

**FILM
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SPiRiT
AWARDS**

**2027 Rules & Regulations
Digital Creator Submissions**

These are the official rules and regulations for the 2027 Film Independent Spirit Awards, Digital Creator submissions. Please read the rules and regulations in their entirety prior to filling out the submission form.

Final interpretation of all rules and regulations and eligibility of submissions shall be made by the Spirit Awards Nominating Committee and Film Independent. You may contact the Nominations Office for clarifications and with questions via email:

NOMINATIONS STAFF

Drea Clark, Nominations Producer, dclark@filmIndependent.org
Max Reisinger, Digital Creator Nominations Manager, mreisinger@filmIndependent.org

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday, August 18, 2026
Submissions open

Tuesday, September 1, 2026
Digital Creator Early Deadline

Tuesday, September 15, 2026
Digital Creator Regular Deadline

Tuesday, September 29, 2026
Digital Creator Final Deadline

Friday, October 2, 2026
**Extended Deadline for Digital Creator Submissions:
Arts Circle, Secret Members, Filmmaker Pro &
Film Independent Fellows with Memberships**

Wednesday, December 2, 2026
Nominations Announcement

Saturday, March 6, 2027
Film Independent Spirit Awards

NOMINATING GUIDELINES

The Digital Creator category at the Film Independent Spirit Awards will celebrate independent creative visual storytellers who are working in the online space to create bold, innovative and inclusive content. Through the lens of Film Independent's mission, we will recognize creators' body of work in the digital arena and celebrate original voices and content that is expanding the boundaries of storytelling.

The Spirit Awards seek to celebrate the year's highest achievements and culturally resonant digital content. The Spirit Awards Nominating Committee will apply the following guidelines in making their selections.

- Uniqueness of vision, innovation
- Original, provocative subject matter
- Diversity & inclusion, on and off camera, and in the narrative and themes of the series
- Creators showcasing excellence as a director as well as in one or more additional filmmaking disciplines: vfx, animation, cinematography, editing, coloring, production, writing

RULES FOR ELIGIBILITY

1. The 2027 Film Independent Spirit Awards will recognize Digital Creators crafting narrative or experimental content that is exclusively produced with the intent to release online.
2. Digital Creators must submit a body of work for awards consideration, comprised of three (3) videos that each represent a separate series; a collection of videos can be deemed a series either via episodic or thematic organization. For content that falls outside of traditional series formats, eligibility consideration is per the discretion of the Digital Creator nominating committee and Film Independent.
3. Each series must have a minimum of three (3) episodes released online, and the representative video for each series must be selected from those episodes. At least one series must premiere online during the eligibility period of January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026.
4. The representative videos from each series must be between one (1) and sixty-nine minutes in length. *Note: feature length work by digital creators above 70 minutes in length and premiering on online platforms during the eligibility period of January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026 are eligible for American Narrative consideration, and are welcome to submit to that category for consideration.*
5. Content must first premiere on a digital platform (i.e. YouTube, Instagram, TikTok, etc.)
6. Branded content is permitted for consideration with terms of collaboration agreement(s) noted in submission form. Approximate net budget for each representative video will be requested in submission form.
7. Digital Creators must be a U.S. citizen or Permanent Resident with a Green Card.

CATEGORY INFORMATION

Digital Creator Award: The award is given to the director(s). Both the nominees and the category winner to be selected by the Digital Creator nominating committee. Digital Creator Award is one of Film Independent Spirit Award's Emerging Filmmaker Awards; winner will be announced at the Nominee Brunch and nominees/winner will be present at Spirit Awards ceremony.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

The submission form for the 2027 Spirit Awards will be available on the Submittable platform starting on August 18, 2026: <https://filmIndependent3.submittable.com/submit>.

Materials Checklist

In addition to contact information and production details, the submission form will require:

- Representative still image from each representative video (preferred formats: JPEG, TIFF, PNG)
- Headshot/photo of creator(s) (preferred formats: JPEG, TIFF, PNG)
- Series synopsis (100 words or less) / Episode synopsis (100 words or less)
- Links to the three representative videos; if password protected, links must be accessible through December 20, 2026
- A PDF with creator statement on intention of content: How do you feel your directing/filmmaking style can best be described; Why was it important to you to make these works at this moment; What film or non-film projects are you working on; What types of projects would you like to take on next (1500 words maximum)

There is no submission fee for Digital Creators.

AFTER NOMINATIONS

Should you receive a nomination for the 2027 Spirit Awards, the primary contact for the film is responsible for supplying all required materials (including nominee and representative contact information, clips, title cards, theme song, etc) to Spirit Awards Production **NO LATER** than January 2, 2027.

A materials request will be sent to all Nominee primary contacts by December 2026 once Nominations are announced. Should a nominee win and not appear at 2027 Spirit Awards, trophy will be sent to primary representative.