



Film Kenya...Capture Africa!

The OSCARS Selection Committee Kenya

CALL FOR KENYAN ENTRIES

For Best International Feature Film Award at the 98TH Academy Awards

The **Kenya Film Commission** is officially recognized by the **Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences** to set up an **OSCARS Selection Committee** from Industry Associations & Guilds to make submissions for the Best International Feature Film Award on behalf of Kenyan filmmakers.

Following the Opening Call for Entries for SUBMISSION to the Annual Academy Awards, Best International Feature Film Award, The OSCARS Selection Committee Kenya is inviting Kenyan filmmakers to submit their feature films for consideration for the 99th Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences Awards in the Best International Feature Film Category.

WHAT IS AN INTERNATIONAL FILM?

An international film is defined as a feature-length motion picture (over 40 minutes) produced outside the United States of America and its territories with a predominantly (more than 50%) non-English dialogue track. Animated and documentary feature films are permitted.

The Oscars Selection Committee Kenya will select a Kenyan film to be submitted for consideration for the Best International Feature Film Category Award. Only ONE FILM PER COUNTRY can qualify. If successful at the Academy stage, the film will be considered as nominated. Nominees will then be eligible to compete for The Oscar. **Submission from Kenya is NOT equal to a Nomination.**

The Selection Committee will make the final determination on all questions of eligibility of the Submission. The Academy (Los Angeles, US) on the other hand has final determination on matters of Nomination.

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ELIGIBILITY

A. THEATRICAL RELEASE REQUIREMENTS

A. To be eligible for awards consideration for the 99th awards year, an international feature film must fulfill one of the following qualifying criteria;

1. The film must be the official selection by a country or region via the country or region's Academy-approved Selection Committee.

All film submissions must be first released theatrically in the country or region of origin for paid admission. The theatrical release must begin no earlier than **October 1, 2025**, and no later than **September 30, 2026**, and be first publicly exhibited for at least seven consecutive days in a commercial motion picture theater for the profit of the producer and exhibitor. The seven consecutive days of the theatrical release are required to occur in one venue. In order for films to more easily meet theatrical exhibition requirements, the Academy will allow films to qualify outside the country or region of origin, provided the film is theatrically exhibited outside of the United States and its territories for at least seven consecutive days in a commercial motion picture theater for paid admission.

All motion pictures qualifying under this paragraph shall satisfy the theatrical exhibition format requirements of Rule Two, Paragraph 2.B.

OR

2. The film must have won a qualifying award at an international film festival, as specified in the International Feature Film Award Qualifying Festival List. The International Feature Film Award Qualifying Festival List is available at www.oscars.org or may be obtained from the Academy.

B. The film's theatrical release must be advertised and exploited during its qualifying theatrical release in a manner considered normal and customary to theatrical feature distribution practices. The film need not have been released in the United States. The film must be advertised and exploited during its qualifying theatrical release in a manner considered normal and customary to theatrical feature distribution practices. The film need not have been released in the United States.

C. Films that, in any version, receive a nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution before their qualifying theatrical release will not be eligible for Academy Awards consideration.

Nontheatrical public exhibition or distribution includes but is not limited to:

- Broadcast and cable television
- PPV/VOD
- DVD distribution
- Inflight airline distribution
- Internet transmission

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- D.** The recording of the original dialogue track as well as the completed picture must be predominantly (**more than 50%**) in a language or languages other than English. Accurate, legible English- language subtitles are required.
- E.** The submitting country or region must confirm that creative control of the film was largely in the hands of citizens, residents, or individuals with refugee or asylum status in the submitting country or region.
- F.** Should a selection committee not disclose up-to-date and/or accurate information related to a submitted film crew's citizenship, business-related affiliation or credit on a selected film, designated credits, production details and release information, a film will be deemed ineligible.
- G.** The International Feature Film Executive Committee shall resolve all questions of eligibility and rules.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Video

- Film should be submitted in 35mm or 70mm format or Digital Cinema format progressive frame rate of 24 or 48(FPS)
- Minimum projector resolution of 2048 by 1080 pixels, source image format conforming to ST 428- 1:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Image Characteristics.
- Image compression (if used) conforming to ISO/IEC 15444-1 (JPEG 2000)
- Image and sound files packaged as Digital Cinema Packages (DCPs) in the "SMPTE DCP" format. SMPTE DCP refers to SMPTE ST 429-2:2020 D-Cinema Packaging – DCP Operational Constraints and related specifications. (Blu-ray format does not meet Digital Cinema requirements.)

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Audio

- Digital Cinema Package (DCP) typically 5.1 or 7.1 channels of discrete audio.
- The minimum for a non-mono configuration of the audio shall be three channels as Left, Center, Right (a Left/Right configuration is not acceptable in a theatrical environment).
- In addition to channel-based audio, object-based audio may also be present as an immersive audio bitstream.
- The discrete audio data shall be formatted in conformance with
 - i. SMPTE ST 429-3:2007 D-Cinema Packaging - Sound and Picture Track File,
 - ii. SMPTE ST 428-2:2006 D-Cinema Distribution Master – Audio Characteristics and
 - iii. SMPTE ST 428-12:2013 D-Cinema Distribution Master Common Audio Channels and Sound field Groups.
- Immersive audio, if present, shall be formatted in conformance with SMPTE ST 2098-2:2019 Immersive Audio Bitstream Specification and SMPTE 429- 18:2019 D- Cinema Packaging – Immersive Audio Track File and packaged in conformance with SMPTE 429- 19:2019 D-Cinema Packaging – DCP Operational Constraints for Immersive Audio.

Other requirements

In addition, the Academy uses the following guidelines to determine a film's eligibility in the Best International Film Award category:

- i. Citizens or permanent residents of the submitting country should be represented in at least two of these categories:
 - Producer(s)
 - Director(s)
 - Writer(s)
- ii. Citizens or permanent residents of the submitting country should be represented in the majority in these categories:
 - Cinematographer
 - Editor
 - Art Director or Production Designer (whichever title designates the senior designer)
 - Costume Designer
 - Music Composer
 - Sound Mixer

Citizens or permanent residents of the submitting country should be significantly represented among the major roles in the cast.

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F. SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

The entry package should include

- Signed Introductory Cover Letter that MUST contain your contact details
- A printed and completed checklist
- Names of the Producer(s), Director(s) and writer (s) and a proof of the country of residency.
- The film MUST meet all the technical requirements in the Academy Special Rules and Regulations
- Copy of Full Cast, Crew and Credits list
- Copy of a brief English- language synopsis of the film
- Director's biography, filmography, and photography
- 3 to 5 representative film stills (Behind the scenes of crew at work at work and actors in action)
- A poster from the film's theatrical release
- Proof of advertising for the film's theatrical release e.g., theatre release information, newspaper clippings etc.
- Digital content (1 DCP)

Entries should be HAND DELIVERED to the **Kenya Film Commission offices** by, **Friday, 11th September 2026** by **5 PM, EAT**. The entry package should be addressed as follows:

FOR THE OSCARS SELECTION COMMITTEE KENYA Review Only

ATTN

Mr. Timothy Owase, MBS

Chief Executive Officer

KENYA FILM COMMISSION

Jumuia Place Block B, 2nd floor

Lenana Road

Kilimani. Nairobi

Office Tel: 020 2714073/4, 0729 407497, 0733 650068

For queries, send your inquiry to: oscars@filmingkenya.go.ke

NB: The successful entry shall be publicly communicated by **23rd September 2026**.

Print and complete this entry checklist by ticking on the left-hand column. Attach this checklist to your entry package.

TICK HERE	ITEM DESCRIPTION	TICK
	Signed Introductory Cover Letter that MUST contain your contact details	
	Names of the Producer(s), Director(s) and writer (s) and a proof of the country of residency.	
	Does the film meet all the technical requirements in the Academy Special Rules and Regulations?	
	Copy of Full Cast, Crew and Credits list	
	Copy of a brief English- language synopsis of the film	
	Director's biography, filmography, and photography	
	3 to 5 representative film stills (Behind the scenes of crew at work at work and actors in action)	
	A poster from the film's theatrical release	
	Proof of advertising for the film's theatrical release e.g. theatre release information, newspaper clippings etc.	
	Digital content (1 DCP)	