

**FILM  
iNDEP  
ENDENT  
SPiRiT  
AWARDS**

**2027 Rules & Regulations  
Television Submissions**

These are the official rules and regulations for the 2027 Film Independent Spirit Awards, Television 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 Committees 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](mailto:dclark@filmIndependent.org)  
Sonali Sundararaj, TV Nominations Manager, [ssundararaj@filmIndependent.org](mailto:ssundararaj@filmIndependent.org)

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

Tuesday, August 18, 2026  
**Submissions open**

Tuesday, September 1, 2026  
**Film Early Deadline / TV Regular Deadline**

Tuesday, September 15, 2026  
**Film Regular Deadline / TV Final Deadline**

Friday, September 18, 2026  
**Extended Deadline for TV 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**

**+\$100 for each performer category submitted**  
**for Best Lead, Best Supporting and/or Best Breakthrough Performance in a New Scripted Series**

All series submitted for Best New Scripted Series are automatically considered for Best Ensemble Cast

Beginning August 18, you are invited to upload your screener to our submission partner Vision Media before submission form is completed; you **must** upload screener within 48 hours of form submission for title to be in consideration. Contact Sonali Sundararaj ([ssundararaj@filmIndependent.org](mailto:ssundararaj@filmIndependent.org)) for screener upload deadline extension. Approved titles must be uploaded by the provided extension date for title to be in consideration.

## RULES FOR ELIGIBILITY

1. The 2027 Film Independent Spirit Awards will recognize new series airing during the eligibility period of October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026. If a series submitted for the 2026 Film Independent Spirit Awards but was not nominated, and qualifies in the new eligibility period, it may re-submit for consideration.
2. A new series is defined as having all or part of its first season broadcast within the eligibility period of October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026. Any series that previously aired, was discontinued, and is now being revived is ineligible.

An anthology series is only eligible in its first season. All genres are eligible.

3. Episodes must be at least 18 minutes in length and a minimum of two (2) episodes must have been broadcast, transmitted or available via a commercial streaming platform within the eligibility window. Series must be available via network, basic cable, pay cable, pay television, pay-per-view, interactive cable, broadband, or digital distribution through streaming platforms.
4. Only series eligible to submit in the category of Best New Scripted Series are eligible to submit for Best Lead Performance, Best Supporting Performance, and/or Best Breakthrough Performance.

All series submitted for Best New Scripted Series are automatically considered for Best Ensemble Cast. One (1) series will be awarded Best Ensemble Cast at the discretion of the Nominating Committee.

5. International series may only be eligible if:
  - a. The series airs on a U.S. platform with the purpose to be shown to U.S. audiences within the eligibility window, AND
  - b. The series is a co-production between U.S. and International partners, creatively and financially, preceding the start of production.

Eligibility for all awards shall first be determined by credits as they **appear on the screen**. If a series is determined ineligible for any reason or submitted in the wrong category, the Spirit Awards Nominations Staff will contact the submitter. Award is given to individuals credited as Creator, Executive Producer and Co-Executive Producer on at least 50% of the episodes in the first season of the series.

For Best Ensemble Cast, eligible performers include:

- a. Individuals with a "Starring" credit on one or more eligible episode(s), AND
- b. Individuals with a "Guest Starring" credit on 50% or more of eligible episodes

Any performer recognized as part of the awarded Best Ensemble Cast will no longer be eligible to be nominated in the individual performance categories.

## CATEGORY INFORMATION

All final nominations and categories are at the sole discretion of the Spirit Awards Nominating Committees and Film Independent.

**BEST NEW SCRIPTED SERIES** (including continuing, limited, anthology series)

**BEST NEW NON-SCRIPTED OR DOCUMENTARY SERIES**

**BEST LEAD PERFORMANCE IN A NEW SCRIPTED SERIES**

Only performers from series submitted for Best New Scripted Series may submit for Best Lead Performance.

**BEST SUPPORTING PERFORMANCE IN A NEW SCRIPTED SERIES**

Only performers from series submitted for Best New Scripted Series may submit for Best Supporting Performance.

**BEST BREAKTHROUGH PERFORMANCE IN A NEW SCRIPTED SERIES**

Only performers from series submitted for Best New Scripted Series may submit for Best Breakthrough Performance.

**BEST ENSEMBLE CAST IN A NEW SCRIPTED SERIES**

All series submitted for Best New Scripted Series are automatically considered for Best Ensemble Cast. One (1) series will be awarded Best Ensemble Cast at the discretion of the Nominating Committee.

**ROBERT REDFORD ENVIRONMENTAL VISION AWARD, in partnership with The Redford Center:**

All American narrative features and scripted series that center climate themes or environmental issues—or feature a lead character grappling with them—as the core of their narrative are eligible in this category. Awarded to the film's producer(s), director(s), and writer(s) OR series' creator(s), executive producer(s), co-executive producer(s). Eligible films/series must explore an environmental issue—whether it's climate change and solutions for people and the planet; innovation that challenges defeatist narratives around environmental crises; fresh perspectives or artistic approaches that redefine traditional environmental storytelling; systemic bias and injustice in environmental policy; cultural practices rooted in traditional and ancestral knowledge; or efforts to protect and restore land, water, biodiversity and natural resources. Alternatively, films/series may feature a lead character grappling with climate themes at the heart of their journey. Priority will be given to works that embrace an entertainment-first approach to climate storytelling, engaging audiences emotionally and intellectually, while inspiring a sense of possibility and agency in climate solutions, particularly through characters and genres that challenge conventional expectations. One (1) film OR series will be awarded.

## NOMINATING GUIDELINES

The Television categories at the Film Independent Spirit Awards will celebrate independent creative visual storytellers who are working in the television space and continuing to create bold, innovative and inclusive content. Through the lens of Film Independent's mission, we will recognize *new* series and celebrate original voices and content that is expanding the boundaries of television.

The Spirit Awards seeks to celebrate the year's highest achievements and culturally resonant new series.

The Spirit Awards Nominating Committees apply the following guidelines in making their selections.

- Uniqueness of vision, innovation
- Original, provocative subject matter
- Diversity & inclusion, on and off camera, and also in the narrative and themes of the series

## REQUIRED MATERIALS

The 2027 Spirit Awards have a submission form site ([submittable.com](http://submittable.com)) and a screener site ([submissions.visionmedia.com](http://submissions.visionmedia.com)).

### Materials Checklist

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

- Representative production stills from the film (preferred formats: JPEG, TIFF, PNG)
- A full, complete and official list of credits
- Series synopsis (100 words or less) / Episode synopsis (100 words or less)

One representative episode from the submitted series will need to be uploaded in its entirety to our screener website, Vision Media. Third party links will **NOT** be accepted. If you are submitting the same episode for consideration in both Best New Scripted Series and any performance categories, you only need to upload screener once.

You may upload your screener before completing your submission form, provided the titles are identically listed in both submission and upload (SERIES TITLE\_Episode Name). Vision Media portal will be open and available for uploads as of August 18.

To upload screener, please login with this email/password, NOT personal Vision Media login:

URL: [submissions.visionmedia.com](http://submissions.visionmedia.com)

Email: submissions

Password: SAScreener2027

### Tech Specs for Screener:

- Container: MP4
- Video Type: H.264
- Size/Ratio: 1920x1080 (16:9), 1280x720 (16:9) 1280 x 960 (4:3)
- Video Bitrate: 3136kbps (low motion) or 5928kbps (high motion e.g. sport)
- Key Frame Interval: minimum every 6 seconds
- Audio Type: AAC
- Audio Sample Frequency: 44.1kHz
- Audio Bite Rate: 192kbps

Screeners for submissions must be uploaded within 48 hours of submission form completion for title to be in consideration. Please contact Sonali Sundararaj ([ssundararaj@filmIndependent.org](mailto:ssundararaj@filmIndependent.org)) to request extension of screener upload deadline.

## **PAYMENT**

You can pay via credit card per individual submissions on the Submittable submission form platform. If you have multiple submissions that you'd prefer to pay in bulk via ACH, please select "I Am Submitting Multiple" in the Payment section of Submittable.

**If you select "I Am Submitting Multiple", please email [sawards@filmindependent.org](mailto:sawards@filmindependent.org) by Sept 15 and send us the following information so we can create an accurate invoice:**

- total list of titles being submitted
- number of performer categories being submitted
- number additional screener uploads beyond the one (1) required consideration episode
- name/address and any PO information to be included on invoice

Please note: the invoice you receive from Film Independent will need to be paid out no later than October 19, 2026 for your titles to remain in consideration. ACH/wire payments MUST include the Film Independent invoice number.

**Member fees:** (TV Regular Deadline: \$525 by Sept 1/TV Final Deadline: \$625 by Sept 15)

**Non-member fees:** (TV Regular Deadline: \$575 by Sept 1/TV Final Deadline: \$675 by Sept 15)

**Arts Circle, Secret Members, Filmmaker Pro & Film Independent Fellows with**

**Memberships:** (Extended Deadline: \$625 by Sept 18)

### **+ \$100 for each performer in a performance category**

for Best Lead Performance, Best Supporting Performance and/or Best Breakthrough Performance in a New Scripted Series (if submitting same performer in multiple categories, fee is \$100 per category)

### **Submitting Additional Episodes (\$100 per additional episode)**

Scripted TV series are expected to submit one representative episode for the category of Best New Scripted series. While it is our preference that every series submits only one representative episode, series that are also submitting performers for the Best Lead Performance, Best Supporting Performance and Best Breakthrough Performance categories may, **for an additional fee**, submit additional episodes that the submitter feels are a better showcase for a performer than the episode submitted for New Scripted Series.

For regular (non-anthology) TV series, for the category of Best Ensemble Cast, the representative episode that was submitted for Best New Scripted series will automatically be considered for the category of Best Ensemble Cast. For Anthology series only, we are accepting one additional episode to be submitted for the category of Best Ensemble Cast, for an additional fee.

### **Our preference is that the total for all episodes does not exceed 3 submitted**

**episodes per TV series.** If you have a case you'd like to make for an exception, please contact Sonali Sundararaj ([ssundararaj@filmindependent.org](mailto:ssundararaj@filmindependent.org)).

## **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, trailer, theme song, title cards and clips) 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. Up to five Spirit Award trophies will be provided per category to winning teams; additional trophies will be available for purchase for winning teams larger than five. Should a nominee win and not appear at 2027 Spirit Awards, trophy will be sent to distribution representative.

## **VOTING AND CONSIDERATION**

Film Independent Members are the official voting body that determines the winners for the Spirit Awards. Membership is open to all and the community is comprised of filmmakers and film lovers from all over the world. To join Film Independent visit [www.filmindependent.org/join](http://www.filmindependent.org/join).

Nominee consideration is essential for the discovery and appreciation of all titles. During consideration, Members will have access to watch nominees in the Nominee Screening Room, powered by Vision Media.

## **NOMINEE SCREENING PROGRAM**

Spirit Award-nominated titles will be required to participate in the Nominee Screener program for a \$4,200 fee, which provides voters with digital screener access to watch nominees in our secure digital screening room, powered by Vision Media. For additional information on the Nominee Screener program, please email us at: [membership@filmindependent.org](mailto:membership@filmindependent.org).

**\*PLEASE NOTE: ALL TITLES IN THE NOMINEE SCREENER PROGRAM WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THE NOMINATED FILM OR TELEVISION EPISODE THAT INCLUDES CLOSED CAPTIONS. THIS INCLUDES ALL ENGLISH-LANGUAGE FILMS AS WELL AS ALL INTERNATIONAL FILMS. (Closed Caption File Spec: Hour Zero Start, WebVTT Format)**