



# FOCUS FILM FESTIVAL

*exploring the complexities of the human experience*



**2011 Short Film Competition Guidelines**

## **FOCUS FILM FESTIVAL**

### **FOURTH ANNUAL SHORT FILM COMPETITION: FOCUS ON LIVING WITH A DISABILITY**

#### **GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION**

#### **OPEN CALL FOR ENTRIES**

Short films, 30 minutes or under, will be accepted for competition in the 2011 FOCUS Film Festival's "Annual Filmmakers' Competition: FOCUS on Living with a Disability." We are accepting submissions in the following categories: drama, comedy, documentary, animation, or experimental. See our website for an entry form and additional detail:  
[www.farnorthernrc.org/focusfilmfestival](http://www.farnorthernrc.org/focusfilmfestival)

#### **MISSION AND OBJECTIVE**

FOCUS Film Festival (hereafter the Festival) explores documentary and feature films which "focus" on and examine the complexity of the human experience: relationships, aging, disability, culture, lifestyle, and more. Our objective is to enlighten and inspire our community by featuring quality films which offer insight into the lives of people from all walks of life. By showing a broad range of human experience, we believe we are closing the gap in perception, proving we are more alike than we are different.

#### **ABOUT THE FESTIVAL**

Chico, Redding and Quincy, CA

Now entering its sixth season, FOCUS Film Festival sponsors the "Annual Short Film Competition: FOCUS on Living with a Disability." The Festival features productions from a wide range of sources bringing North State audiences an opportunity to experience innovation, creativity, and diverse perspectives through the medium of film. The Festival offers Academic Credit through California State University, Chico.

The Festival is a project of Far Northern Regional Center, a non-profit organization that provides services and supports to people with developmental disabilities and their families.

#### **ORGANIZERS**

Mary Ann Weston (Festival Director) for Far Northern Regional Center (530-222-4791 x3430)  
Far Northern Regional Center, PO Box 492418 Redding, CA 96049-2418, Attention: Mary Ann Weston.

#### **GENERAL RULES**

##### **1. Selection Criteria**

All competing entries will:

- adhere to the competition's theme and the spirit of the festival
- include an entry form, a summary of the film's content (up to 50 words), still images of the work, and a bio for the producer, director, and cast
- All entries should be clearly labeled with the title, running time, and contact information (name, phone number, email, mailing address)
- be submitted by the June 30, 2011 deadline
- have been finished within 24 months prior to the October 2011 festival (produced since September 2009 for entry in the 2011 Short Film Competition)
- include English subtitles if presented in another language
- be 30 minutes or under in length
- be submitted in NTSC DVD (Region 1)

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Films will not be accepted for the festival if they include:

- excessive violence, nudity, or profanity
- content that can be considered an advertising vehicle for a specific product or organization
- Far Northern Regional Center employees or board members in the production team or cast

2. Theme: Successful entrants will create a project which highlights the experience of living with a disability. In addition to the entertainment value of the work, we are looking for short films that promote understanding and inclusion of people with disabilities living in our community.

3. Jury Selection and Awards

- Awards are determined by an independent, professional jury comprised of filmmakers, critics, educators, and interested others. The festival also employs a jury of self-advocates from the disability community, who meet separately from the professional jury, and award their own prize
- FOCUS Film Festival reserves the right NOT to issue an award if there is no suitable entry in a category

Awards are announced at the Opening Night of the Festival.

Cash prizes and awards will be granted as follows:

- Best of Festival
- Award of Excellence
- Merit Award
- Spirit of the Festival
- Audience Pick

4. Presentation: For jury selection and Festival screening, all productions must be submitted in NTSC DVD (Region1) or a format compatible to all DVD players

5. Fees and Return of Entries

- There is no entry fee
- Participants pay the shipping costs to the Festival. The Festival will return the copy only upon request
- If you produce a winning entry, a copy of your film will be included in the Festival's video library

6. Terms and Conditions

- All decisions by the jury and organizers are final
- Although due care will be exercised, FOCUS Film Festival holds no responsibility for lost DVDs

7. Filmmakers Agreement

- Entrant confirms required legal authority to submit the entry into the Festival and to use all music, images and content in the entry
- Entrant agrees that FOCUS Film Festival may use the film, all or in part, for promoting the Festival

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Annual Short Film Competition

**2011 Entry Form**

www.farnorthernrc.org/focusfilmfestival · FOCUS@farnorthernrc.org

Film Title (English) \_\_\_\_\_ Original Title \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Director \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

List all film credits \_\_\_\_\_

Select all categories that apply:

- Drama
- Animation
- Comedy
- Documentary
- Experimental

Total Running Time \_\_\_\_\_ minutes (must be 30 minutes or under) Completion Date \_\_\_\_\_

Country of Production \_\_\_\_\_ Language \_\_\_\_\_ Subtitles \_\_\_\_\_

List all festivals, screenings, and awards \_\_\_\_\_

How did you first learn about FOCUS Film Festival? \_\_\_\_\_

Required with film submission:

- Preview screener
- up to 50 word summary
- Bio for the producer, director, cast
- Still images upon request

Preview/Presentation Format:

- DVD NTSC Region I

I, the undersigned, am authorized to submit this film to the FOCUS Film Festival for competition. I have read, understand, and agree to all the requirements as stated on the "Guidelines for Submission." I hereby release the FOCUS Film Festival and Far Northern Regional Center from all responsibility for loss of or damage to submitted materials en route or otherwise.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_