

**RULE SEVEN  
SPECIAL RULES FOR THE  
ANIMATED FEATURE FILM AWARD**

**I. DEFINITION**

An animated film is defined as a motion picture in which movement and characters' performances are created using a frame-by-frame technique, and usually falls into one of the two general fields of animation: narrative or abstract. Some of the techniques of animating films include but are not limited to hand-drawn animation, computer animation, stop-motion, clay animation, pixilation, cutout animation, pinscreen, camera multiple pass imagery, kaleidoscopic effects created frame-by-frame, and drawing on the film frame itself. Motion capture and real-time puppetry are not by themselves animation techniques. An animated short film has a running time of 40 minutes or less. An animated feature film has a running time of more than 40 minutes. In an animated film, animation must figure in no less than 75 percent of the picture's running time. In addition, a narrative animated film must have a significant number of the major characters animated. If the picture is created in a cinematic style that could be mistaken for live action, the filmmaker(s) must also submit information supporting how and why the picture is substantially a work of animation rather than live action.

**II. ELIGIBILITY**

- A. To be eligible for awards consideration for the 97th Awards year, an animated feature film must fulfill one of the following qualifying criteria. The eligibility period begins on January 1, 2024, and ends on December 31, 2024.
1. The picture must have been publicly exhibited for **paid admission** in a commercial motion picture theater in one of the six qualifying U.S. metro areas: Los Angeles County; City of New York [five boroughs]; the Bay Area [counties of San Francisco, Marin Alameda, San Mateo and Contra Costa]; Chicago [Cook County, Illinois]; Dallas-Fort Worth [Dallas County, Tarrant County, Texas]; and Atlanta [Fulton, Georgia], for a run of at least seven consecutive days. Screenings during the theatrical release must occur at least three times daily, with at least one screening beginning between 6 p.m. and 10 p.m. daily. The seven consecutive days of the theatrical release are required to occur in one venue. The motion picture must be advertised during its qualifying theatrical release in a manner normal and customary to theatrical feature distribution practices and may receive movie critic reviews.

**OR**

2. The film must have been submitted in the International Feature Film category as its country's official selection for the 97th Academy Awards.
- B. The Animation Branch Executive Committee shall have the right and responsibility to resolve all questions of eligibility and rules.

**III. SUBMISSION**

- A. For films qualifying between January 1, 2024, and June 30, 2024, entrants must submit all submission materials, including the digital upload of the film for streaming purposes, by 5 p.m. PT on **Thursday, September 12, 2024**. For films qualifying between July 1, 2024, and December 31, 2024, entrants must submit all submission materials, including the digital upload of the film for streaming purposes, by 5 p.m. PT on **Thursday, November 14, 2024**.
- B. Films qualifying under paragraph II.A.1 are qualified to enter other General Entry categories. An animated feature film may be submitted in only one Awards year for Academy Awards consideration.

- C. Entrants must complete the online submission form located on the Academy's Awards Submission site and submit to the Academy the digital upload of the film for streaming purposes. The digital upload of the film submitted for Academy Awards consideration must be identical in content and length to the print or DCP that qualified. Films with a planned theatrical release before the end of the calendar year, but which will not have a locked picture by the submission deadline, may request an extension for the digital upload only. Films qualifying after the submission deadline must provide documentation from the qualifying theater by the submission deadline confirming that the film will satisfy the release requirements.
- D. The significant dialogue or narration must be substantially in English, or the film must have English-language subtitles.
- E. The Academy will retain for its archives one film print or DCP of every film receiving a nomination. By submitting a film, the filmmaker agrees that the Academy has the right to make copies and distribute them for voting purposes only.

#### IV. NOMINEES AND AWARD RECIPIENTS

- A. An entry form naming the intended award recipient(s) and including the signatures of **all** the credited producer(s) and director(s) is required. This is to ensure that all parties are properly informed, and that agreement on the designated award recipient(s) is settled prior to submission.
- B. The award recipient(s) shall be designated by those responsible for the production of the film. The designated recipient(s) must be **the key creative individual(s) most clearly responsible for the overall achievement**. There is a maximum of FOUR designated nominees, one of whom must be the credited director who exercised directorial control, and the other(s) of whom must have a director or producer credit. In determining the number of producers eligible for nomination, a bona fide team of not more than two people shall be considered to be a single "producer" if the two individuals have had an established producing partnership as determined by the Producers Guild of America's Producing Partnership Panel.
- C. Producing nominees for each film will be listed in order based on agreed-upon producer position as shown in legal billing submitted by distributor.
  - i. Established producing partnerships will be noted with an ampersand symbol (&).
- D. If a producer is named, that individual must have performed a major portion of the producing functions, in accordance with Academy producer criteria established in partnership with the Producers Guild of America. Production companies or persons with the screen credit of co-director or any credit other than DIRECTOR or PRODUCER shall not be eligible as nominees for the film. Persons with screen credits of executive producer, co-producer, associate producer, line producer, produced in association with or any other credit shall not receive nominations or Academy statuettes. To qualify as a producer nominee for a nominated picture, the producer must have been determined eligible by the Producers Guild of America's vetting process or successfully appealed so that a resolution may be reached prior to the nominations announcement.
- E. Final determination of the qualifying nominees for each nominated film will be made by the Animation Branch Executive Committee, including the right to name any additional qualified producer as a nominee.

#### V. VOTING

- A. All active and life Academy members will be invited to view the eligible submissions in the category. Those who opt in will be required to see a minimum percentage of submitted eligible films as defined by the current procedures.

- B. All submitted eligible films will be made available to the voting members. A nominations ballot shall be made available to all members of the Animation Branch. Members shall vote by secret ballot in the order of their preference for not more than five motion pictures. The five motion pictures receiving the highest number of votes shall become the nominations for final voting for the Animated Feature Film award.
- C. Final voting for the Animated Feature Film award shall be restricted to active and life Academy members.