



# BELIZE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

4th Edition: July 24 – Aug 2nd, 2009

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### 1. Organizers:

The 4th edition of the Belize International Film Festival - BIFF 2009 - is being organized by the Film and Media Arts Unit of the Institute of Creative Arts for Belize's National Institute of Culture and History.

Its principal sponsor is the National Institute of Culture and History, the cultural arm of the Government of Belize with support from the Belize Film Commission, the Belize Tourism Board and the Ministry of Tourism, Civil Aviation and Culture.

The Festival Director is Belizean producer / director, Suzette Zayden who is also the Coordinator of the Film and Media Arts Unit for ICA, NICH.

#### 2. Objectives:

a.) To expose the Belizean public to films made outside the Hollywood studio system.

b.) To screen films which provide an insight into the cultural diversity of other countries. We view this as important to the promotion of tolerance and understanding of other cultures in an increasingly globalized world.

c.) To invite international filmmakers - Europe, North America, Latin America, Asia, Australia, Africa and the Caribbean – to dialogue with local and regional filmmakers in an effort to make the film world more accessible to all.

Invited filmmakers are expected to hold seminars and workshops and share their personal filmmaking experiences with festival-goers in formal and informal discussions.

d.) To encourage the presence of film schools – especially those from the Caribbean and Central American region - by screening their student films and videos. This provides potential filmmakers with direct access to a formal education in the audiovisual field.

e.) To encourage networking between local and international industry professionals and foster relationships between BIFF and persons or institutions who share the similar goals of developing a Belizean and a regional Caribbean and / or Central American film industry.

#### 3. Dates and Venue:

The 4<sup>th</sup> Belize International Film Festival will take place at the Bliss Centre for the Performing Arts in Belize City, Belize from Friday, July 24<sup>th</sup> to Sunday, Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009.

#### 4. Categories:

There are four competitive categories for the Audience Award and three exhibition categories.

*All films must be in English or have English Subtitles and preference will be given to dramas or comedies with a multicultural storyline.*

#### **In Competition:**

**a) Feature Length  
FICTION / NARRATIVE**

**b) Feature Length  
DOCUMENTARY**

*These two categories are open to Filmmakers from any country. There is a quota of two films selected per country*

**c) Short FICTION**

**d) Short DOCUMENTARY**

*These two categories are open only to filmmakers from the Caribbean, Central America and Southern Mexico and their Diasporas. There is no quota set for submissions.*

#### **In Exhibition:**

**e) FILM SCHOOLS**

*Selection of student works from invited film schools.*

**f) FILM FESTIVALS**

*Selection of films from invited festivals.*

**g) SPECIAL  
PRESENTATION**

*Selection of films from either invited guests, countries or organizations.*

#### **5. Screening:**

All films participating in BIFF 2009 will be screened 2x during the Festival. Winning films automatically become part of the BIFF 2009's Travelling Exhibition – an outreach program designed to expose the films to the rest of Belize, the Caribbean and Central America. This travelling exhibition will serve as BIFF 2009s' official presentation at industry sessions and other film festivals.

## **6. Prize Selection**

The BIFF 2009 audience will select the most popular films at the festival through a secret ballot process whereby the audience will be encouraged to vote for films that they liked after each screening.

## **7. Prizes**

Prizes (TBA) will be awarded to the films with the most votes in the following categories:

- a) **Feature Length FICTION / NARRATIVE**
- b) **Feature Length DOCUMENTARY**
- c) **Short FICTION**
- d) **Short DOCUMENTARY**

Winners will be announced at the After Party following the final screening. Absent winning filmmakers will be contacted by telephone or fax or email or via their respective embassies.

## **8. Fees**

All entry fees are being waived for BIFF 2009.

## **9. Deadlines:**

The deadline for film and screenplay submissions is July 3rd, 2009. Extensions, if any, will be announced on Festival website.

## **FILM SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**

More than one film can be submitted from a single filmmaker provided that they send separate DVDs & entry forms. A film, however, can only compete in one festival category.

## **10. Film Submission Format:**

For programming & screening purposes, the Festival accepts DVDs and DVCAM or MiniDV tapes in NTSC format only.

## **11. Film Eligibility**

### **Requirements:**

- a.) All films submitted to festival must be available in screening format by July 3, 2009.
- b.) All non-English language films must be in their original language with English subtitles with the exception of films geared at children below the ages of 10 yrs which can be dubbed.
- c.) Other Exceptions will be made at the discretion of the Festival Director only.

## **12. Participating Films Selection:**

- a.) Participating films are selected by a programming committee nominated by the festival organizers.
- b.) Only 2 films per country can be screened in the Feature Length FICTION and DOCUMENTARY categories.
- c.) Festival organizers can and do invite select films to participate in any of the festival categories.
- d.) The list of selected films will be posted on the Festival website around July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009.
- e.) The decisions of the selection committee are final.

## **13. Film Submission**

### **Materials:**

If you are entering more than one film, please submit a separate tape or DVD along with an entry form for each submission.

### **Checklist**

- a) Completed & signed entry form.
- b) Copy of film on DVD or tape (Mini DV or DVCAM - NTSC). Ensure that entry is clearly labelled with title, running time, format.
- c) Film Synopsis in English (short and long versions)
- d) Biography, filmography, and a recent photograph of the director.

(can be emailed later if film is selected.)

- e) One or two photo stills from the film. (can be emailed later if film is selected.)
- f) Any press and publicity materials available, including posters, press booklets and video trailers.

No materials submitted to the Festival will be returned. After the selection process all submitted videotapes and DVDs will be deposited in the archives of the Belize International Film Festival for educational and reference purposes only.

## **14. Press and Publicity:**

- a) If no publicity material on video is submitted along with entry, Festival will be authorized to select clips of no more than 3 minutes from participating films for promotional use.
- b) Festival organizers are authorized to use photos of the director or the film from the Internet or elsewhere either in place of or in addition to materials submitted.

## **SHIPPING**

### **15. Shipping Information:**

- a.) All packages must be clearly marked with the title of the film or screenplay, the sender's name, return address and telephone and Festival address as written at the end of this circular.
- b.) All materials submitted to the Festival is done so at the expense of the sender unless instructed otherwise by Festival.
- c) Festival does not accept COD shipments.

## **16. Conditions of Acceptance of Entry:**

- a) Participation in the Belize International Film Festival implies acceptance of these rules and regulations by the producer or representative for films

b) In cases of dispute of interpretation of the regulations of participation, Festival organizers have final say.  
c) The festival will not be held responsible if any incorrect information is entered in any of its publicity materials or festival catalogue.

For more information please refer to our Official website

[www.belizefilmfestival.com](http://www.belizefilmfestival.com)

or contact us at:

**BELIZE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

c /o ICA, National Institute of Culture and History

Bliss Centre for the Performing Arts

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**BELIZE**

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