

# MCTG SHORT FILM CHALLENGE Filmmaking Rules

## TEAM REQUIREMENTS

1. The *Short Film Challenge* is open to all ages.
2. All entries will be referred to as a *TEAM*. Each *TEAM* can consist from *one* to as many individuals as necessary. Additional *TEAM* members can be added after registration, but each *TEAM* member added must also be added to the team roster when a completed work is submitted.
3. Registration begins at first announcement of challenge. All registration takes place via online form on [www.mctgonstage.com](http://www.mctgonstage.com) .
4. ALL cast and crew must be volunteers.
5. All team members must submit a Photo/Audio/Video Release Form, available at [www.mctgonstage.com](http://www.mctgonstage.com) .
6. Each *TEAM* must supply its own equipment.
7. ANY type of video or film camera may be used.

## CONTENT

8. Each *TEAM* will be given the required elements upon registering in the challenge. EVERY FILM IN THE CHALLENGE WILL HAVE THE EXACT SAME ASSIGNED:
  - a. CHARACTER
  - b. PROP
  - c. LINE OF DIALOGUE (CANNOT BE TITLE OF THE FILM)
9. Each team will be given a CHOICE OF TWO RANDOM GENRES ASSIGNED BY MCTG AFTER TEAM REGISTRATION. The team will be able to choose one or both of the genres to use in their film. Challenge Judges will take use of all elements into account, including multiple genre usage.
10. Any creative work in advance of the competition timeline is prohibited. Creative work includes, but is not limited to:
  - a. Script writing, rehearsing, filming, scoring and editing. These must ONLY be done during the official *Short Film Challenge Time Period*.

**Each *TEAM* may organize cast and crew, scout and secure locations, and secure equipment before the challenge kick-off date**

11. All footage must be shot during the official time period of the *Challenge*:
  - a. No stock footage or footage shot or created at another time may be used.

- b. Animation is permitted but **MUST** be created during the *Challenge* time period. Video effects (such as 'smoke effects' or 'explosion effects') are permitted as long as the *TEAM* has the rights to use them.
- c. Still photographs are permitted, provided that the *TEAM* has the rights to them. The photos do not need to be created during the *Challenge* time period.
- d. MCTG does not require participants to submit material releases for individual uses of copyrighted material. However, MCTG reserves the right to disqualify any entry that has a current third-party claim or potential to violate an existing copyright. If there is a copyright concern, Menifee Community Theatre Group or *Short Film Challenge* Staff may ask individual teams to provide proof of rights to use any copyrighted material.

**12. Music:**

It is permissible for a participating group to use pre-recorded music; **HOWEVER, the participating TEAM must have the rights to any music used in its film.** As with music, pre-recorded sound effects are allowed, but you must have rights to use them. **MUSIC RANDOMLY DOWNLOADED FROM THE INTERNET IS GENERALLY NOT ACCEPTABLE.** Song parodies (i.e., use of identifiable pre-existing compositions with new or altered lyrics or music) may not be included in the film without a signed release from the composition's rights holder. This rule applies without regard to whether the song parody arguably constitutes "fair use" under US or international copyright law.

**13. Prohibited Content:**

The following are prohibited in film submissions, subject to discretion of challenge judges and staff:

- a. Excessive violence (toward people, animals, or even inanimate objects)
- b. Nudity
- c. Profanity
- d. Drug use
- e. Sexual content

**14. Film Duration:**

The finished film must be a minimum of **5 minutes in duration, and a maximum of 10 minutes in duration** which includes ending credits. Credits at the end of each film must be limited to a maximum of 15 seconds. The end credits must include the words: "This film was made for the Menifee Community Theatre Group Short Film Challenge."

**15. Each film needs opening SLATES to identify the film:**

**Your film should have the following 'slates'** (this will NOT be part of your 5-10 minute finished time):

- a. 1 second of black at the beginning of your video project/timeline (no audio of any kind here)

- b. Then, 3 seconds OVER BLACK: A title card with: *TEAM* name (created by each individual *TEAM*), title of film, and genre. (no audio of any kind here)
- c. Then, 1 second of black (no audio of any kind here)
- d. Completed Film
- e. After the ending credits, 1 additional second of black. (no audio of any kind here)

### Submission Rules

16. Each participating *TEAM*'s film/video production must follow all rules herein. The *Short Film Challenge* organizers reserve the right to screen only "Official *Short Film Challenge* Films."
17. The *Short Film Challenge* organizers/judges may, in their sole discretion, **DISQUALIFY** entries deemed to be inappropriate or otherwise **non-compliant as per ANY of the rules** of the *Short Film Challenge*. **DISQUALIFICATIONS** may specifically result from inaccurate reading/presentation of the required line of dialogue; inaccurate identification of the required character; inaccurate identification of the required prop; or inaccurate identification of the genre.

### 18. Submissions:

All submissions shall be entered via the Menifee Community Theatre Group FilmFreeway website, accessible by link at [www.mctgonstage.com](http://www.mctgonstage.com) or by direct link at [www.filmfreeway.com/MCTGShortFilms](http://www.filmfreeway.com/MCTGShortFilms) . Also, if your film cannot be viewed on *Short Film Challenge* equipment, it may be disqualified.

### 19. Submission Notes

- a. We recommend that you make sound levels relatively even throughout your film. (If your film has uneven sound or sound that peaks, it may be modified)
  - b. All films received by the deadline or in the late entry period will be available to stream on MCTG's YouTube channel, presuming they meet the eligibility requirements. However, late submissions are not eligible for competition.
20. To be eligible for the Project, Entries must be the original work of the Entrant; must not infringe third-party's rights; must be suitable for publication (i.e., may not be obscene or indecent); must not contain obscene or pornographic material; may not contain defamatory statements about any person, company, organization or entity; may not invade privacy or other rights of any person, company or entity; may not in any other way violate applicable laws and regulations; and may not contain any copyrighted elements (other than as owned by the Entrant and/or *MCTG Short Film Challenge*).

*Short Film Challenge* organizers reserve the right to make the final determination as to which Entries are eligible. *Short Film Challenge* organizers reserve the right to refuse to screen/stream a film or to make an announcement regarding the content of the film. *Short Film Challenge* organizers reserve the right to alter a film in order to remove or delete offensive or defamatory content.

21. The Entrant should not distribute their entry/video in any way prior to its official *Short Film Challenge* premiere. This includes uploading the video to any website or screening the film for groups of anyone other than the team. The Entrant is encouraged to make a trailer of their film and distribute that instead. This trailer should be no longer than 48 seconds.

## **MCTG *Short Film Challenge* Competition Rules.**

### **1. Eligibility**

The Team Leader must be a legal resident or legal visitor of the United States.

### **2. To Enter**

To register for the *Short Film Challenge*, follow the instructions found on [www.mctgonstage.com](http://www.mctgonstage.com). Registration is free for all participants of the Virtual Edition of the Challenge. New entries shall be allowed until one week from the end deadline of the Challenge.

### **3. Official Filmmaking Period**

The *Short Film Challenge* will commence upon announcement by MCTG and end on June 30th, 2020 at 11:59 PM.

### **4. Team Leader's Agreement**

Participating teams will be required to elect one team member to serve as the official Team Leader and sign the standard *Short Film Challenge* Team Leader's Agreement. If under the legal age of majority in your state of residence, your parent or legal guardian must sign it on your behalf as well.

As a condition of entry, participants must agree to the Team Leader's Agreement, which sets forth the rights of participants and *Short Film Challenge* with respect to the use of Entries by *Short Film Challenge*. Entries that do not include all required information and adhere to the foregoing and following requirements will be considered void and will not be considered in this *Short Film Challenge*.

### **5. Production Costs**

All costs associated with the production of the Entry are solely the responsibility of the Participants.

### **6. Basic Requirements of the Project**

Participants must adhere to the official *Short Film Challenge* Filmmaking Rules.

### **7. Project Terms of Submission**

8. By submitting an Entry into this *Short Film Challenge*, each Participant warrants and represents that they will adhere to all terms and conditions outlined in the Filmmaking Rules and Competition Rules (collectively, the *Official Rules* of the Project), as well as the Team Leader's Agreement.

### **9. Selection of Winners**

Entries will be judged by a process in which qualified panels of judges will evaluate the eligible entries based on the following judging criteria:

- Artistic Merit (e.g., Story, Creativity, Entertainment Value) (45%)
- Technical Merit (30%)
- Adherence to the Assignment (25%)

### **10. *Short Film Challenge* Winner**

In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken based on the highest score in the first Judging Criteria, continuing thereafter to each Judging Criteria in order, as needed to break the tie. Entrants agree that the *Menifee Community Theatre Group* has the sole right to decide all matters and disputes arising from this *Short Film Challenge* and that all decisions of the *Menifee Community Theatre Group* are final and binding.

**11. General Conditions**

By participating, Entrants agree to these Official Rules which are final and binding in all respects. The *Menifee Community Theatre Group* is governed by the laws of the state of Kentucky, USA, and all claims must be resolved in Kentucky courts or the Federal courts located in the state of Kentucky.

**12. Limitations of Liability and Release**

By participating in the Project, Entrant agrees to release, indemnify and hold *Menifee Community Theatre Group* harmless from any and all claims, damages or liabilities arising from or relating to such Entrant's participation in the Project.

**13. Winners**

Winners will be posted online on all websites and social media platforms held by Menifee Community Theatre Group.

**14. Project Organizer**

The *Menifee Community Theatre Group*, P.O. Box 583, Frenchburg, KY 40322.