that should be taken into consideration by BIFA voters when voting for the Best Music award. For example: Were there unusual challenges in the composition, production or procurement of the music in the film that they overcame, or innovative techniques put to use? Did they make any outstanding creative decisions that had a significant impact on the director's vision and the final film? Is there a particular element of the film's music that they're especially proud of?
Best Production Design	 Please describe any outstanding achievements by the Production Designer that should be taken into consideration by BIFA voters when voting for the Best Production Design award. For example: Were there unusual challenges in the production design of the film that they overcame, or innovative techniques put to use? What did the Production Designer believe to be the most successful element, set or creative part of their design for the film and why? Is there a particular element or item of the film's Production Design that they're especially proud of?
Best Sound	 Please describe any outstanding achievements by the Sound Designer or by the wider Sound Department heads (Sound Designer, Supervising Sound Editor, Production Mixer and Re-recording Mixer) that should be taken into consideration by BIFA voters when voting for the Best Sound award. For example: What were the unusual challenges for the Sound Designer / Department in capturing and creating the sound for this film? If being entered as a team, please describe how the team worked together in a particularly effective or creative way? Describe any interesting or unique ways that the sound crew interacted with the director, producers, composer and/or the film editor and any outstanding creative decisions that had a significant impact on the director's vision for the final film?