

GULF FILM FESTIVAL
12-17 April 2008

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR FILMS IN COMPETITION

1. General: The Gulf Film Festival (GFF) is an annual non-profit cultural event that takes place in April in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The GFF is organised by the Dubai Technology and Media Free Zone Authority (TECOM).

The Festival will feature two main competitions – the Film Competition and the Script Competition.

The Film Competition is open to films from the Gulf region - United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Kingdom of Bahrain, Sultanate of Oman, Qatar, Republic of Iraq and Republic of Yemen.

The Script Competition is open to Emirati short films.

The GFF, which will also feature a range of international cinema, has two overriding objectives:

- (i) The Festival aims to develop the local and regional film culture in the Gulf, creating greater opportunities for filmmakers from the region to screen their films and develop future film projects.
- (ii) The Festival aims to celebrate excellence in Gulf cinema and be a destination festival for the international film community to discover state of the art Gulf cinema.

2. Dates: The 1st edition of the GFF will be held from April 12 to 17, 2008.

3. Official Competition: The 2008 GFF will introduce a competition for feature films, short films and documentary films. Films that meet the following criteria are eligible for entry In Competition and may be chosen for inclusion in the Official Selection of the GFF Competition.

(i) All entry films in the feature, documentary or short formats must meet one of the following conditions:

- Directed by a Gulf national (passport-holder from the previously listed countries).
- Has a subject and storyline that is centered around the Gulf region and/or Gulf history or culture.

(ii) The film should not have been previously screened in the UAE before, except at the Dubai International Film Festival and/or the Ibd'a Media Student Awards.

(iii) The film must have been produced after January 1, 2006.

(iv) The film must be submitted to GFF before February 28, 2008.

(v) The film should not have been previously broadcast on any television channel or streamed via the internet to any public audience.

(vi) All non-English films must have English subtitles to be presented for the selection jury.

(vii) The submitted work must NOT be a television programme or an episode of a series.

4. Competition Categories:

Feature Films

In order to be selected as a Feature Film, your submission must be a work of fiction that is 60 minutes or longer in duration. The competition will only be held if a minimum of 5 films are selected, otherwise, the films will be screened as "Out of Competition".

Short Films

In order to be selected as a Short Film, your submission must be a work of fiction, experimental, or animation not exceeding 59 minutes in duration length.

Documentary Films

In order to be selected as a Documentary, your submission must be a work of non-fiction regardless of the duration.

Script Competition for Emirati Short Films

Participants in this category must refer to the Rules and Regulations of the Script Competition for Emirati Short Films.

5. Awards: The GFF will present awards to winners of the Official Competition and Students' Competition in the listed categories.

The GFF will also award a Special Jury Prize in the Official Competition and Students' Competition.

A GFF Certificate and cash prize will be awarded to the director of each winning film.

A) Official Competition Awards:

Feature Films:

- First Prize – AED 50,000
- Second Prize – AED 35,000

Documentary Films:

- First Prize – AED 25,000
- Second Prize – AED 20,000
- Third Prize - AED 15,000

Short Films:

- First Prize – AED 25,000
- Second Prize – AED 20,000
- Third Prize – AED 15,000

Special Jury Prize – AED 20,000

B) Students' Competition Awards:

Documentary Films:

- First Prize – AED 20,000
- Second Prize – AED 15,000
- Third Prize – AED 10,000

Short Films:

- First Prize – AED 20,000
- Second Prize – AED 15,000
- Third Prize – AED 10,000

Special Jury Prize – AED 15,000

C) Script Competition for Emirati Short Films:

- First Prize – AED 50,000
- Second Prize – AED 40,000
- Third Prize – AED 30,000

D) Special Mentions:

Acknowledgements will be given in the various sections of the competition to distinguished works and their makers.

6. GFF Submission Form: In order to submit a film for consideration in the GFF Competition, a submission form must be completed online in both Arabic and English. The deadline for receipt of the completed and signed GFF Submission Form for the competition is February 28, 2008.

In order for a film to be considered for the GFF, the Festival must receive all the relevant documentation and supporting materials as stipulated on the GFF Submission Form, including the copy of the film.

Any and all material received after the deadline will not be accepted.

7. GFF Selection Committee: The GFF will appoint a distinguished committee to review all submitted films and decide on the official selections for the 3 categories in the GFF Competition.

8. GFF Jury: The GFF will also appoint a jury from the international and Arab film communities to select the competition winners in all the categories of the GFF Competition. The jury will be comprised of 5 members for the film competition and 3 members for the script competition.

9. Screening & Archive Copies: Applicants must submit two copies of their submission film to the Festival. The first copy, which will be used for screening during the Festival can be in any one of the following formats: 35mm, Digital Betacam PAL, Betacam SP PAL, Mini DV, and DV Cam. The second copy must be in a DVD format as it will be stored in the Festival's archives.

10. Number of Screenings: If your film is selected for the Festival, GFF Management reserves the right to screen it to its public audiences up to three times. The film may be screened ahead of the festival an additional (fourth) time for accredited press and industry members.

11. Hosting:

For Emirati Filmmakers: Accommodation will be provided only to directors whose films are selected to participate in the official competition, with the exception of Dubai residents.

For Gulf Filmmakers: An economy airline ticket and accommodation will be provided only to directors whose films are selected in the official competition.

12. Films Selected: All films selected for GFF will be at the discretion of the relevant GFF Selection Committee. The committee will decide on official selections to enter the 3 categories of the GFF Competition. It is the Festival's policy not to offer comments or reasons for films not selected for the GFF Competition. An official letter will be sent by email confirming the selection and advising the submitter of further requirements and course of action.

13. Films Not Selected: In case a film is not selected for the GFF Official Competition, the Festival's Management has the right to select the film to be screened Out of Competition in the other sections of the festival.

14. Print Insurance: Prints of all films selected for the GFF will be insured throughout the period in which they are in the Festival's custody. The GFF undertakes to return the prints within 30 days of the close of the Festival. In case of loss or damage during GFF, the Festival will be responsible only for the replacement value of the print. GFF assumes this obligation only in the event that the print was originally received by the Festival in good condition.

15. Editorial Changes: No editorial cuts or changes to any film will be made at any time by GFF Management for any reason or under any circumstances.

16. Anti-Piracy Precautions: GFF endeavours to take all possible anti-piracy precautions. All prints and associated copyrighted materials will be securely stored while on GFF premises. Access is limited to our nominated staff only and all movement of prints will be strictly monitored. No duplication or loaning is permitted and no prints will ever leave the custody and care of GFF or its authorised agents during the Festival.

17. Shipping: All submissions to be sent to:

Gulf Film Festival

Dubai Media City - CNN Building

P.O. Box 53777

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Attention: GFF Coordinator

Tel: +971 4 391 3378 (Main Switchboard) or +971 4 391 4604 (Direct)

Fax: +971 4 367 2892

Web: www.gulffilmfest.com

E-mail: gffinfo@tecom.ae

It is the sender's responsibility to bear all transportation costs, shipping agent's fee and insurance fees associated with the safe delivery of the film to the GFF premises. It is recommended to

contact the shipping agent directly before dispatching the film, in order to enquire about pricing and to ensure safe delivery of your submitted materials.

18. Film Scheduling: The GFF Management will decide the dates and order of screening of each film in GFF. Once a film has been selected in GFF, it will not be able to be withdrawn or presented anywhere in the UAE before its screening at GFF 2008.

19. Video Release of Film: All rights holders submitting a film to the GFF Competition agree that in the event their film wins a prize at GFF, they will ensure that appropriate credit is awarded on the DVD case indicating the film's screening as part of the Official Selection of the Gulf Film Festival and clearly mentioning the prize it won.

20. Previous GFF Submissions: Films once submitted to GFF will not be considered for future editions of GFF and cannot be resubmitted as entries in subsequent years.

21. Acceptance of Regulations: Participation in GFF and signature of the GFF Submission Form implies acceptance of these Regulations. It is the responsibility of producers, distributors, or other authorised representatives submitting a film to ensure that they are lawfully entitled to enter a film in the GFF. Submission of a film and signature by the film's authorised representative of the GFF Submission Form signifies full agreement with, and consent to, these Regulations.

22. Festival Management's Discretion: The GFF Management will decide in its discretion on all issues and matters not foreseen by these Regulations. The GFF Management further retains the right to permit exceptions to the application of these Regulations at any time in its discretion.

Should you need any clarifications regarding the GFF Competition, please write to gffinfo@tecom.ae