

# **FILM iNDEP ENDENT SPiRiT AWARDS**

## **2023 Rules & Regulations Television Submissions**

These are the official rules and regulations for the 2023 Film Independent Spirit Awards, Television Submissions.

The 2023 Spirit Awards will be held March 4, 2023.

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](mailto:spiritawards@filmindependent.org)

### **NOMINATIONS STAFF**

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### **IMPORTANT DATES & FEES**

#### **BEST NEW SCRIPTED SERIES**

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

**Regular Deadline (Tuesday, September 20, 2022):** \$525 Member Fee | \$575 non-Member Fee

**Final Deadline (Tuesday, October 4, 2022):** \$625 Member Fee | \$675 non-Member Fee

**Extended Deadline for Filmmaker Pro & Arts Circle Members (Friday, October 7, 2022):** \$625

**+\$100 for each performer submitted**

for Best Lead Performance and/or Best Supporting Performance in a New Series

**+\$100 for each additional episode submitted**

if you choose to submit additional episodes for other categories

#### **BEST NEW NON-SCRIPTED OR DOCUMENTARY SERIES**

**Regular Deadline (Tuesday, September 20, 2022):** \$525 Member Fee | \$575 non-Member Fee

**Final Deadline (Tuesday, October 4, 2022):** \$625 Member Fee | \$675 non-Member Fee

**Extended Deadline for Filmmaker Pro & Arts Circle Members (October 7, 2022):** \$625

## RULES FOR ELIGIBILITY

1. The 2023 Film Independent Spirit Awards will recognize new series airing during the eligibility period of January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022.
2. A new series is defined as having all or part of its first season broadcast within the eligibility period of January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022.

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 Lead Performance and/or Best Supporting 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 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 LEAD PERFORMANCE IN A NEW SCRIPTED SERIES**

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

### **BEST SUPPORTING PERFORMANCE IN A NEW SCRIPTED SERIES**

Only performers from series submitted for Best New Scripted Series may submit for Best Supporting 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

## **NOMINEE SCREENING PROGRAM**

Spirit Award-nominated titles will have the option to participate in the Nominee Screener program (for a nominal fee), which provides voters with digital screener access to watch nominees in our secure digital screening room, powered by Vision Media. For additional information on the Nominee Screener program, please email us at: [membership@filmIndependent.org](mailto:membership@filmIndependent.org).

\*\*\* PLEASE NOTE: ALL TITLES THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE NOMINEE SCREENER PROGRAM WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THE NOMINATED FILM OR TELEVISION EPISODE THAT INCLUDES CLOSED CAPTIONS. THIS INCLUDES ALL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE FILMS AS WELL AS ALL INTERNATIONAL FILMS. (Closed Caption File Spec: Hour Zero Start, WebVTT Format)

## **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.
- Representative production stills from the series (preferred formats: JPEG, TIFF, PNG)
- A full, complete and official list of credits
- Series Synopsis (100 words or less)
- Episode 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 March 4, 2023. 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). *All payments for submitted series must be received no later than Friday, October 7, 2022 in order to be considered.*

## **BEST NEW SCRIPTED SERIES**

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

**Regular Deadline (Tuesday, September 20, 2022):** \$525 Member Fee | \$575 Non-Member Fee

**Late Deadline (Tuesday, October 4, 2022):** \$625 Member Fee | \$675 Non-Member Fee

**Extended Deadline for Filmmaker Pro & Arts Circle Members (Friday, October 7, 2022):** \$625

**+\$100 for each performer submitted**

for Best Lead Performance and/or Best Supporting Performance in a New Series

## **BEST NEW NON-SCRIPTED OR DOCUMENTARY SERIES**

**Regular Deadline (Tuesday, September 20, 2022):** \$525 Member Fee / \$575 Non-Member Fee

**Final Deadline (Tuesday, October 4, 2022):** \$625 Member Fee / \$675 Non-Member Fee

**Extended Deadline for Filmmaker Pro & Arts Circle Members (Friday, October 7, 2022):** \$625

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 [filmindependent.org/join](https://filmindependent.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 2023 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 January 6, 2023. Please visit [filmindependent.org/spirit-awards/faq/](https://filmindependent.org/spirit-awards/faq/) for a more detailed list of required materials and specs.