

Welcome to the Tribeca Festival Submissions FAQ page! There's a lot to take in, we answer a lot of questions quite extensively here, but if you're still unsure, please email us at entries@tribecafilm.com and we are more than happy to help!

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APPLICATION

How do I submit my project?

You are welcome to submit either through the [Tribeca Extranet](#) or through [FilmFreeway](#). Please note that the reduced rate of \$35 USD for student short film submissions is only available for submissions made on the Extranet platform, and not on FilmFreeway. Additionally, submissions to Tribeca Games and Tribeca Audio Storytelling can only be made on the Extranet, not on FilmFreeway.

Please be sure to carefully review our Rules and Regulations prior to submitting.

CATEGORIES

Features and Shorts

A platform for independent filmmaking, creative expression and immersive entertainment, Tribeca supports emerging and established voices, discovers award-winning filmmakers, curates innovative and interactive experiences, and introduces new technology and ideas through panels, premieres, exhibitions, and live performance. Feature films invited to participate in the 23rd Annual Tribeca Festival will be shown in the section determined most appropriate by Festival programmers, in their sole discretion.

Short films should be under 40 minutes (39:59 total run time), and feature films should be 40 minutes or more.

Sections for Feature Films:

US Narrative Competition – Open to feature narrative films produced in the US having a World “Premiere” at the Festival.

- Eligible for the Awards: Best Narrative Feature, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, and Best Performance.

International Narrative Competition – Open to feature narrative films produced outside the US having at least a North American “Premiere” at the Festival.

- Eligible for the Awards: Best Narrative Feature, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, and Best Performance.

Documentary Competition – Open to features from all regions but must be a World “Premiere” at the festival.

- Eligible for the awards: Best Documentary Feature, Best Editing, and Best Cinematography.

Gala & Movies Plus – Both screening programs are invitation-only and feature advanced screenings of anticipated films, along with live performances and special talks after the screenings.

Spotlight – Open to both documentary and narrative films; a mix of big names, bold talents, highly anticipated new releases, and festival favorites.

Viewpoints – An assortment of documentary and narrative feature films offering distinctive visions from innovative voices.

Midnight – Spanning horror, sci-fi, action and more, these entertaining and memorable feature films celebrate the best in genre cinema.

Tribeca Games

Tribeca will feature video game projects throughout the Festival to highlight this important medium as a form of storytelling, art, and innovation. Story is defined in the broadest sense including narrative, world building, and/or artistic excellence. Cross-medium projects and unique use of technology that challenge our current understanding of games is embraced. Submissions will be considered for the Tribeca Games section and, if selected, will be considered Official Selections, and will be featured during the 23rd edition of the Tribeca Festival. Selections will also be eligible for the Tribeca Games Award.

Project creators will also be considered for the Tribeca Creators Market, a first-of-its-kind, private industry market held during the Festival that brings together leading emerging feature film, episodic, immersive, audio, and games storytellers to pitch new projects to and network with a wide range of industry members, including distributors, producers, networks, funders, and more.

Tribeca NOW

Tribeca NOW is a platform that discovers, highlights, and celebrates independent episodic work, including short and long form pilots/series, of both narrative and documentary genres. Submissions for Tribeca NOW must demonstrate the potential for serial growth.

Project creators selected for Tribeca NOW may also be eligible for the Tribeca Creators Market, a first-of-its-kind, private industry market held during the Festival that brings together leading emerging feature film, episodic, immersive, audio, and games storytellers to pitch new projects to and network with a wide range of industry members, including distributors, producers, networks, funders, and more.

Tribeca Audio Storytelling

Recognizing the importance of audio storytelling, the Festival will curate an Official Selection of podcasts and audio stories, with an emphasis on discovering, highlighting, and celebrating independent work. Projects selected for the 2025 Tribeca Festival will be reviewed by a diverse jury of storytellers. Each selection will receive Tribeca laurels and be eligible to win a Tribeca Festival Award for Audio Storytelling. Independent creators of official selections will have the opportunity to be part of a live event showcasing a sample of their work for our Tribeca audiences.

Independent creators will also be considered for the Tribeca Creators Market, a first-of-its-kind, daylong, private industry market that brings together leading storytellers to pitch new projects to a wide range of industry decision-makers, including distributors, community groups, agencies, brands, and more.

Budgets and resources in the audio industry vary widely, and this year Tribeca will offer more opportunities for both established and independent creators by way of four separate categories: 1) Independent Fiction 2) Independent Nonfiction, 3) Fiction, and 4) Nonfiction.

In your submission form you will apply to one of these four categories. You will also be asked to provide a rough estimate of the production budget of the specific material submitted. We will contact you if we feel you are not in the appropriate category. We will take many factors into consideration on a case by case basis when determining that decision including but not limited to: genre, length, budget, production resources, and the level of marketing and distribution power behind your project. There will be a place for all projects!

Tribeca X

The Tribeca X Award is a juried award for storytelling supported by a brand recognizing the intersection of advertising and entertainment. The Tribeca X Award is open to all work funded with support of a brand in collaboration with artists or filmmakers. The finalists will be recognized by the Festival, and a jury will award the winning selection at TF25.

Eligible projects include scripted and documentary work for film, TV, digital, episodic, social, podcasts, and VR/AR, in both feature or short length. Submitted projects must have a storytelling element.

Tribeca Works in Progress

The Creators Market kicks off with a **Works in Progress** showcase, offering a group of 8-10 Creators Market storytellers whose projects are in post-production the opportunity to present a 'sneak-peek' of their forthcoming feature or episodic project to an audience of accredited industry professionals. Submitters to the Works in Progress event who are selected for the showcase will have the additional opportunity to participate in the Market's two days of one-on-one meetings (in person and online) with industry representatives.

Eligible Projects include: A Feature Project (Fiction or Documentary) or Episodic Project (Fiction or Documentary), currently in the post-production stage

SUBMITTING

Can I submit more than one project?

You are welcome to submit more than one project if each project that you wish to submit meet the eligibility requirements. For each submission, you will have to fill out a separate entry form and pay a separate fee.

For episodic content submitted to Tribeca NOW only, you can submit multiple episodes of the same series as part of your submission.

For episodic audio stories submitted to Tribeca Audio Storytelling, only one episode may be submitted. And for serialized podcasts, the first episode of the series or season must be submitted.

Can I choose the section I want to submit to?

You can choose between the following submissions categories: Features, Shorts, NOW, Games, Tribeca X, Tribeca Works in Progress, and Audio Storytelling. If your project is selected to screen at the Festival, the Tribeca programming team will determine which section of the Festival best suits your project.

Is there an age restriction on submitting a project?

There is no age limit to submit a project. However, if the creator is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian will need to submit on behalf of the minor.

Do I have to pay a submissions fee if I am submitting a student film?

Students can submit short films for a discounted rate of \$35 per submission, no matter the deadline. To qualify for the discount, students will be asked to upload a copy of their student ID as part of the submission form.

This discount is not offered through FilmFreeway. If you are a student submitting a short film, please use the Tribeca Extranet to submit your film.

The discount is only applicable for student films submitted to our Shorts category. Students submitting to all other categories must pay the regular submissions fees.

I made my short film while I was a student but have since graduated. Am I still eligible for the student short waiver?

So long as a short film was produced while the film's Director was a student, the film is eligible for the student short film discount. Please include enrolment verification or a copy of your student ID with your submission materials, even if no longer valid, and make sure to select student short on your online application.

What criteria do you use to determine Premiere Status?

- **World Premiere:** Projects that have not screened publicly before our festival.
- **International Premiere:** Projects that have screened publicly only in the country of origin before our festival.
- **North American Premiere:** Projects that have not screened publicly in the US/Canada/Mexico before our festival (Canadian and Mexican films that have screened only in their country of origin are considered International Premieres).
- **US Premiere:** Projects that have not screened publicly in the US before our festival.
- **NY Premiere:** Projects that have not screened publicly in the NY Region before Tribeca.
“NY Regional” means the tri-state area, including the five borough of New York City, the surrounding New York metropolitan area (e.g. Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Rockland, Orange and Ulster counties), southwestern Connecticut (e.g. Fairfield, New Haven, and Litchfield Counties) and northern New Jersey (e.g. Bergen, Passaic, Middlesex, Monmouth and Hudson Counties).
- **No Premiere:** Projects that have screened publicly in the NY Region before Tribeca.

Can I exhibit my film/project online prior to the festival?

Possibly! Projects that have been exhibited online as part of another festival remain eligible for submission. However, the project must have only been exhibited for a limited time during those festivals, and still retain a minimum New York premiere, unless otherwise noted (X, Shorts). Exhibiting online at other New York festivals like DOC NYC and NYFF would still render your film ineligible for Tribeca 2025 unless otherwise noted.

If you are submitting to our Shorts category, your submission may be widely available online and remain eligible. However, it must still maintain a New York Premiere to be considered in competition. If you are submitting to Tribeca X, your project may be widely available online and remain eligible.

Please read our rules and regulations carefully. If you have any questions regarding your project’s eligibility, please email entries@tribecafilm.com.

Can I submit a project that is a rough cut?

Yes. We accept rough cut or work-in-progress submissions across all categories, and many of the projects submitted to us are works-in-progress. If you submit a work-in-progress, please include a title card indicating what elements of your project are incomplete. You will also be asked to indicate the incomplete elements of your project on your submission form.

The version you submit should be something you are comfortable with our programming team viewing; we can only guarantee that the first version you send will be viewed. However, you may update your streaming link with a new version if you email us at entries@tribecafilm.com to notify us of the change. You will have up until **January 31, 2025** to update your submission with a new link for Features, NOW, and Games, or until **February 28, 2025** for Shorts and Audio Storytelling. If the link or password changes at any time you must email us to

make the change or else risk forfeiting your submission. If the film is selected you must be able to send us a complete, final exhibition copy before we screen it at the festival, as we do not exhibit works-in-progress at the festival.

Projects that have been theatrically or digitally exhibited at a “work-in-progress screening,” at which tickets were made available to the general public, are only eligible for submission if the version submitted is significantly different (at least 50%) to the one that has been theatrically or digitally exhibited. The Festival reserves the right to disqualify a submission, without refund of any kind, if eligibility requirements are not met, including if eligibility status changes after submitting. Private industry screenings are permitted.

Can I submit a trailer instead of a work-in-progress or a completed project?

No. We will not be able to consider your project if you only submit a trailer. You cannot submit a trailer first to then update the link with the full project. At the time of submission, you must send in the full project.

Can I submit a DVD or Blu-ray screener?

No. We no longer accept DVD/Blu-ray submissions for any category. All submissions must be made via a password-protected or private streaming link.

How should I prepare my streaming link for viewing?

Our preference for submissions is a password-protected Vimeo link; however, we accept submissions on any streaming platform that allows you to share a private, unlisted, or password-protected streaming of your project.

If you submit via Vimeo, please allow embedding on your video on extranet.tribecafilm.com to help our programming team view your project.

If you are submitting a YouTube link, please ensure the privacy is set to unlisted instead of private or public.

Please ensure your streaming link is not publicly available. If your project is publicly available online in the US, it may not be eligible for consideration (only Music Video submissions to the Shorts category and Tribeca X submissions may be publicly available online at the time of submission).

How can I submit my project for Tribeca Games?

You can submit via a download link, Steam key (minimum 8 keys), app download package (APK), or other file with your submission form. If sending us a Vimeo or YouTube link to screen a 360 film, you must enable download for best viewing conditions. The content may include password-protected links to web pages, videos, or other relevant media. You will be asked for a link to your project on our submission form.

If you need to send in additional materials to be considered, or if your project is intended for a platform that is not mentioned here, please email us at entries@tribecafilm.com and we will work with you to properly consider your work.

How can I submit my project to Tribeca Audio Storytelling?

You can submit your audio story or podcast via a streaming or download link hosted on the platform of your choice, so long as the link is private to maintain your submission's eligibility.

Why can I only submit English language audio stories to Tribeca Audio Storytelling?

While we would love to consider submissions from all over the globe, the official language of our programming team is English, and we would be unable to properly evaluate non-English language submissions.

We do not accept translated audio transcripts or dialogue lists.

I've submitted my project to a previous Festival. Can I resubmit it to this year's Festival?

You may resubmit if you have made significant changes to your project and meet the eligibility requirements as outlined in our Rules and Regulations. You will have to fill out the online form and pay the applicable submissions fee.

I've completed the online submissions form. Can I go back to edit information, such as my contact information or my film's screening history?

No. Once you have completed and submitted the form, you cannot go back to edit it. If you need to change any of the information that you submitted, please email entries@tribecafilm.com. We will make the changes for you.

Do you offer waivers for submission fees?

We are only offering waivers for Tribeca Alumni filmmakers and project creators. If you have directed or created a project that was exhibited at Tribeca in the past, please email alumni@tribecafilm.com.

Do you offer refunds for submission fees?

No. Please read the rules and regulations carefully before deciding to submit, and do not hesitate to reach out to entries@tribecafilm.com with any questions. Please note, if any part of your submission form is incomplete, your film will not be in consideration until corrected. Please be sure you include valid Submitter contact information and a working link with your submission

NOTIFICATIONS

When and how will I know if my project has been selected?

We notify all persons designated as the Submitter contact of their submission status via email (and not through FilmFreeway) by late-April 2025. Please make sure your contact information is up to date. If you need to update the submitter information for the project, please email entries@tribecafilm.com.

If you have not received any notification by that time, please email entries@tribecafilm.com for an official notification.

I have been accepted to another festival, but Tribeca is my preferred festival premiere. Can I check to see if my project is in the running?

We may not be able to offer you a definitive answer depending on the timeline. But if you reach out to entries@tribecafilm.com, we will try to give you as much information as possible to inform your decision.

If my project isn't selected for your Festival, will you let me know why?

Due to the large volume of submissions, our programmers are not able offer individual critiques.

You say you watched my film, but my Vimeo page says my film has 0 views. Why is that?

We view all projects submitted to us, and it is in our best interest to do so. We also check each individual viewing link as they come in to make sure they are fully functional before passing them off to the programming team to review.

Please be aware that Vimeo stats are sometimes not accurately reported, especially when the link is viewed through a third party app (Roku, Apple TV, etc) or in a third party player or embedded video (FilmFreeway/Tribeca Extranet), as stated through Vimeo's own documentation.

