



Frequently Asked Questions

How Much Does it Cost?

The entry fee for Non-Professional teams is \$30, Professional Teams are \$50.

Registration fee is for the entire team and includes two free tickets to the screen to be given to the team leader (Producer) just before the screening.

What are the films about?

That's up to the filmmaker. However each team must select the genre for its movie in a random drawing at the Kick Off Event. In addition teams are given a character, a prop, and a line of dialogue that must appear in the film.

How long are the films?

The films are short; they must be a minimum of 4 minutes and a maximum of 7 minutes long. Short is good. Shorter, tighter films are usually more interesting.

Is this a contest and will there be prizes?

Yes and Yes. Grand Prize is \$500.

Will the finished films get aired on any other community media center?

Yes; provided that the film is not in violation of any of Belmont Media Center's rules and procedures. Films will also be posted on the web.

Are Community Media Staff and Board of Director's Eligible to be part of a team?

Yes; however, doing so may cause your team to have to be entered into the "Professional" Division. See the checklist below. BMC staff and board of director's are ineligible.

I am a business in town and would like to support the Flash Film Festival. Is there a way I can help?

Of Course; contact us for more information.

Does the maximum length of the film include credits?

No. Your film maybe 7 minutes long plus one minute of credits.

What about beginning credits?

Opening Credits are allowed and do not count against credit time. However, they do count against the seven minutes of film. Remember the audience is here to watch, not read.

Are we allowed to have footage under our close credits?

Yes, However, the narrative must end before the closing credits begin. So outtakes, Ferris-Bueller-like antics or bonus scenes are allowed. If we remove the credits the movie should still feel complete.

I know stock film and video is not allowed. What about stock photos?

If you have the rights to them, then stock photos are permitted. In other words, you may use photos not taken during the 72 hour time period.

Is Animation Allowed?

Yes. However—while you may use still drawings created in anticipation of the Project—you may not use animations created ahead of time. That is, all "inbetweening" must be done during the 72 hour time period. Downloading existing images and 3D objects is permissible, provided that you have full and permanent rights to them. Again, only animation created during the 72 hour time period is allowed. And, as with a live action film, you must have all rights to the animation you submit.

What about special effects? What's allowed?

You may use special effects that involve any of the allowed elements: still photographs, footage shot during the one week, or footage rendered during the one week. However, special effects that involve footage not shot during the 72 hours are prohibited. Some examples: Final Cut Pro's Cloud filter would be allowed, but Digital Juice's Smoke Revealers would not.

Should we shoot in HD? Widescreen? Surround Sound?

Your film will be shown in Standard Definition in stereo or mono with an aspect ratio of 4:3. So you may shoot in HD, in widescreen, or in surround sound, but the film will not be projected that way. We require you to submit a Standard Definition, letterboxed, stereo or mono version of your film—anything else can lead to problems during our mastering process.

Does every team member have to sign the "Team Leader's Agreement"?

No, only the team leader needs to sign it (and turn it in at the Kickoff). However, everyone who works on the film must sign the Liability Waiver form.

If the "required character" is audible off screen—like on the other end of a phone conversation—does that count?

No, we must actually see the required character in some way on the screen. Remember, he/she need not be the star of the film, just make an appearance.

Does the required character have to say his name or wear a name tag?

As long as the audience can infer who the character is, he/she doesn't need to be further identified.

What Division am I in?

Use this checklist to find out.

Is the Team Leader (Producer) a professional in the video/film industry? Yes - 10pts

Is the Team Leader (Producer) an access center staff member? Yes - 10pts

In the past year was any crew member (camera, audio, editor etc) paid any amount of work for any other production? Yes - 5pts for each crew member

Are any of the crew members current access center staff or board members? Yes - 5pts

If you scored 20 points or more you must enter in the professional division.