

2026



Rules & Regulations Change Highlights

Changements aux règlements

Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television

Académie canadienne du cinéma et de la télévision

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LEADING MEDIA PARTNER



PREMIER PARTNER



PLATINUM PARTNER



LEAD PARTNERS



FILM AWARDS | PRIX EN CINÉMA

1. ELIGIBILITY | CRITÈRES D'ADMISSIBILITÉ

1.1. Eligibility for Non-Canadian Individuals | Admissibilité des personnes non canadiennes

Starting with the 2026 Canadian Screen Awards, all categories honouring certified Canadian productions will be restricted to Canadian citizens or permanent residents only.

NOTE: Minority co-productions are eligible to be nominated where Canadians received an eligible credit.

À partir de l'édition 2026 des prix Écrans canadiens, toutes les catégories récompensant les productions canadiennes certifiées seront réservées aux personnes ayant la citoyenneté canadienne ou la résidence permanente au Canada.

REMARQUE : les coproductions minoritaires sont admissibles si des personnes canadiennes ont obtenu une mention au générique admissible.

1.2. Qualifying Commercial Screenings for Feature Films and Short Films | Projections commerciales admissibles pour les longs et les courts métrages

Qualifying commercial releases for feature films and theatrical short films on online platforms are limited to Subscription Video on Demand (SVOD) platforms. Transactional Video on Demand (TVOD) and Advertising-based Video on Demand (AVOD) platforms will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Films available for rent or purchase that have not had a prior release or premiere are not eligible.

SECTION VI – THEATRICAL FEATURE-LENGTH FILMS

A Feature Film must be publicly exhibited during the Eligibility Period of January 1, 2025 - March 31, 2026. A Feature Film may qualify by satisfying one of the following qualifying criteria:

B. A release on at least one approved Qualifying Subscription Video on Demand (SVOD) platform (see Section XX - Definitions) as specified on the Academy's list of Eligible Festivals & Online Platforms. Films available for rent or purchase that have not had a prior release or premiere are not eligible.

SECTION X – THEATRICAL SHORTS AND DOCUMENTARIES

Short Films Only - During the period of January 1, 2025 through March 31, 2026, a minimum of one (1) theatrical screening in Canada to a paying audience other than a festival; or, a commercial release on one of the Academy approved Subscription Video on Demand (SVOD) platforms* (see Section XX – Definitions). Films available for rent or purchase that have not had a prior release or premiere are not eligible.

Les seules diffusions commerciales en ligne admissibles pour les longs et les courts métrages sont celles sur les plateformes de vidéo à la demande par abonnement (VADA). Les diffusions sur les plateformes de vidéo à la demande transactionnelle (VADT) et sur les plateformes de vidéo à la demande financée par la publicité (VADFP) ne seront examinées qu'au cas par cas. Les films disponibles à la location ou à l'achat ne sont pas admissibles s'ils n'ont pas préalablement fait l'objet d'une sortie commerciale ou d'une première.

ARTICLE VI – LONGS MÉTRAGES DE FICTION

Un long métrage de fiction doit être présenté publiquement pendant la période d'admissibilité du 1^{er} janvier 2025 au 31 mars 2026. Pour être admissible, un long métrage de fiction doit répondre à l'un des critères d'admissibilité suivants :

B. Une diffusion sur au moins une plateforme de vidéo à la demande par abonnement (VADA) admissible (voir Article XX – Définitions) voir la liste des festivals et plateformes en ligne admissibles de l'Académie. Les films disponibles à la location ou à l'achat ne sont pas admissibles s'ils n'ont pas préalablement fait l'objet d'une sortie commerciale ou d'une première.

ARTICLE X – COURTS MÉTRAGES ET DOCUMENTAIRES

Courts métrages seulement – pendant la période du 1er janvier 2025 au 31 mars 2026, le film a été présenté à au moins une (1) reprise dans une salle de cinéma commerciale au Canada devant un auditoire payant dans un contexte autre que celui d'un festival; ou a eu une sortie commerciale sur une plateforme de vidéo à la demande par abonnement (VADA)* (voir l'article XX – Définitions) approuvée par l'Académie. Les films disponibles à la location ou à l'achat ne sont pas admissibles s'ils n'ont pas préalablement fait l'objet d'une sortie commerciale ou d'une première.

2. CATEGORY CHANGES | CHANGEMENTS DE CATÉGORIES

2.1. Achievement in Casting | Meilleure distribution des rôles

Eligibility for Achievement in Casting will be limited to Casting Directors. The eligibility criteria has been revised as follows:

CASTING

Category: **21500. Achievement in Casting**

- *Required Credit: Casting Director, Local Casting Director*
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L'admissibilité dans la catégorie Meilleure distribution des rôles sera limitée aux mentions « directeur.trice de casting » et « régisseur.euse de distribution ». Les critères d'admissibilité ont été ainsi révisés :

DISTRIBUTION DES RÔLES

Catégorie : **21500. meilleure distribution des rôles**

- *Mention requise au générique : directeur.trice de casting, régisseur.euse de distribution, régisseur.euse de distribution locale*

TELEVISION AWARDS

1. ELIGIBILITY

1.1. Eligibility for Non-Canadian Individuals

Starting with the 2026 Canadian Screen Awards, all categories honouring certified Canadian productions will be restricted to Canadian citizens or permanent residents only.

NOTE: Minority co-productions are eligible to be nominated where Canadians received an eligible credit.

1.2. Documentary Categories

Documentaries that have previously entered the Feature Documentary film categories are allowed to enter re-edited versions for broadcast in the “Best Documentary” Television program categories. The two versions must have a notable difference in length or content to enter.

Applicable categories:

- 1011. Donald Brittain Award for Best Social/Political Documentary Program
- 1012. Best History Documentary Program or Series
- 1014. Rob Stewart Award for Best Science or Nature Documentary Program or Series
- 1015. Best Biography or Arts Documentary Program or Series
- 1016. Best Documentary Program

2. CATEGORY CHANGES

2.1. Best Host, Talk Show or Entertainment News

The following category has been removed:

9520. Best Host, Talk Show or Entertainment News

Hosts can enter an adjacent performance category – either **9526. Best Host, Lifestyle** or **9530. Best Host or Interviewer, News or Information**.

2.2. Best Talk or Entertainment News Series

The category title and description for **1013. Best Talk or Entertainment News Series** have been revised to the following:

1013. Best Talk Series

*A continuing non-fiction series characterized by elements of discussion, including general and special interest topics such as culture, arts and entertainment, entertainment news, political news, media, design, food, fashion, relationships, travel, and recreational interests. **Note 1:** This is a “Program Award” and the Authorized Representative is not required to enter individuals through the online entry form. Instead, the Authorized Representative is required to upload an “Authorized List” of up to ten (10) key production creatives directly responsible for the production of the Program or Series. **Note 2:** In case of nomination, and for the purposes of attending the Awards Gala, the Academy will set a limit of five (5) individuals from the “Authorized List” who will be able to order a ticket at the Nominee rate. In case of win, all individuals on the “Authorized List” will be permitted to order a statue for the winning Program or Series.*

2.3. Best Host, Live Entertainment Special

The following category has been removed:

9525. Best Host, Live Entertainment Special

Hosts can enter **1010. Best Live Entertainment Special**.

2.4. Best Variety or Entertainment Special

The following category has been removed:

1024. Best Variety or Entertainment Special

Variety or Entertainment Specials can enter **1010. Best Live Entertainment Special**.

2.5. Best Live Entertainment Special

The category description has been revised to allow packaged or edited single Entertainment Specials, as well as hosts, to enter:

1010. Best Live Entertainment Special

A Program presented as a live, “live-to tape,” packaged, or edited single Entertainment Special. This category is a “team award” and eligible participants include key production creatives and hosts, regardless of their on-screen credit. Directors and Writers are not eligible here, and must enter into the appropriate category.

2.6. Best Performance, Sketch Comedy (Individual or Ensemble)

The following category will no longer be presented:

9513. Best Performance, Sketch Comedy (Individual or Ensemble)

Sketch comedy ensemble performers can enter **1008. Best Sketch Comedy Show & Ensemble Performance**. The category has been revised to the following:

1008. Best Sketch Comedy Show & Ensemble Performance

A single Program or a continuing Series of episodes, presenting sketch comedy performance. Ensemble performers who appeared in the entered episodes representing the show are eligible for entry.

2.7. Best Picture Editing, Animation

The category **5008. Best Picture Editing, Animation** has been removed.

2.8. Spotlight Categories

The 2026 Canadian Screen Awards will introduce ‘Spotlight’ categories to recognize Canadian producers, directors, writers and performers, for their work on international television series made and broadcasted in Canada.

The following categories have been added:

Spotlight Award for Best Series

Spotlight Award for Best Direction

Spotlight Award for Best Writing

Spotlight Award for Best Performance

DIGITAL MEDIA AWARDS

1. ELIGIBILITY

1.1. Best Web Program or Series: Eligible Credits

For the Best Web Program or Series categories, only key production creatives who are not also entered as Directors, Writers, Editors, or Performers in the associated categories are allowed to enter.

For web craft categories, only craft-credited individuals are allowed to enter.

The categories have been revised as follows:

1033. Best Web Program or Series, Fiction

Fiction Web Program or Series, the first broadcast of which is intended for a digital medium other than television. Individuals may only be entered as 'Key Production Creatives' of the program or series OR as entrants in the associated craft and performance categories.

1034. Best Web Program or Series, Non-Fiction

Non-fiction Web Program or Series, the first broadcast of which is intended for a digital medium other than television. Individuals may only be entered as 'Key Production Creatives' of the program or series OR as entrants in the associated craft and performance categories.

1038. Best Direction, Web Program or Series

All Series entries must enter single-episode directors (or direction teams) as separate entrants. A single director or direction team may enter themselves ONCE per series with ONE episode representing their work on that series. Each episode entered must be uploaded to the Official Entry Website. Required credits: "Director" (Directed by); "Series Director" if no other director is credited; and "Supervising Director" only if entering an animated program or series.

1039. Best Writing, Web Program or Series

All Series entries must enter single-episode writers (or writing teams) as separate entrants. A single writer or writing team may enter themselves ONCE per series with ONE episode representing their work on that series. Each episode entered must be uploaded to the Official Entry Website. Required credits: Writer (Written By); and Screenwriter, Story By, Head Writer, Teleplay By, Screen Story By, Documentary Script By, Adapted By, Narration Written By, and Continuity Writer, and Contributing Writer are eligible if there is no credited Writer.

2. CATEGORY CHANGES

2.1. Best Production, Interactive

The category **1035. Best Production, Interactive** has been removed.

2.2. Best Immersive Experience categories

The following categories have been removed:

1041. Best Immersive Experience – Non-Fiction

1042. Best Immersive Experience – Fiction

2.3. Best Video Game categories

The following categories have been removed:

1044. Best Video Game

1045. Best Performance, Video Game

2.4. New Category – Creator of the Year

The category **Creator of the Year** has been added for the 2026 Canadian Screen Awards. Its purpose is to recognize and celebrate an outstanding Canadian digital creator whose original work has made a significant impact in the online space.

This award honours creators who demonstrate excellence in storytelling, creativity, and audience engagement across platforms such as YouTube, TikTok, Instagram, Twitch, and other digital and social media channels.

Eligibility Criteria:

The creator must be a Canadian citizen, permanent resident, or long-term resident.

The creator must have published a minimum of five (5) pieces of primarily self-produced original content released online during the qualifying period.

Work can span any genre (e.g., comedy, commentary, lifestyle, education, etc.) and must reflect originality, creativity, and consistent audience engagement.

Content may be released across one or multiple platforms, but the creator must maintain creative control over their work.

Corporate or brand-owned accounts are not eligible.

NEWS & SPORTS AWARDS

1. CATEGORY CHANGES

1.1. Best Live Sports Event, Technical Production

The category **9004. Best Live Sports Event, Technical Production** has been removed.

1.2. Best Political News Program or Series

The category **1002. Best Political News Program or Series** has been removed.

1.3. Best News or Information Program

The categories **1028. Best News or Information Program** and **1006. Best News or Information Series** have been merged into one catch-all category:

1006. Best News or Information Program or Series

A non-fiction Program or Series dealing with an in-depth topic of general interest whose presentation is largely influenced by principles of journalism and newsworthiness. A single Program from an Anthology, Strand, and/or Compilation Series OR two (2) episodes in regular format that best represent the Series as a whole may be entered. This Award is intended to honour the production of the Program or Series, and includes multi-camera direction, live, live-to-tape or taped, in-studio, or the field. Editing and compilations will not be allowed, except for the deletion of commercials.

Note 1: Single programs entered to represent a series are not eligible to enter again in this category as one-off programs.

Note 2: This is a “Program Award” and the Authorized Representative is not required to enter individuals through the online entry form. Instead, the Authorized Representative is required to upload an “Authorized List” of key production creatives directly responsible for the production of the Program or Series.

Note 3: This award is limited to a maximum of two (2) program entries per series.