TEXAS THESPIANS
STATE FESTIVAL

SHORT FILM

Including: Animated, Documentary and Short Films

National Qualifying Event

This means that you are eligible to qualify for nationals with this competition.

RULES

- Each troupe can submit as many films as they would like, but only one entry per student.
- The film must be of original content and may be a collaboration of up to sixteen (16) Thespians in total, inclusive of actors, technicians, writers, and directors. Adaptations are not permitted.
- Films can be no longer than five minutes in length.
- Films must be of original content and may be a collaboration among entrants.
- The films will be viewed and critiqued by the judges prior to the Thespian Festival.
- Some National Qualifying Short Films will be shown at a screening at Festival.
- The film will stand along, i.e., the entrant will not have to make any type of presentation.

Short Film does not count towards 1 of the troupes 15 entries into National Qualifying IEs.

Required Materials

1. An original short film no more than five (5) minutes long, plus one (1) additional minute for credits.
    a. Short films should fit into one of the following genres: Live-Action, Animated, or Documentary.

The film must demonstrate:

- Proper use of title cards and credits within the time limit.
- Properly executed camera angles and shot variation to enhance the storyline and finished product.
- Control over lighting exposures for clarity, storytelling, and a professional finished product.
- The ability to capture, record, and manipulate all audio aspects of the production.
- Controlled and manufactured editing choices that enhance the overall storytelling.
- The ability to complete a storyline that includes a clear arc (beginning, middle, and end).

The film must adhere to the following requirements:

- Any music used in the film must be properly credited, whether it is original, in the public domain, or copyrighted. Music credits must appear amongst other credits at the end of the film. If copyrighted music is used, proof of payment for the rights to the music must be documented and shared with the adjudicators.
- The film should contain no content that would exceed a PG13 rating by the Motion Picture Association of America. The film should not include any nudity or depict acts that are illegal for anyone under 18 years of age.
- The film must be uploaded to YouTube with privacy settings set to Public or Unlisted for adjudication purposes. (If the video is set to Private, the adjudicators will be unable to view and score the work, which may result in disqualification.)

Skills Measured

- Ability to create opening and closing transitions, credits, and graphics that orient the viewer to the story.
- Ability to visually develop a story with dialogue.
- Camera, lighting, and sound use.
- Editing, including scene length and flow.
- The emotional and physical believability of the acting (if applicable).
- The filmmaker's use of film elements to create a successful product.

TEKS **Theatre I.** 1H, I.2B, I.2F, I.3C, I.4A, I.4B, I.5B, I.5G **Theatre II.** 1D,II.1E, II.1F, II.2B, II.2D, II.2F, II.3D, II.3E, II.4A, II.4C, II.5B, II.5C, II.5F **Theatre III.** 1D, III.2B, III.2C, III.2D, III.2E, III.3D, III.3E, III.4A, III.4B, III.4C, III.5A, III.5B, III.5C, III.5F, III5H **Theatre IV.** 1D, IV.1E, IV.1F, IV.2E, IV.3A, IV.3C, IV.3D, IV.3E, IV.3F, IV.4A, IV.4B, IV.4C, IV.5A, IV.5B, IV.5C, IV.5F, IV.5H

SHORT ANIMATED FILM

	4 (Superior)	3 (Excellent)	2 (Good)	1 (Fair)
STORYTELLING	**Story is well organized, fully developed, and compelling;** harmonizing visuals and dialogue **seamlessly advance the narrative** to enhance the connection to plot and character(s); choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations **enhance and support** film's messaage; ending **succinctly resolves** central conflict.	**Story is well organized, and engaging;** visuals and dialogue **advance the narrative** and the connection to plot and character(s); choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations **support** film's message; **distinct** conclusion.	**Story is somewhat organized, and mostly developed;** visuals and dialogue **moderately advance the narrative a**nd the audience connection to plot and character(s); choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations **inconsistently support** the film's message; conclusion is **somewhat unclear.**	**Story is disorganized, and/or difficult to follow;** minimal use of visual cues and weak dialogue **fail to advance** the narrative or produce an audience connection; choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations **do not support** the film's message; conclusion is lacking or **unclear.**
CINEMATOGRAPHY & AUDIO	**Scenes and characters are skillfully frames and align** with filmmaker's vision; lighting exposure and camera movement and angles are **purposefully chosen to enhance** performances and visually advance the story; music (if applicable) **clearly** underscores action and offers clues to character and plot; sound levels are **consistently** even and well metered.	**Scenes and characters are appropriately frames and align** with filmmaker's vision; lighting exposure and camera movement and angles are **purposefully chosen to advance** the story; music (if applicable) is appropriate to the story; sound levels are **mostly even** and well metered.	**Inconsistent use of appropriate framing** and lighting exposure **do not align** with filmmaker's vision; camera movement and angles **sometimes advance** the story visually; **some** music (if applicable) is appropriate to the story; sound level **errors are evident.**	**Scenes and characters are not framed properly,** are under or over exposed, and **do not align** with filmmaker's vision; scenes include **multiple errors** in camera movement and angles; music (if applicable) **detracts from rather than supports** the story; sound levels are **inconsistent**.
EDITING	**Purposeful continuity in editing produces well composed transitions that enhance** scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow **purposefully and effectively** lead audience from one focal point to another while **consistently maintaining** the physical and spatial relationship of narrative.	**Continuity in editing produces composed transitions that enhance** scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow **effectively** lead audience from one focal point to another while **consistently maintaining** the physical and spatial relationship of narrative.	**Changing continuity in editing produces transitions that sometimes disrupt** scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow **sometimes** lead audience from one focal point to another yet **seldom maintain** the physical and spatial relationship of narrative.	**Scenes and characters are not framed properly,** are under or over exposed, and **do not align** with filmmaker's vision; scenes include **multiple errors** in camera movement and angles; music (if applicable) **detracts from rather than supports** the story; sound levels are **inconsistent**.
VOICE ACTING & ANIMATION TECHNIQUES	character voices and animation (movements, actions, gestures, and expressions) are **consistently believable and work in unison to create character;** strong and consistent animation choices are reflected through an original art style that helps build a unique animated world for the viewer.	**Continuity in editing produces composed transitions that enhance** scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow **effectively** lead audience from one focal point to another while **consistently maintaining** the physical and spatial relationship of narrative.	**Changing continuity in editing produces transitions that sometimes disrupt** scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow **sometimes** lead audience from one focal point to another yet **seldom maintain** the physical and spatial relationship of narrative.	**Scenes and characters are not framed properly,** are under or over exposed, and **do not align** with filmmaker's vision; scenes include **multiple errors** in camera movement and angles; music (if applicable) **detracts from rather than supports** the story; sound levels are **inconsistent**.
FILMMAKER'S VISION	Filmmaker **conveyed a clear vision** and **consistently adhered** to rules established for the film; **all elements worked together** to create an impactful, engaging film with a powerful voice.	Filmmaker **conveyed a mostly clear vision** and **frequently adhered** to rules established for the film; **most elements worked together** to create an engaging film.	Filmmaker **attempted to convey a clear vision** and **inconsistently adhered** to rules established for the film; **few elements worked together** to create an engaging film.	Filmmaker **failed to convey a clear vision** and did not adhered to rules established for the film; **elements did not work together** to create an engaging film.

RATINGS	4 - Superior	3 - Excellent	2 - Good	1 - Fair
	(Score of 20-18)	*(Score of 17-13)*	*(Score of 12-8)*	*(Score of 7-5)*

SHORT DOCUMENTARY

	4 (Superior)	3 (Excellent)	2 (Good)	1 (Fair)
STORYTELLING	**Story is well organized, fully developed, and compelling;** harmonizing visuals and dialogue **seamlessly advance the narrative** to enhance the connection to plot and character(s); choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations **enhance and support** film's message; ending **concisely resolves** central conflict.	**Story is well organized, and engaging;** visuals and dialogue **advance the narrative** and the connection to plot and character(s); choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations **support** film's message; **distinct** conclusion.	**Story is somewhat organized, and mostly developed;** visuals and dialogue **moderately advance the narrative a**nd the audience connection to plot and character(s); choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations **inconsistently support** the film's message; conclusion is **somewhat unclear.**	**Story is disorganized, and/or difficult to follow;** minimal use of visual cues and weak dialogue **fail to advance** the narrative or produce an audience connection; choice of opening and closing titles, credits, graphics, and animations **do not support** the film's message; conclusion is lacking or **unclear.**
CINEMATOGRAPHY & AUDIO	**Scenes/characters are skillfully shot or framed and align** with filmmaker's vision; lighting exposure and camera movement/angles are **purposefully chosen to enhance** performances and visually advance the story; music (if applicable) underscores action and offers clues to character/plot; sound levels are **consistently even** and well metered.	**Scenes/characters are appropriately shot or framed and align** with filmmaker's vision; lighting exposure and camera movement and angles are **purposefully chosen to advance** the story; music (if applicable) is appropriate to the story; sound levels are **mostly even** and well metered.	**Inconsistent use of appropriate shots** or framing and lighting exposure **do not align** with filmmaker's vision; camera movement/angles **sometimes advance** the story visually; **some** music (if applicable) is appropriate to the story; sound level **errors are evident.**	**Most scenes and characters are not shot or framed properly,** are under or over exposed, and **do not align** with filmmaker's vision; scenes include **multiple errors** in camera movement/angles; music (if applicable) **detracts from rather than supports** the story; sound levels are **inconsistent**.
EDITING	**Purposeful continuity in editing** produces well composed transitions that enhance scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow **purposefully and effectively** lead audience from one focal point to another while **consistently maintaining** the physical and spatial relationship of narrative.	**Continuity in editing** produces composed transitions that enhance scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow **effectively** lead audience from one focal point to another while **consistently maintaining** the physical and spatial relationship of narrative.	**Inconsistent continuity in editing** produces transitions that sometimes disrupt scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow **sometimes** lead audience from one focal point to another yet **seldom maintain** the physical and spatial relationship of narrative.	**Discontinuity in editing** does not produce well composed transitions that enhance scene flow, audience engagement, and narrative; scene length and flow **does not** lead audience from one focal point to **does not maintain** the physical and spatial relationship of narrative.
ACTING	Character movements, actions, gestures, and expressions are **consistently believable;** choices and tactics toward and objective **prompt instinctive reaction** to partners or events that create insight into the text.	Character movements, actions, gestures, and expressions are believable; choices and tactics toward and objective **prompt reaction** to partners or events that create insight into the text.	Character movements, actions, gestures, and expressions are **sometimes emotionally/physically believable**; choices and tactics toward and objective **sometimes prompt reactions** to partners or events.	**C**haracter movements, actions, gestures, and expressions are **rarely emotionally/physically believable**; choices and tactics toward and objective **are not evident and do not prompt** reactions to partners or events.
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