



Rules and Regulations

12th FIRST International Film Festival Xining

A. General

1. About Competition

On one hand, film has been consistently proving itself as an art form; on the other hand, film has become the modern art practice with the most commercial value. With multiplexed standards, a film festival takes the obligation to be the homeland for the film adventurers, genius and craft men, preserving and documenting varied type of cinematic expression and life experiences. A film festival showcases the auteurs and films with higher value through levels of selection and value system.

2. Dates

FIRST International Film Festival Xining is held from July 21 to July 30 each year in Xining, China.

3. Eligibility

Submission to FIRST is open to narrative features, documentaries, experimental films, animations and short films.

- 1 The production should be completed after January 1, 2017.
- 2 For narrative features, the production should be among the director's first three works.
(co-directed works not included)
- 3 Films that already have been distributed in theatre or on online platforms in mainland China are not admitted.
- 4 If the film has been previously submitted to FIRST, it will not be reconsidered for the new edition.

Participation in the 2018 FIRST International Film Festival Xining implies unconditional acceptance of the Rules and Regulations by filmmakers, producers and their agents. Violation of this Rules and Regulations may cause the festival committee to cancel the film's quality to participate in the competition or screening. In unspecified cases, the festival committee will make a final decision.



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4. Submission

Films must be submitted through the website of FIRST International Film Festival (www.firstfilm.org.cn). No submission fees required.

5. Section

There is one competition in FIRST International Film Festival. There is no requirement on the premiere status. The film with better premiere status would be considered with priority under the circumstance of the same quality and jury review.

If more than 50% of a production's financing originate within China, the film is considered as a Chinese Film. Otherwise it would be considered an international film. The language of dialogue or subtitle and the shooting location do not affect the production country.

If the duration is less than 60 minutes, the film is considered as a short film. For film with a running time of 60 minutes or more, it is considered as a feature film.

For international films, based on the running time, feature-length films would compete for **Gran Jury Prize (Feature Film)**, and short films would compete for **Grand Jury Prize (Short Film)**.

For Chinese films:

Narrative shorts would compete for **Best Short Film**;

Narrative feature would compete for **Best Narrative Feature, Best Director, Best Performer, Best Artistic Originality** and **Spirit of Freedom**.

Animation and experimental films would compete for **Best Animation/Experimental Film**; feature-length narrative animation could be considered as a narrative feature and compete for **Best Narrative Feature, Best Director, Best Performer, Best Artistic Originality** and **Spirit of Freedom**.

Documentaries (feature-length and short) would compete for **Best Documentary, Best Artistic Originality** and **Spirit of Freedom**.



B. Awards

1. Best Director

Selected among nominated Chinese narrative features to award the filmmaker with outstanding sense of directing and perfect combination of personal experience.

2. Best Narrative Feature

Selected among nominated Chinese narrative features to award the film that shows creativity in narrative, cinematic language and aesthetic form.

3. Best Documentary

Selected among nominated Chinese documentaries to award the non-fiction work with document value, humanistic concern and the ability to reflect on the social context while being unbiased. (The Best Documentary Award comes with a prize value of 50,000 RMB)

4. Best Short Film

Selected among nominated Chinese narrative short films to award the film that presents unlimited possibility with limited time and works with cinematic elements in a creative way.

5. Best Animation/Experimental Film

Selected among nominated Chinese animation/experimental films to award the film that makes diversified expression via visual elements and carries out unique practice of film aesthetics.

6. Best Performer

Selected among the leading actor/actress from nominated Chinese narrative features to award the actor/actress's outstanding performance and the construction of the character.

7. Best Artistic Originality

Selected among nominated Chinese narrative features and documentaries to award the filmmaker who have major contribution or exploration in the field of screenwriting, cinematography, music, editing and art design.

8. Grand Jury Prize – Feature Film



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Selected from nominated international feature-length films to award the film with proficient skills, pioneered idea and free cinematic language. The Jury Committee will give out this award depending on the film's stylization, context and spirit.

9. Grand Jury Prize – Short Film

Selected from nominated international short films to award the film with proficient skills, pioneered idea and free cinematic language. The Jury Committee will give out this award depending on the film's stylization, context and spirit.

10. Spirit of Freedom

This award would be present to Chinese narrative feature film or Chinese documentary with avant-garde aesthetics. The award represents the self-consciousness, culture value and the combination of independent thinking with cinema practice.

C. Submission Guidelines

1. Submission Deadlines

The submission opens since January 1, 2018. The deadline for all submissions is May 15, 2018. The online submission and all required submission materials should be received by the festival committee before the deadline for the film to be considered for competition. The festival committee is not obliged to view entries that are received after the deadline.

2. Entry Form

The film should be entered online through the website of FIRST International Film Festival Xining and with all other submission materials send to the festival committee as guided.

3. Preview Copy

The festival committee requires a preview copy. All submissions require Chinese or English subtitles with the exception of no dialogue.

The preview copy should be in 1280*720, mov/mp4 format with file size no larger than 4GB (feature-length) or 1GB (short film). If watermark is required, please add "FIRST Preview" on



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the top right corner of the image. No other watermark is allowed.

Please send the preview copy to the festival committee in a DVD disk, USB disk or a hard disk. There shouldn't be irrelevant materials in the disk.

Shipping address:

FIRST International Film Festival

Yard No.7, Huitong Office Park,

Yaojiayuan South Road,

100025 Beijing, China

Tel: 86-010-85564221

To guarantee the submission materials reach the festival committee in time, please use a trackable and signed delivery service. Please mark "no commercial value" and "cultural use only" on the package and mark a tax value of under 10 USD.

None of the submission materials will be returned.

4. Additional Materials

Please send the following materials together with the preview copy:

Digital files:

- 1 poster, 90*60cm if it is a standard size poster
- 1 photo of director (150 dpi+ in jpg format)
- 3-5 stills (150 dpi+ in jpg format)
- 1 trailer (within 3 min)

Hard-copy files:

- Submission License Term (signed and sealed by production team, downloaded from website)
- Submission identification QR code

5. Material Replacement

The submission is completed when all the submission materials and online entry are



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received by the festival committee. If the filmmaker needs to replace or correct entry information or materials after the submission is done, please send an email to submission@firstfilm.org.cn. If the film already enters the preview process, the preview copy could no longer be replaced.

6. Announcements

Selected films will be determined after the Primary Jury meeting and then the festival committee would officially notify the contact person via email. The selected titles would be announced before July 1, 2018.

Before the film is officially selected, the festival committee would confirm the premiere statues again. After the confirmation, any screening that may cause the premiere statues at FIRST to change should be avoid and the film could not be withdrawn from the competition and screening.

D. Selected films

1. Screening Copy

A screening copy of the film is required after the film is officially selected. Apart from sound mixing, colour tuning and subtitles adjustment, the screening copy should be the same as the preview copy. New edited version would not be accepted.

All selected feature-length films must provide a DCP and a 422HQ copy;

All selected short film is suggested to provide a DCP, and a 422HQ copy is required.

If Chinese and English subtitle is not available, a English version of script with timecode is required.

If the DCP is encrypted, please notify the festival committee in advance and note it on the surface of the DCP package. The KDM time-window should be valid from July 19-30, 2018.

The screening copy should be packed in a hard disk (with the needed cables and protection case) and send it to the festival committee before the deadline suggested by the selection



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email. Please mark the film title and name of the director on the disk. The shipping address is the same as the address for preview copy. The delivery must be prepaid and no collect shipments are accepted.

If a screening copy is not provided following the above guidelines, the festival committee may cancel the screening of the film.

The screening would be returned after the film festival. The festival committee will pay for the return transportation charges, excluding any additional costs for tax and custom clearance in country of return.

2. Publicity Materials

If a film is selected, the entry information and materials would be used on the festival brochure, website and press. The festival is entitled to edit and used the information publicly. In case any information or material is missing, it will be requested immediately upon the selection.

3. Debut Spotlight

The festival committee would select 3-5 films among the selected Chinese feature and documentary films into the deputy spotlight. Films meet the below requirement would be eligible for Debut Spotlight: **a)** The first production country is China; **b)** the film is the first narrative feature of the director. The selection of Debut Spotlight is entirely at the discretion of the festival committee and the result would no affect the award-judging process.

4. Screening Permission

If a film is selected, in order to guarantee the screening during the festival, the production company should apply for the permission of public screen immediately.

5. Reserved Copy

This festival committee has the right to reserve a digital file of the selected film for document and promotion. Apart from the screening during the film festival, the festival committee is not allowed to screen or share this copy unless authorized in advance.



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6. Screening Schedule

All selected films would have 2 public screenings during the film Festival. The time, date and venue of the screenings are entirely at discretion of the festival committee. For award winners, there would be extra screenings during July 28-30. Each award-winning films would get at least one extra screening and the number of extra screenings would not exceed the number of awards the film get.

7. Mentioning Participation

The festival would provide laurels and logos when a film is selected, nominated or win an award. Participating and awarded films are requested to use them in the future promotions.

Thank you for submitting to FIRST.

*If there is any inconsistency or conflict between the English and Chinese versions , the Chinese version shall prevail for all purposes.