

**FILM
INDEP
ENDENT
SPIRIT
AWARDS**

**2021 Rules & Regulations
Television Submissions**

These are the official rules and regulations for the 2021 Film Independent Spirit Awards, Television Submissions. The 2021 Spirit Awards will be held April 24, 2021.

Please read the rules and regulations in their entirety prior to filling out the submission form.

Final interpretation of all rules and regulations and eligibility of submissions shall be made by the Spirit Awards Nominating Committees and Film Independent.

You may contact the Nominations Office for clarifications and with questions via email: spiritawards@filmindependent.org

NOMINATIONS STAFF

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IMPORTANT DATES & FEES

BEST NEW SCRIPTED SERIES

(All series submitted for Best New Scripted Series are automatically considered for Best Ensemble Cast)

Regular Deadline (October 27, 2020): \$425 Member Fee / \$475 Non-Member Fee

Late Deadline (November 17, 2020): \$500 Member Fee / \$550 Non-Member Fee

Extended Deadline for Film Independent Members (November 20, 2020): \$500

Special Fee for Filmmaker Pro & Arts Circle Members (November 20, 2020): \$425

+\$100 for each performer submitted

for Best Male Performance and/or Best Female Performance in a New Series

BEST NEW NON-SCRIPTED OR DOCUMENTARY SERIES

Regular Deadline (October 27, 2020): \$350 Member Fee / \$400 Non-Member Fee

Late Deadline (November 17, 2020): \$425 Member Fee / \$475 Non-Member Fee

Extended Deadline for Film Independent Members (November 20, 2020): \$500

Special Fee for Filmmaker Pro & Arts Circle Members (November 20, 2020): \$350

RULES FOR ELIGIBILITY

1. The 2021 Film Independent Spirit Awards will recognize new series airing during the eligibility period of January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020.
2. A new series is defined as having all or part of its first season broadcast within the eligibility period of January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020.

An anthology series is only eligible in its first season. Series continuations (reboots and revivals) after hiatus are not eligible. All genres are eligible.

3. Episodes must be at least 18 minutes in length and a minimum of three (3) episodes must have been broadcast, transmitted or available via a commercial streaming platform within the eligibility window. Series must be available via network, basic cable, pay cable, pay television, pay-per-view, interactive cable, broadband, or digital distribution through streaming platforms.
4. Only series eligible to submit in the category of Best New Scripted Series are eligible to submit for Best Male Performance and/or Best Female Performance.

All series submitted for Best New Scripted Series are automatically considered for Best Ensemble Cast. One (1) series will be awarded Best Ensemble Cast at the discretion of the Nominating Committee.

5. International series may only be eligible if:
 - a. The series airs on a U.S. platform with the purpose to be shown to U.S. audiences within the eligibility window, AND
 - b. The series is a co-production between U.S. and International partners, creatively and financially, preceding the start of production.
6. Eligibility for all awards shall first be determined by credits as they appear on the screen and/or as supplied to Film Independent by way of this submission form, provided by the production company or the distributor responsible for the series. If a series is determined ineligible for any reason or submitted in the wrong category, the Spirit Awards Nominations Staff will contact the submitter. Award is given to individuals credited as Creator, Executive Producer and Co-Executive Producer on at least 50% of the episodes in the first season of the series.

For Best Male Performance and Best Female Performance, eligible performers include individuals in a lead, supporting or guest performance. Individual performers should be entered on the submission form for consideration.

For Best Ensemble Cast, eligible performers include:

- a. Individuals with a “Starring” credit on one or more eligible episode(s), AND
- b. Individuals with a “Guest Starring” credit on 50% or more of eligible episodes

Any performer recognized as part of the awarded Best Ensemble Cast will no longer be eligible to be nominated in the individual performance categories.

All final nominations and categories are made at the sole discretion of the nominating committee and Film Independent.

CATEGORY INFORMATION

The final categories for which a series may be nominated are at the sole discretion of the Spirit Awards Nominating Committees and Film Independent.

BEST NEW SCRIPTED SERIES (including continuing, limited, anthology series)

BEST NEW NON-SCRIPTED OR DOCUMENTARY SERIES

BEST MALE PERFORMANCE IN A NEW SCRIPTED SERIES

Only performers from series submitted for Best New Scripted Series may submit for Best Male Performance.

BEST FEMALE PERFORMANCE IN A NEW SCRIPTED SERIES

Only performers from series submitted for Best New Scripted Series may submit for Best Female Performance.

BEST ENSEMBLE CAST IN A NEW SCRIPTED SERIES

All series submitted for Best New Scripted Series are automatically considered for Best Ensemble Cast. One (1) series will be awarded Best Ensemble Cast at the discretion of the Nominating Committee.

NOMINATING GUIDELINES

The Television categories at the Film Independent Spirit Awards will celebrate independent creative visual storytellers who are working in the television space and continuing to create bold, innovative and inclusive content. Through the lens of Film Independent's mission, we will recognize *new* series and celebrate original voices and content that is expanding the boundaries of television.

The Spirit Awards Nominating Committees apply the following guidelines in making their selections. Any variations of the rules or guidelines are at the sole discretion of the Nominating Committees and Film Independent:

- Innovation, uniqueness of vision
- Original, provocative subject matter
- Diversity & inclusion, on and off camera, and also in the narrative and themes of the series

REQUIRED MATERIALS

You will receive an email with a link and instructions on how to upload your materials and your digital screener within 24 hours of submitting your form.

- One representative episode from the submitted series will need to be uploaded in its entirety to our partner screener website, Vision Media. DVDs or links (Vimeo, YouTube, Mediasillo etc) will not be accepted.
- PDF version(s) of all signature page(s) with ALL required signatures
- Representative production stills from the series (preferred formats: JPEG, TIFF, PNG)
- A full, complete and official list of credits
- Key bios of Creator(s), Executive Producer(s), Co-Executive Producer(s), and Actor(s)
- Series Synopsis (100 words or less)

A representative episode from all nominated series will be made available on the Vision Media platform for Spirit Awards staff including: Executive Producer, Director, Producers, Writers, Hosts and Broadcast team until April 24, 2021. Please contact the nominations office if you have any questions.

PAYMENT

Payment will be accepted via credit card, ACH or wire transfer, or a check made out to "Film Independent" for the required submission fee(s). Checks can be mailed to: Film Independent, Attn: Cristhian Barron, 5670 Wilshire Blvd., 9th Floor, Los Angeles, CA 90036

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Film Independent Members are the official the voting body that determines the winners for the Spirit Awards. To join Film Independent at any level of support, visit www.film-independent.org/join

One representative episode from your series must be uploaded to Vision Media by the deadline to which you are applying. If your series is not submitted by the deadline, later submission fees will be applied. Incomplete submissions may be disqualified.

Should you receive a nomination for the 2021 Film Independent Spirit Awards, the primary contact for the series is responsible for supplying all required materials (including nominee and representative contact information, EPK, trailer/soundtrack, press materials, series artwork and screeners) to Spirit Awards Production NO LATER than Wednesday, February 10, 2021. Please visit the FAQ page on www.spiritawards.com for a more detailed list of required materials and specs.