

**FILM
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ENDENT
SPIRIT
AWARDS**

**2025 Rules & Regulations
Television Submissions**

These are the official rules and regulations for the 2025 Film Independent Spirit Awards, Television Submissions. Please read the rules and regulations in their entirety prior to filling out the submission form.

Final interpretation of all rules and regulations and eligibility of submissions shall be made by the Spirit Awards Nominating Committees and Film Independent. You may contact the Nominations Office for clarifications and with questions via email:

NOMINATIONS STAFF

Drea Clark, Nominations Producer, dclark@filminddependent.org

Sonali Sundararaj, TV Nominations Manager, ssundararaj@filminddependent.org

IMPORTANT DATES & FEES

Submissions open (Tuesday, August 20, 2024)

Regular TV deadline (Tuesday, September 3, 2024):

\$525.00 – Film Independent Member fee | \$575.00 – non Member fee

Final TV deadline (Tuesday, September 17, 2024):

\$625.00 – Film Independent Member fee | \$675.00 – non Member fee

**Extended Film Arts Circle, Filmmaker Pro and Secret Member deadline
(Friday, Sept 20, 2024):**

\$625.00 – Arts Circle, Filmmaker Pro and Secret Member fee

Nominations Announced (Wednesday, December 4, 2024)

2025 Film Independent Spirit Awards (Saturday, February 22, 2025)

+\$100 for each performer submitted

for Best Lead, Best Supporting or Best Breakthrough Performance in a New Scripted Series

All series submitted for Best New Scripted Series are automatically considered for Best Ensemble Cast

You are invited to upload your screener to our submission partner Vision Media before submission form is completed; you **must** upload screener within 48 hours of form submission for title to be in consideration. Contact Sonali Sundararaj (ssundararaj@filminddependent.org) for screener upload deadline extension. Approved titles must be uploaded by the provided extension date for title to be in consideration.

RULES FOR ELIGIBILITY

1. The 2025 Film Independent Spirit Awards will recognize new series airing during the **NEW** eligibility period of October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024. If a series submitted for the 2024 Film Independent Spirit Awards but was not nominated, and qualifies in the new eligibility period, it may re-submit for consideration.
2. A new series is defined as having all or part of its first season broadcast within the eligibility period of October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024. Any series that previously aired, was discontinued, and is now being revived is ineligible.

An anthology series is only eligible in its first season. All genres are eligible.

3. Episodes must be at least 18 minutes in length and a minimum of two (2) episodes must have been broadcast, transmitted or available via a commercial streaming platform within the eligibility window. Series must be available via network, basic cable, pay cable, pay television, pay-per-view, interactive cable, broadband, or digital distribution through streaming platforms.
4. Only series eligible to submit in the category of Best New Scripted Series are eligible to submit for Best Lead Performance, Best Supporting Performance, and/or Best Breakthrough Performance.

All series submitted for Best New Scripted Series are automatically considered for Best Ensemble Cast. One (1) series will be awarded Best Ensemble Cast at the discretion of the Nominating Committee.

5. International series may only be eligible if:
 - a. The series airs on a U.S. platform with the purpose to be shown to U.S. audiences within the eligibility window, AND
 - b. The series is a co-production between U.S. and International partners, creatively and financially, preceding the start of production.

Eligibility for all awards shall first be determined by credits as they appear on the screen. If a series is determined ineligible for any reason or submitted in the wrong category, the Spirit Awards Nominations Staff will contact the submitter. Award is given to individuals credited as Creator, Executive Producer and Co-Executive Producer on at least 50% of the episodes in the first season of the series.

For Best Ensemble Cast, eligible performers include:

- a. Individuals with a "Starring" credit on one or more eligible episode(s), AND
- b. Individuals with a "Guest Starring" credit on 50% or more of eligible episodes

Any performer recognized as part of the awarded Best Ensemble Cast will no longer be eligible to be nominated in the individual performance categories.

CATEGORY INFORMATION

All final nominations and categories are at the sole discretion of the Spirit Awards Nominating Committees and Film Independent.

BEST NEW SCRIPTED SERIES (including continuing, limited, anthology series)

BEST NEW NON-SCRIPTED OR DOCUMENTARY SERIES

BEST LEAD PERFORMANCE IN A NEW SCRIPTED SERIES

Only performers from series submitted for Best New Scripted Series may submit for Best Lead Performance.

BEST SUPPORTING PERFORMANCE IN A NEW SCRIPTED SERIES

Only performers from series submitted for Best New Scripted Series may submit for Best Supporting Performance.

BEST BREAKTHROUGH PERFORMANCE IN A NEW SCRIPTED SERIES

Only performers from series submitted for Best New Scripted Series may submit for Best Breakthrough Performance.

BEST ENSEMBLE CAST IN A NEW SCRIPTED SERIES

All series submitted for Best New Scripted Series are automatically considered for Best Ensemble Cast. One (1) series will be awarded Best Ensemble Cast at the discretion of the Nominating Committee.

NOMINATING GUIDELINES

The Television categories at the Film Independent Spirit Awards will celebrate independent creative visual storytellers who are working in the television space and continuing to create bold, innovative and inclusive content. Through the lens of Film Independent's mission, we will recognize *new* series and celebrate original voices and content that is expanding the boundaries of television.

The Spirit Awards seeks to celebrate the year's highest achievements and culturally resonant new series. The Spirit Awards Nominating Committees apply the following guidelines in making their selections.

- Uniqueness of vision, Innovation
- Original, provocative subject matter
- Diversity & inclusion, on and off camera, and also in the narrative and themes of the series

NOMINEE SCREENING PROGRAM

Spirit Award-nominated titles will be required to participate in the Nominee Screener program (for a nominal fee), which provides voters with digital screener access to watch nominees in our secure digital screening room, powered by Vision Media. For additional information on the Nominee Screener program, please email us at: membership@filminddependent.org.

*** PLEASE NOTE: ALL TITLES IN THE NOMINEE SCREENER PROGRAM WILL BE REQUIRED TO PROVIDE A COPY OF THE NOMINATED FILM OR TELEVISION EPISODE THAT INCLUDES CLOSED CAPTIONS. (Closed Caption File Spec: Hour Zero Start, WebVTT Format)

REQUIRED MATERIALS

The 2025 Spirit Awards have a submission form site (submittable.com) and a video screener site (submissions.visionmedia.com).

Materials Checklist

In addition to contact information, and production details, the submission form site will require:

- Representative production stills from the film (preferred formats: JPEG, TIFF, PNG)
- A full, complete and official list of credits
- Series synopsis (100 words or less) / Episode synopsis (100 words or less)

One representative episode from the submitted series will need to be uploaded in its entirety to our partner screener website, Vision Media. Third party links will **NOT** be accepted. You may upload your screener before completing your submission form, provided the titles are identically listed in both submission and upload (SERIES TITLE_Episode Name). Screeners may be uploaded here (please login with this email/password, NOT your personal login info):

URL: submissions.visionmedia.com

Email: submissions

Password: SAScreener2025

Screeners for submissions must be uploaded within 48 hours of submission form completion for title to be in consideration. Please contact Sonali Sundararaj (ssundararaj@filminddependent.org) to request extension of screener upload deadline; approved titles must be uploaded by the provided extension date for title to be in consideration.

A representative episode from all Nominated series will be made available on the Vision Media platform for Spirit Awards staff until February 25, 2025. Please contact the Nominations office if you have any questions.

PAYMENT

Payment will be accepted via credit card, ACH or wire transfer:

Member fees: (Regular TV submissions: \$525 by Sept 3/Final TV: \$625 by Sept 17)

Non-member fees: (Regular TV submissions: \$625 by Sept 3/Final TV: \$675 by Sept 17)

Extended Arts Circle, Filmmaker Pro and Secret Member Deadline: Extended Deadline Sept 20 at \$625 member rate

+\$100 for each performer submitted

for Best Lead Performance, Best Supporting Performance and/or Best Breakthrough Performance in a New Scripted Series

All series submitted for Best New Scripted Series are automatically considered for Best Ensemble Cast

FOLLOWING NOMINATIONS

Film Independent Members are the official the voting body that determines the winners for the Spirit Awards. To join Film Independent at any level of support, visit www.filmindependent.org/join

Should you receive a nomination for the 2025 Film Independent Spirit Awards, the primary contact for the series is responsible for supplying all required materials (including nominee and representative contact information, promo trailer, clips, title cards and soundtrack) to Spirit Awards Production NO LATER than January 3, 2025. A materials request will be sent to all Nominee primary contacts by December 5, 2024 once Nominations are announced.

Up to five Spirit Award trophies will be provided per category to winning teams; additional trophies will be available for purchase for winning teams larger than five. All nominated titles will be required to take part in the Nominee Screener Program; more information on that will be sent with nominee notifications.