



'The Fine Print' for the 2025 Overlea ArtsFest Short Film Festival

(please read carefully and acknowledge on the submission form)

What we're looking for: Overlea ArtsFest Short Film Festival specializes in films by new & emerging talent, meaning filmmakers who are not yet well-known and not yet making their main living by their film work. Students are always welcome. However, we require that submissions be **well executed, professionally presented and of good quality**. We do not look for or favor any particular style or genre, and welcome all forms of creative expression. Any filmmaker **16 years or older**, and of any ethnic background, gender expression, faith or culture may submit. Due to the family-friendly atmosphere of our events, no film of an overtly violent, sexual or pornographic nature will be accepted.

Judging criteria: The film curator will determine which films are accepted for competition into the juried show. The jury panel will determine the final winners of the show based on their scores, and their decisions are final. The jury panel is comprised of experienced professionals in their specific creative fields. They follow an internationally accepted protocol for evaluating artistic excellence in film. Our film judging criteria are accessible at the end of the submission form and on our Short Films web page. **All criteria are important, but we value originality of vision, uniqueness of approach and a good story above all.**

Extra submissions: Each filmmaker is allowed to submit only 3 films, but they can be in various categories. If extra films are submitted, the filmmaker will be notified that the entries are considered disqualified until the proper number of entries are submitted. **Send only your best work.**

Prizes & awards: First place winner will receive a 'Best in Show' certificate and a check for \$100. The second place winner will receive a 'Second Place' certificate and a check for \$50. A 'Third Place' certificate will be awarded to the third place winner. In the event of a large number of strong entries, the jurors may decide to award one or more 'Honorable Mention' certificates to acknowledge them. Winners will be announced in the week following the screening event.

People's Choice awards: There will also be a People's Choice 'Best in Show' and 'Second Place' certificate given to the top two winners, as voted on by the screening event attendees and online viewers. People's Choice Winners will be announced at the end of the online voting period.

Eligibility of film submissions: Films that have already been screened, distributed, submitted to other film festivals or are currently being shown in some way, ARE STILL ELIGIBLE to participate if there is no prior legal agreement prohibiting them from doing so. However, any film that has been previously submitted to the Overlea ArtsFest Short Film Festival is not eligible for submission to a later Overlea ArtsFest event.

Liability and rights of event organizers: Overlea ArtsFest Inc. and CCBC reserve the right to feature jury-selected and winning films on our websites, share them on our social media, and screen them in our public festival events. If your film has restricted access because of current distribution contracts, you must notify us at the time of submission and explain the nature and time frame of the restriction, which may affect your film's eligibility. Overlea ArtsFest Inc., CCBC and Baltimore County are not responsible for any loss or damages resulting from the promotion and screening of your film at our film screening events or in our media. It is the responsibility of the filmmaker (or representative submitting the film) to provide approved screening copies and complete information on the role of each participant in the film project. The information given on the submission form will be considered final and accurate.