



MFFF
Massachusetts
Flash Film Festival

Filmmakers Rules

The Goal: Write, shoot and edit a short film in 72 hours.

Teamwork and complete focus will help you develop a cohesive and entertaining narrative work which will screen to an eager audience.

The following rules apply to each participating group/production team:

1. Times:

- The Massachusetts Flash Film Festival will occur between Thursday (10/1/15) 7pm and Sunday (10/4/2015) 7pm. This is the Official Time Period.
- The participating group/team must complete its film/video work in time to deliver it to the Belmont Media Center, on Sunday, 10/4/2015 by 7:30pm.
- Only works that meet the deadline will be officially part of the competition. All films received on Sunday (on-time and late) will be screened.

2. In that 72 hour period, all creativity will take place, including but not limited to:

- Writing the script
- Rehearsing
- Costume/Set Design
- Shooting
- Editing
- Sound Design

3. The only work to begin prior to the “Official Time Period” is:

- Organizing Crew
- Organizing Cast
- Securing Equipment
- Scouting/Securing Locations

4. All footage must be shot within the 72 hour time period of the project.

- No stock footage or footage shot or created at another time may be used.
- Animation and special effects are permitted, but must be created during the 48 hour time period.
- Still photographs are permitted, provided that the team has the rights to them. The photos do not need to be created during the one week time period.

5. Each participating group must have a representative at the official Kickoff Event of the Massachusetts Flash Film Festival.

- At the event, each group will submit a Participant's Agreement, signed by the team leader.
- Each group will choose the genre of its film in a random drawing.
- Teams will be given the option relinquishing the genre selected in the drawing for a Wild Card genre.
- In addition, each group will be assigned required elements that must appear in its film, such as a specific character, prop and/or line of dialogue.
- The required Character and Prop must be seen on-screen.
- The required Line of Dialogue may be spoken, sung and/or written. It may be in any language, though if it is unclear that it is the Line, there must be a translation.
- *To qualify as an "Official Flash Film Festival Participant, each group's film must be in the genre it selects and must contain all required elements within the official time limit and prior to the credits.*

6. All cast and crew must be volunteers.

7. The finished film must be a minimum of 4 minutes in duration, and a maximum of 7 minutes in duration.

8. Credits at the end of each film are limited to a maximum of 60 seconds. The 60 seconds is considered additional to the length of the film, as stated in Rule 8. (That is, a film may be 7 minutes long, with an additional 60 seconds of credits, for a total running time of 8 minutes.)

9. Any type of video or film camera may be used, however, *a maximum of only two cameras may be used.*

10. Sound recordings and Sound Effects: Sound recorders are allowed in addition to the two camera limit above. As with music, pre-recorded sound effects are allowed, but you must have rights to use them.

11. The finished film/video must be NTSC and submitted on one of the following:

- miniDV (preferred)
- DVD
- MPEG/Quicktime MOV

Films will be accepted in digital file format. If sending films digitally it is still suggested to bring a physical copy to BMC for backup. HD files and Blu-Ray masters will also be accepted.

We recommend that each team submit two copies of the final film. If we cannot view your film on our equipment, it may be disqualified.

12. Before the finished film begins, the tape should have (this leader is not included in your total run-time of the finished film:
 - 5 seconds of black
 - Title card with: team name, title, and genre
 - Title card with: “This film made for the Massachusetts Flash Film Festival 2011.”
 - 2 seconds of black
 - Your film

14. The producer/team leader for each group must submit a complete and signed paper copy of the “Participant’s Agreement” at the Kickoff Event prior to being allowed to draw a genre.

15. Each team must secure talent, crew releases, which must be turned in to the project organizers with the finished film/video. (The release form is found on the Flash Festival Website.) The film/video will not be screened before the Flash Film Organizers receive the signed releases.

16. Content of the movie/film/video is at the discretion of the participating groups. Belmont Media Center and the Festival organizers reserve the right to not screen or cablecast any film that can be considered pornographic, or that depicts hard core or graphic sex or anything else that is in violation of the Community Access Television Policy’s and Procedures (maybe found at www.belmontmedia.org) Please remember this is a family event.

17. Music: Participating groups are encouraged to work with local composer and/or musicians to write and record music for the films. We realize that this may be difficult to achieve. Therefore, it is permissible for a participating group to use pre-recorded music; *however* it is **recommended** that the participating group have the rights to any music used in its film and provide a release for all music.

18. To be certified as an “Official Flash Film,” each participating group’s Film/video production must follow all rules herein. The Massachusetts Flash Film Organizers reserve the right to screen only certified “Official Flash Films.”

19. All certified “Official Flash Films” are eligible to compete for the title of Best Flash Film.

20. The Flash Film Festival Organizers may add to or amend these rules at any time prior to the beginning of the Official time period.