



96th Academy Awards®

Submission Requirements for Longlist and Shortlist Films in the Visual Effects Awards Category

The Visual Effects Branch Executive Committee selects the 20-film longlist and final 10 feature films to be considered for nomination. The effort to create the following materials should be a positive collaboration between the four prospective designated nominees, producers and the visual effects companies.

The Executive Committee requests that producers provide opportunities to view their contending films through advance screenings or screeners. It is especially encouraged for films that will be released in December 2023.

Key dates for the preliminary voting process:

- Deadline for producers to submit completed Designated Nominee form for longlisted films – Tuesday, December 12, 2023
- Deadline to submit Visual Effects supplementary videos for longlisted films- Tuesday, December 12, 2023
- Oscar® Shortlists Announcement - Thursday, December 21, 2023
- Deadline to upload Bake-Off reels and Intro Before and After reels to Aspera, as well as Designated Nominee statements, streaming display artwork and stills to the Academy - Thursday, January 4, 2024
- Rehearsals for Visual Effects Bake-Off participants – Thursday, January 11, 2024
- The Visual Effects Bake-Off - Saturday, January 13, 2024
- Oscar® Nominations Announcement - Tuesday, January 23, 2024
- 96th Oscars® - Sunday, March 10, 2024

Please visit oscars.org/rules for the complete 96th Academy Awards® rules.

Deliverables for all longlist films (20):

1. Designated Nominee form
 - Names, contact information and written statements of Designated Nominees (2,000 characters each)
 - Designated point of contact from the post-production team responsible for delivering Bake-Off assets
2. Executive Committee supplementary video (3 minutes)
 - Length should not exceed 3 minutes in runtime
 - Video should be delivered as H264 encoded MOV file
 - 1920x1080 HD or 2K resolution for high-quality review
 - Not to exceed 300MB in size

Deliverables for all shortlist films (10):

1. Bake-Off reel (10 minutes, digital files for streaming and projection)
 - Include a closed-caption file in webvtt or SRT format
2. Bake-Off Intro Before and After reel (3 minutes, digital files for streaming and projection)
 - Two versions: with and without voice-over
 - Include a closed-caption file in webvtt or SRT format
3. Designated Nominee statements
4. Supplemental Images (max. eight pages)
5. Streaming display artwork
6. Mounted film poster
7. Bake-Off Release and Agreement form

Technical Specifications:

- Digital formats of the Bake-Off reels for Streaming and DCPs: [Asset Technical Specifications](#)
- DCPs of the Bake-Off reels for Projection: [David Geffen Theater](#) additional capabilities
 - 2K up to 120fps and 4K up to 48fps for 2D and 3D DCPs
 - Dolby Vision and Dolby ATMOS capable
 - Please note encrypted DCPs will require KDMs (keys). KDMs may be provided by email attachment to MuseumTheaterTech@oscars.org or USB flash drive
- Digital upload of display artwork: [Display Art Specifications](#)

DESIGNATED NOMINEE FORM DEADLINE: Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 5pm PT

From the Academy Award rules for the 96th Oscars season (Rule Twenty-three, paragraph 5):

The producers of the twenty films under further consideration (or their designees) shall be requested to provide the committee with the following:

a. The names and titles of the primary individuals – not to exceed four in number – directly involved with, and principally responsible for, the visual effects achieved and a description of their contributions. Additional names will not be considered. The Visual Effects award is a craft award. For that reason, producers, coordinators and executives are not eligible for this award, unless they acted in the capacity of craftspeople with primary creative responsibility for the achievement.

A representative of the Academy shall provide the producer listed with a digital link to the Designated Nominee form. There, the producer shall provide the following:

- The name, credited title and contact information for each Designated Nominee
- The name and contact information for the individual who shall be responsible for the creation and delivery of the supplemental video and all Bake-Off video material should the film advance to the next stage of awards consideration
- The Designated Nominee statements (**of no more than 2,000 characters each, not including spaces**), as defined below:

- Each statement – written in the first person by the Designated Nominee – shall highlight the most challenging problems the proposed nominee solved for the film – aesthetic, technical or a combination of factors. Please also describe the overall approach to solving problems and the solutions at which the visual effects team arrived in specific detail.
- The Visual Effects Branch will rely on these statements to describe the most important aspects of the work clearly and succinctly to be considered and each potential nominee’s exact contribution to the achievement. Magazine articles and other self-promotional printed materials, including graphics, are not accepted as part of the submission.

By submitting the above information, the producer in question acknowledges that these four individuals are the desired Designated Nominees of the longlisted film, should the production receive an Oscar® nomination for Visual Effects. The producer acknowledges that they may be called upon to further elaborate on the selection of the Designated Nominees and each individual’s contribution to the film. Please refer to Academy Rule Twenty-three (Special Rules for the Visual Effects Award) for more information regarding the selection and ratification of the Designated Nominees.

DELIVERY: Online form link to be provided by Academy personnel – visualeffects@oscars.org

SUPPLEMENTARY VIDEO DEADLINE: Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 5pm PT

Producers of the 20 selected films are highly encouraged to submit a presentation (with a maximum duration of 3 minutes) that provides first-hand information regarding what was created as a visual or mechanical effect to arrive at the finished work. Given that the most successful visual effects being created today are seamless and often invisible to even the trained eye, it is critical that the Executive Committee (which is made up of industry professionals) not only assesses the finished work but also acquires a better understanding of the challenges faced and overcome by visual effects teams through their evaluations. Please note that the presentation should not be a marketing pitch – the committee already understands that the work on each of the 20 films has exceptional value. The audio should be silent (MOS) overlaid with a voice-over narration by the designated nominee explaining the material.

The committee is primarily interested in answering the following questions:

- What techniques did the visual effects team use in the film, and what were the resulting achievements?
- How did the team innovatively use existing visual effects techniques?
- What were the key responsibilities of each visual effects company?
- What was the most challenging visual effects sequence, and how did the team overcome the challenge?
- What visual effects sequences are noteworthy?

DELIVERY: Dropbox link to be provided by Academy personnel – visualeffects@oscars.org

Prior to the deadline, any previously submitted content may be revised and uploaded again using Dropbox. Please follow these guidelines to ensure the integrity and fairness of this process. Representatives are not invited to present in person.

BAKE-OFF REEL (10 minutes) DEADLINE: Thursday, January 4, 2024, at 12pm PT

- Digital file upload
- DCP and/or film print archival delivery
- Display Artwork
- Closed-caption file (webvtt or SRT)

The Bake-Off reel must not exceed 10 minutes in total running time. It will be accepted in film or digital format (the Bake-Off reel format must match the theatrical release format). If a digital presentation is made, an archival key (aka DKDM) also must be provided for archival purposes. Note: The Academy Film Archive recommends that contributors provide an unencrypted DCP.

Per the Academy's rules for the 96th Oscars[®], the Bake-Off reel shall be defined as follows:

Rule Twenty-three, Paragraph 7.b:

b. The Bake-Off reel – not to exceed ten minutes in total running time – containing excerpts from the digital release DCP of the motion picture. The Bake-Off reel will present the effects shots in movie order with minor exceptions allowed. This composition playlist must reference only the theatrical release DCP media essence files. Producers wishing to submit a film excerpt reel instead may do so, provided the motion picture was originally released in that format. In this case, a duplicate excerpt reel from the composite release print must be provided for archiving. All formats containing narration are required to include closed captioning.

Include with your submission an inventory of all elements supplied (i.e., film gauge with aspect ratio), sound format (including the number of discs provided if DTS is used), any special screening requirements and your contact information. It is your responsibility to supply all the elements required to screen your submission. Please include “_Intro” or “_BakeOff” at the end of the filename.

Visual Effects Branch members can stream Bake-Off reels from the shortlisted films on the Academy Screening Room. Streaming Display Artwork will be displayed on the category and film asset pages of the Academy Screening Room. Artwork should have a horizontal layout and not include quotes, taglines, credits, copyrights, billing blocks, logos or laurels such as studio logos or award achievements.

DELIVERY: [Aspera link](#) for streaming (ASR) delivery, with additional upload instructions provided separately. [Aspera link](#) for DCP delivery. If you have any issues, please contact [Taso Georgakis](#).

INTRO BEFORE AND AFTER REEL (3 minutes) DEADLINE: Thursday, January 4, 2024, 12pm PT

- Digital file upload (two versions – with and without narration)

- DCP delivery (two versions – with and without narration)
- Display Artwork
- Closed caption file (webvtt or SRT)

Per the Academy’s rules for the 96th Oscars®, the Before and After reel shall be defined as follows:

Rule Twenty-three, Paragraph 7.c:

Intro Before and After reel – not to exceed three minutes in total running time – showing the progression of a minimum of two steps in the creation of a finished shot, from raw plate to finished product, or – in the case of shots or sequences created entirely off the set – storyboards, concept art or previsualization. The audio should be silent (MOS) overlaid with voice-over narration explaining the material that is either prerecorded or provided by an attending designated nominee. The content of this reel should be directly related to the material in the Bake-Off reel and are required to include closed captioning.

The remarks should address the work on screen and call attention to what voters should look for during the screening. It is imperative to clarify what was added to existing shots and to point out where your team created entire shots.

Display Artwork will be displayed on the category and film asset pages of the Academy Screening Room. Artwork should have a horizontal layout and not include quotes, taglines, credits, copyrights, billing blocks, logos or laurels such as studio logos or award achievements.

DELIVERY: [Aspera link](#) for streaming (ASR) delivery, with additional upload instructions provided separately. [Aspera Link](#) for DCP Delivery. If you have any issues, please contact [Taso Georgakis](#).

DESIGNATED NOMINEE STATEMENTS, SUPPLEMENTAL IMAGES, MOUNTED FILM POSTER and RELEASE FORM DEADLINE: Thursday, January 4, 2024, 12pm PT

Designated Nominee statements, as described previously, are requested of all 20 films on the Visual Effects Longlist and are due on **Tuesday, December 12**. Productions selected for the shortlist may edit Designated Nominee statements upon request until **Thursday, January 4**.

Photo illustrations of before and after images, behind-the-scenes photos or other images that clarify how you achieved your results are limited to eight one-sided pages with standard dimensions of 8.5 x 11” in either portrait or landscape orientation.

A mounted copy of the film’s theatrical poster is requested for physical display at the in-person Bake-Off event. Posters may be delivered to Academy personnel during the Bake-Off rehearsal on Thursday, January 11, 2024.

Each Designated Nominee is required to sign a Bake-Off Release and Agreement form, which will be provided at the rehearsal.

DELIVERY: Designated Nominee edits may be requested via email (visualeffects@oscars.org). Supplemental Image packets may be delivered via email or Dropbox. Mounted film posters must be delivered in person.

THE BAKE-OFF EVENT:

The Visual Effects Bake-Off will occur on Saturday, January 13, at 1 pm PT at the David Geffen Theater in Los Angeles, with a required in-person rehearsal on Thursday, January 11 (to schedule, contact visualeffects@oscars.org). Each film shall be showcased for a period of 18 minutes:

- The Before-and-After reel (maximum of 3 minutes)
- The Bake-Off reel (maximum of 10 minutes)
- Question & answer period moderated by the Visual Effects Branch Governors (maximum of 5 minutes)

The order of films shall be alphabetical by title. Projection reserves the right to group films instead first by aspect ratio, then alphabetically by title.

All Designated Nominees are highly encouraged to be present in person at the Los Angeles Bake-Off event to best represent and speak to their work. Virtual participation will not be accommodated. Please provide the names of attending Designated Nominees in advance so that questions may be directed appropriately. The Bake-Off will also be livestreamed for Academy members to view on the Academy Screening Room.

At no point during the Bake-Off presentation should Designated Nominees use their platform for reminders of favorable reviews.

The Academy is committed to hosting inclusive, accessible events that enable all guests to engage and participate fully. If assistance is required or there are any questions related to accessibility, please contact us at accessibility@oscars.org.

Following the Bake-Off, eligible members of the Visual Effects Branch shall vote, resulting in the five nominations for the 96th (2023) Visual Effects Award. Nominations will be announced on Tuesday, January 23, 2024.

If you have questions about the Visual Effects Award or its nomination process, contact me at (310) 913-3593 or visualeffects@oscars.org.

Thank you,

Natalie Wade

Senior Director, Member Relations and Awards Administration

Clark Eglinton

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