



Overlea ArtsFest/CCBC 2026 Juried Short Film Festival

JUDGING CRITERIA

The focus of our film festivals is on new & emerging local filmmakers. The most essential criteria our judges look for are the Story (or Script), AND the Originality & Vision of the film.

Accepted Genres: Narrative Shorts, Documentary Shorts, Animated Shorts, Experimental Shorts, Musical Shorts, and AI Generated Shorts

Accepted Film Lengths: 1 minute to 30 minutes

Criteria: All submissions will be judged on the originality and quality of execution in the criteria listed below for their categories.

- Script – compelling story, quality of writing
- Cinematography – beauty/strength of visuals, good use of point of view
- Use of Lighting – portrays mood and supports the story
- Effectiveness of Editing – supports pace of the film, maintains continuity
- Effective use of Sound – clean audio, balanced sound levels, good use of background music
- Originality & Vision – unique twist, concept or message; pushing boundaries