FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Where is the SONscreen Film Festival held?

The 2013 festival is April 4-6 at the AMP Studios facility located at 101 West Cochran Street, Simi Valley, CA 93065.

Do I have to be an Adventist to participate?

Absolutely not! We welcome everyone (All Christian filmmakers, enthusiasts, students, professionals, young, not-so-young anymore, local churches and the general public) to come and take part in this festival experience. Yes, it's sponsored by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, but we are a non-exclusive event. We all have wonderful stories to share, and we want to hear yours!

How do I submit my film?

Please visit the Entry Application section of the website for details.

What are the submission and awarded categories?

Film(s) are submitted into any of these categories: Drama, Comedy, Animation, Documentary, Public Service Announcement (PSA), High school/Academy as well as the recently added ministry-related categories of Community Services, Children's Ministries, Family Ministries, Health Ministries, Ministerial, Women's Ministries and Youth Ministries. While being awarded in any category is notable, the more highly regarded awards are the Audience Choice Award and the most prominent of all, Best of Fest (“SONNY” Recipient).

The festival is designed as a "student" festival, first and foremost of which those films are judged “in competition” against each other. Non-student submissions are also able to screen “in competition” against one another for festival recognition. But only a select amount of films are accepted into this newest competition category.

Another category, Ministerial (ministry-related) Promotional has been added to this year's festival. This category was created for videos that can be used for the promotion of the Ministries of the North American Division. These categories include Family Ministries, Health Ministries, Children's Ministries, Youth Ministries, Community Services, Women's Ministries and Ministerial. These categories include larger cash prizes than the Student In Competition category. The winners of these categories will be required to let the sponsoring Ministry have use of their video for promotional purposes. The larger cash prizes will serve as compensation for the usage of the video. Please make sure that you examine the requirements of each Ministerial category on the WithoutABox.com website as they all have different requirements.

Submissions to this category may be made by both Students and Non-Students alike.

In certain situations, the sponsors of the Ministerial Categories may decide not to give an award for a certain category if they feel that none of the submissions meet their requirements.
What are the prizes if I win?
The Best of Fest winner receives a cash prize and The SONNY Award. All other categories receive a cash award and a certificate. The High school/Academy Award winner receives a certificate and academic scholarship from several Adventist Colleges/Universities in North America. Awards and prizes are announced and awarded at the Saturday night Festival Awards finale event. Therefore festival attendance is highly encouraged.

Can I submit even if I am not able to attend the festival?
Yes, films can be submitted even if the filmmaker is not able to be present. However, there is a Question & Answer (Q&A) segment at the conclusion of each film screening session that is the perfect opportunity for the filmmakers to respond and get feedback about their film. At the same time, we deem it critical that all professionals that screen a work at the festival, be present for the mentoring of the students, and networking that add an extra element of depth to the entire festival experience.

How much does it cost to submit to the festival?
Click here for current festival registration and film submission fees. Note: There is a film submission fee as well as a registration fee to attend the festival.

How many films can I submit?
You can submit as many films as you would like. However, you must pay the submission fee for each film you submit. Also, a completed entry submission & agreement form needs to be provided per submission.

How long does it take before I know if my film has been accepted?
Once the films are submitted, they go through a pre-screening process within the first two weeks following the submission deadline. You will be notified within three weeks of the festival if your film was accepted as an Official Selection. The films then go on to be judged by the final SONscreen Film Festival jury.

What do the judges look for in the films?
There are a variety of criteria by which judges evaluate a film. However, it is a subjective process which varies according to the expertise, experience, and preference of each judge. Some basic areas that the judges make note of include: story quality, strength of content, technical quality, tempo, and pacing.

How do I purchase tickets to attend the festival?
Attending the festival is easy! You can buy tickets and passes online. Everyone is welcome to attend the festival. The schedule of weekend events provides details on the weekend events and screening times.

If you are a filmmaker who submitted a work to this year’s festival through the entry submission form (whether your film was accepted or not) you still need to register to attend the festival.

What are the housing accommodations?
The official host hotel of the SONscreen Film Festival is the Best Western Posada Royale Hotel and Suites, 1775 Madera Road, Simi Valley, CA 93065. Phone: (805) 584-6300, Fax: (805) 306-0226.

All rooms are subject to a 10% tax and can accommodate up to 4 persons. Your room registration includes a daily complimentary hot breakfast buffet in Club Royale!

Does SONscreen provide transportation from the airport to the festival?
Unfortunately, SONscreen does not have an official transportation carrier from the airport at this time (the area airports are Los Angeles International, Ontario Airport, and Burbank). So attendees must make their own arrangements for transportation to and from the hotel. Some shuttle options are: Super Shuttle or Roadrunner Shuttle

Once you arrive at the hotel, FREE transportation sign up sheets are provided by the Posada Royal Hotel & Suites for round trips between the hotel and film festival venue daily.
How do I contact SONscreen with questions?

The best way to contact us is to email your questions or comments.
Introduction to the Festival

Film submissions are accepted through Withoutabox. Click on the link below to create an account at Withoutabox if you don't already have one. Once you create an account, you will have to input information about your film, and then submit to SONscreen.

Click to submit, Withoutabox.

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Competition registration:

Regular deadline – March 10, 2013

Standard fee (non student): $75.00
Student fee: $50.00
**Note:** If you are submitting a film for the competition and are attending the Festival, you must also register to attend the Festival.

Late deadline – March 17, 2013

Standard fee (non student): $100.00
Student fee: $75.00
**Note:** If you are submitting a film for the competition and are attending the Festival, you must also register to attend the Festival.

Festival registration: [Click here to register](#)

**Standard** (non student): $100.00 – includes all screenings, workshops and food functions
**Student:** $50.00 - includes all screenings, workshops and food functions
**One-day only pass:** $55.00 includes all screenings for that day, workshops and food function (you can only purchase this once)

The festival showcases a variety of films, often ones that reflect the following themes: Redemption, Tolerance, Equality, Truth, and Hope. These are not exclusive by any means, but preference is given to films that in some way share their narrative from a faith-based perspective, or one of creative inspiration that appeals to the human spirit.

The SONscreen Film Festival reserves the right to refuse films if submissions are of insufficient quality, if there are too few entries submitted into a category, or if the subject matter is divergent from the themes the festival is looking to explore. SSFF reserves the right to implement this for any other reason we deem reasonable without explanation. SSFF will not accept/screen any film that contains explicit sex, extreme violence, or offensive use of profanity.
Click Here for Award/Competition details.

Not all submitted films will be accepted, but those that are accepted will be notified within three weeks prior to the festival.

Guidelines

Some of the guidelines and rules have changed from previous years, so please take note. Festival entries fall into three categories: Student (In Competition), Non-Student (Out of Competition), and Ministerial (ministry-related) Promotions which is open to both students and non-students.

Student (In Competition):

- Festival entries are open to all undergrad and graduate students enrolled in school at the time of film production.
- High school and College/International entries that are accepted are eligible for the category they are entered into, but are also eligible for the Jonathan Dulan High School Award and Scholarship.
- Students must be enrolled in film courses at the time of production.
- Entries must be submitted by the stated deadline.
- All films/videos submitted must be in English, subtitled in English or dubbed in English.
- With rare exception, entries are not to exceed 30 minutes in length. PSA's are to be 60 seconds or less. All High School submissions must be 10 min. or less.*
- The five categories for competition are: Drama, Comedy, Animation, Documentary, and Public Service Announcement (PSA).
- Entries must be submitted through the online submission process, which is described below.
- Films must have been completed while filmmaker was a student at a recognized educational institution (or not more than 24 months old). No paid commercial, theatrical, or TV releases will be accepted.
- * SONscreen requires that all "above-the-line" production roles be filled by students. The film director and producer must be currently enrolled students at the time of production. Other creative roles may be filled at the discretion of the filmmakers. We encourage as many of the other creative roles as reasonably possible be filled by students as well, and to only receive instructional help from professional. These distinctions are difficult to draw specific lines around, but SSFF reserves the right to disqualify a film if there is significant creative influence by teachers or other professionals. SSFF will make a decision attempting to be most fair to all films and filmmakers in competition.
- Each work goes through a selective screening process. Winners will be chosen by a jury of professionals.
- Winners are expected to participate in the publicity for the SONscreen Film Festival as well as other promotional events.
- The decisions of the judges are final. There is no objective process in the selection of winning films, as each juror has different backgrounds and experiences that guides their decision.
- Winners and all attendees are responsible for travel and all expenses.

Non-student (Out of Competition):

- This category includes both independent Professional and Non-Student Amateur filmmakers. A select number of works are featured each year for exposure and acknowledgment of their work, mentoring purposes, and professional networking opportunities.
- Where applicable, the submission criteria is the same as outlined in the “Student In Competition” section, such as the 30 minute time limit.
- These submissions must include a bio and list of other works credited.
- The submission must support SSFF themes and a representative must be present at the Festival for the Question and Answer session following the screening.
- The SSFF reserves the right to include works to be screened at the festival through invitation only. In these cases they are included for the enhancement of the festival experience and are not in competition with the other official selections.

Ministerial (Ministry-related) Promotions:

- This category was created for videos that can be used for the promotion of the Ministries of the North American Division. These categories include Family Ministries, Health Ministries, Children’s Ministries, Youth Ministries, Community Services, Women's Ministries and Ministerial. These categories include larger cash prizes than the Student In Competition category. The
winners of these categories will be required to let the sponsoring Ministry have use of their video for promotional purposes. The larger cash prizes will serve as compensation for the usage of the video. Please make sure that you examine the requirements of each Ministerial category on the WithoutABox.com website as they all have different requirements.

Submissions to this category may be made by both Students and Non-Students alike.

In certain situations, the sponsors of the Ministerial Categories may decide not to give an award for a certain category if they feel that none of the submissions meet their requirements.

Online Submission Process

1. Submissions are down through Withoutabox.com. You will have to create an account on their website and also input information about your film.
2. Complete and submit the SONscreen Usage Agreement Form (PDF). (Also available online in the submission form. These rights are non-exclusive)
3. Upload your film. After you complete registration through Withoutabox.com, you will receive an invitation within a few days from our Wistia account, instructing you to upload the film. A document will be included that will walk you through the process on the Wistia website, as well as the technical specifications. This is a change from previous years; we will no longer accept mailed submissions.
4. Include the following information with your film: Name of Filmmaker(s), School or Organization, Mailing Address, Email Address, Phone Number, Title of Film, Run Time, Submission Category (one category per film)
5. NOTE: All entries must be uploaded no later than the final deadline, with no exceptions. If possible, please do not wait until the last minute, as it may get you more exposure from the selection committee who spend a great deal of time watching the films.
6. Only one (1) draft version of the film may be accepted prior to deadline (if final cut is not available in time, but submission acceptance is based on this draft version so we do not encourage incomplete/draft works to be submitted). Upon acceptance into the festival, a final cut must be supplied at least 2 weeks prior to the festival or the film may be pulled from the festival due to being incomplete. *Please note: We will do our best to screen the correct version of the film but SSFF is not responsible for any mix up that might occur if more than one version is submitted. We recommend you always carry a digital copy of your film with you to the festival - just in case.
7. FAILURE TO FOLLOW ALL THE INSTRUCTIONS OUTLINED IN THE SUBMISSION GUIDELINES AND PROCESS MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION

Competition registration:

REGULAR DEADLINE - MARCH 10, 2013

Standard fee (non student): $75.00
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Note: If you are submitting a film for the competition and are attending the Festival, you must also register to attend the Festival.

LATE DEADLINE - MARCH 17, 2013

Standard fee (non student): $100.00
Student fee: $75.00
Note: If you are submitting a film for the competition and are attending the Festival, you must also register to attend the Festival.

Festival registration: Click here to register

Standard (non student): $100.00 - includes all screenings, workshops and food functions
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SONscreen Film Festival

about an hour ago
Has anyone submitted their film yet via Without A Box?
I just checked the account and don't see any submissions, but I know that several people have told us that they have submitted. Please let us know if you are having problems with your submission.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date/Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thurs., April 4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>AMP Hallway</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00-6:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner reception</td>
<td>Studio B</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Welcome and announcements</td>
<td>Studio A</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00-8:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Keynote address</td>
<td>Studio A</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30-10:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Pitch Fest</td>
<td>Studio A</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Fri., April 5</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>AMP Hallway</td>
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<td>8:00-9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>AMP Studio Tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 a.m.-Noon</td>
<td>Workshop A: Directing</td>
<td>Studio A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Jason Satterlund</td>
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<tr>
<td>9:30 a.m.-Noon</td>
<td>Workshop B: Writing</td>
<td>AMP Board Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Rajeev Sigamoney</td>
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<td>9:30 a.m.-Noon</td>
<td>Workshop C: Shooting</td>
<td>AMP Green Room</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Brian Belleau</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15-2:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Lunch and roundtable discussions</td>
<td>Studio B</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30-5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Workshop D: Resources</td>
<td>Studio A</td>
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<td>Jason Satterlund</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30-5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Workshop E: Writing</td>
<td>AMP Board Room</td>
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<td>Rajeev Sigamoney</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30-5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Workshop F: Shooting</td>
<td>AMP Green Room</td>
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<td>Brian Belleau</td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00-6:45 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner on your own</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00-10:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Film screenings</td>
<td>Studio A</td>
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<td><strong>Sat., April 6</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30-10:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Special screening and roundtable panel</td>
<td>Studio A</td>
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<td>discussion</td>
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<td></td>
<td>The Record Keeper</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:45 a.m.-Noon</td>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>Studio A</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Pastor Raewyn Hankins</td>
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<td>12:00-1:30</td>
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SONscreen Film Festival : 2013 Festival Schedule

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>p.m.</th>
<th>Lunch</th>
<th>Studio B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:30-2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Break</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
| 2:00-4:00 p.m. | Special screening and roundtable panel discussion  
                  Hell and Mr. Fudge |
| 4:00-6:30 p.m. | Film screenings |
| 7:30-9:30 p.m. | Awards Gala |

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SONscreen Film Festival

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about an hour ago
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