



# NaFF Screenwriting Competition 2015

The Nashville Film Festival (NaFF) Screenwriting Competition runs through midnight January 14, 2015. The awards presentation will be held at the 46th Nashville Film Festival, April 16 - 25, 2015.

Winning scripts will be read by celebrated industry executives and studios. The 2015 line-up will be announced here. The 2014 competition winners were read by: Tom Pollock, President of The Montecito Picture Company, and former Chair of Universal Pictures Motion Picture Group and Vice Chair of MCA, Inc. (*Star Wars*, *Schindler's List*); Blossom Films, Nicole Kidman's Academy-Award nominated production company (*Rabbit Hole*); noted casting director, Laray Mayfield (*House of Cards*, *Benjamin Button*); Sycamore Pictures CEO Ben Nearn (*Black Swan*, *The Way, Way Back*), Rich Peluso, Senior Vice President of AFFIRM Films, the faith/family and inspirational label of Sony Picture Entertainment (*Soul Surfer* and *Courageous*); famed limit-breaking director/producer Harmony Korine (*Spring Breakers*), and Lewis Bogach, Emmy-winning Vice President of CMT.

Categories include feature films, short films and comedy/drama teleplays. Feature divisions include: drama, comedy, music-inspired, Tennessee Screenwriters, family, inspirational, horror, science fiction, action/adventure, young screenwriters and more. Winners are awarded at NaFF. Finalists and semi-finalists win All-Festival Passes to NaFF.

The Nashville Film Festival, presented by Nissan, is one of the oldest and largest film festivals in the U.S. At Regal Green Hills Cinemas, NaFF will screen 250 films, host a VIP Tent and multiple red-carpet events.



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# NaFF Screenwriting Competition FAQ's

1. *When is the NaFFSC?* The NaFFSC opens for entries on June 2, 2014 and closes January 14, 2015. Events for screenwriters run concurrently with the Nashville Film Festival, April 16 – 25th, 2015.

2. *When and where are the awards announced?* Awards are announced at the Nashville Film Festival Awards Ceremony, usually the final Friday of the festival.

3. *What events are planned for the screenwriters?* Screenwriters with laminates may attend panel discussions for filmmakers and screenwriters, films, the VIP Tent, screenwriter awards ceremony and closing night party.

4. *Who are the jurors?* The jurors are top-level film industry pros. See our web-site for our latest listing. Jurors are subject to change due to events outside of NaFF's control.

5. *What networking opportunities are available?* Numerous screenwriters and filmmakers from all over the world come to NaFF. It's one of the few great places to hang out with people in the industry.

6. *Do Semifinalists win a pass?* Yes. They win a NaFF Silver Laminate.

7. *Do Finalists win a pass?* Yes. They win two NaFF Silver Laminates. For descriptions of laminate benefits, see <http://www.nashvillefilmfestival.org/get-involved/become-member/>.

8. *What are the judges looking for?* NaFF is searching for scripts with commercial potential based on four categories: premise, story, character, and dialogue.

9. *Do you accept entries from outside the U.S.?* Yes. All entries must be written in English.

10. *What is the Nashville Film Festival?* NaFF is an annual, ten-day extravaganza named one of "25 festivals worth the entry fee" by MovieMaker

Magazine and voted one of the Top 5 Film Festivals in the U.S. by the Brooks Institute. Now in its 46th year, the Festival is proud to bring the world to Nashville through a celebration of the diversity of the human spirit expressed through the art of film.

11. *When is the Nashville Film Festival?* April 16 – April 25, 2015.

12. *Can I submit a script in multiple categories?* Yes. An entry fee is required for each category.

13. *What qualifies a script for the Tennessee Screenplay categories?* The writer must either have been born in Tennessee or currently reside in Tennessee. The entrant is responsible for the authenticity of this claim and any inquiry regarding that authenticity.

14. *Are there qualifications for scripts in any of the genre categories?* We leave it up to the writers to choose the categories. No scripts will be disqualified based on category submission.



*Nashville Film Festival*

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# NaFF Screenwriting Competition Rules

Call for Entry: 6/2/2014 - 1/14/2015

Deadlines: \$25: Early Bird 6/2 - 7/15  
\$35: Regular 7/16 - 9/23  
\$45: Late 9/24 - 11/25  
\$55: Extended 11/26 - 1/14

Fees: All fees are per entry, per category. Entry fees are the same for features, shorts and young screenwriters. Fees are submitted online through our web-site. No waivers. No Refunds.

Submissions: NaFF only accepts submissions via our website.

Format: All entries must be written in English and submitted as a PDF file less than 5 MB, size 12 Courier font, standard industry format. Title of script only on title page: no author name. Pages should be numbered. MovieMagic Screenwriter, Final Draft, or Celtx are suggested software programs.

## Categories

### *Feature*

Drama  
Comedy  
Music Inspired  
Action/Adventure  
Family  
Inspirational  
Animated  
Historical  
Science Fiction  
Thriller/Horror  
TN Feature Screenplay

### *Short*

Drama  
Comedy  
Family Friendly (Music Inspired, Animation, Inspiration, Historical, Family)  
Genre (Action/Adventure, Thriller/Horror, Science Fiction)  
TN Short Screenplay  
Young Screenwriter Short

### *Teleplays*

TV-Comedy/pilot  
TV-Drama/pilot

## Awards

The NaFF Screenwriting Competition offers cash and prizes, including NaFF Festival Laminates to semifinalists and finalists.

NaFF awards **cash prizes to winners in the feature categories**. All short category winners and runners up receive an exclusive NaFF Hatch Show Print Certificate, in addition to their festival laminates.

Cash awards to winners in the following categories:

Grand Prize (Selected from feature categories.) \$2,000. Feature Drama: \$500. Feature Comedy \$500; Feature Action/Adventure \$250; Feature Thriller/Horror \$250; Feature Family Film \$250; Feature Inspirational Film \$250; Feature Animated Film \$250; Feature Science Fiction \$250, Feature Historical Film \$250; Feature Music-Inspired \$250; Tennessee Feature Screenplay \$250. Young Screenwriter: \$250. TV Drama Pilot \$250; TV Comedy Pilot \$250.

NaFF names a winner and runner-up in each category. Winners receive cash awards. Runners-up win an exclusive certificate award printed at Hatch Show Print. Semifinalists win a NaFF Silver Laminate, valued at \$250. All finalists win two NaFF Silver Laminates worth \$500.

## General Rules

1. Eligibility: The Nashville Film Festival (NaFF) Screenwriting Competition accepts screenplays and teleplays that have not been sold and are not currently under option prior to 4/16/2015.
2. Judges Decisions Final: Awards and selections of NaFF are final.
3. Complete Works: NaFF considers all entries to be complete and will not accept any revisions or additional pages once the screenplay or teleplay has been submitted. Do not submit a script for a feature that is under 40 pages with a notice: "to be continued."
4. Multiple Categories: Entrants may submit the same entry to more than one category. Each category entered requires an entry fee for that category.
5. Copyright: All entrants are encouraged to register their screenplays with the Writers' Guild of America, East or West: [www.wgaeast.org/script\\_registration](http://www.wgaeast.org/script_registration), or [www.wga.org/registration/index.html](http://www.wga.org/registration/index.html).
6. Refunds: Submissions are final. NaFF does not issue refunds.
7. Exclusions: NaFF employees, including seasonal staff, board members, sponsors, and their immediate families, are not eligible to submit in any category.
8. Original: All entries must be original works by the applicant.
9. Co-Authors: If a screenplay has more than one author, it is up to the authors to decide how many authors to list on the application and who will be the primary contact e-mail.
10. Withdrawal from Categories: NaFF does not

allow changes to the categories after submission. All submissions are final.

11. Multiple Authors Award Divisions: NaFF awards are made per entry, not per author. Therefore, groups of authors associated with one entry are responsible for the division of awards, including laminates. (Semifinalists win 1 NaFF Silver Laminate and Finalists win 2 NaFF Silver Laminates.) NaFF does not assume responsibility for arrangements with regard to laminate or cash divisions.

## Format Rules

12. English: All entries must be submitted in English.

13. Formatting Standards: Please format your screenplay according to the sample screenplay reference on our website. MovieMagic Screenwriter, Final Draft, or Celtx are suggested programs. Use 12 point Courier font. Pages must be numbered.

14. Submissions: Only through our web-site as PDFs. No mailed or emailed entries are accepted.

15. Pages:

- Feature Scripts: 80 – 130 pages (approx.)
- Short Scripts: 40 pages or less
- Teleplay: 45-65 pages (approx.)

16. Title Page: Include title only on title page. The author's name should not appear on the title page or anywhere on the script, to preserve anonymity and fairness.

17. Not Accepted: novels, short stories, stage plays, treatments, synopses, reality show concepts, scripts for existing TV series, work that is not original.

## The Judging

18. The Readings: In the opening rounds, the first 30 pages are read. Beginning with Round 3, each script is read in full.

19. The Judges: In early rounds, experienced, trained NaFF script-readers evaluate scripts. In later rounds: industry pros. The NaFF finalist jury consists of industry professionals, including producers, production executives, professional screenwriters, literary agents, and managers.

20. NaFFSC Criteria: 1-10 points in four categories: premise, story, character, dialogue. Premise: who & what the story is about, setting (where & when), primary action. Story: arrangement of events & scenes, flow of dramatic tension. Characters: distinctiveness, relationships. Dialogue: feel, sound, relationship to storyline.

21. Disqualifications: Submissions are not disqualified for minor formatting errors (title page, software, length.)

22. Notifications: Each submission will receive a confirmation email once payment is processed. We will notify semi-finalists and finalists by late March.

23. Feedback: Upon request, writers may receive the readers' evaluations of their scripts after May 1, 2015.

## Young Screenwriter Competition

Young Screenwriters are subject to all NaFF Competition rules. To enter, applicant must be 19 or under on April 15, 2015. Young screenwriters are discouraged from submitting features.