

23rd Annual Wesley Chapel Independent Film Festival School-Wide Filmmaking Contest (2023) - Official Rules

Objective

Create a 4- to 8-minute short subject film, including all credits. This contest is open to all Wesley Chapel High School students.

Entry Fee

There is no entry fee.

Prizes & Film Festival Show

You can win trophies and awards in individual and group categories. Your face and film concept will be on screen in front of hundreds on our theatre's huge projection screen and added to our YouTube channel if you are chosen as one of the top six finalists.

There will be a screening of the SIX top films at the Center for The Arts at 12:30pm Thursday May 4, 2023. This screening will include LIVE judging for the "Best Picture" award, including an Audience Reaction component. Included in the showing will be a special ceremony where we will also present trophies for those students who have won individual or group awards for their filmmaking.

Registration Deadline

Online registration into the contest is due no later than **March 7, 2023**.

Register at: <https://forms.gle/ZNA9TxUno7Tmzf927>

After registering, you'll receive instructions about how and where you should upload your film.

Final Submission Deadline

You must upload your finished film by **March 10, 2023**.

How Much?

Tickets to both shows will be \$3.00 for audience members, with proceeds benefiting the WCHS Drama Department. Film groups nominated for "Best Picture" will receive 5 free tickets to attend the show. All students nominated for individual awards will receive 1 free ticket to attend each showing.

The "Wesley" Awards

Individual Awards

Chosen by Finalist Committee

Best Performer in a Comedic Role
Best Performer in a Dramatic Role
Best Supporting Performer in a Comedy
Best Supporting Performer in a Drama
Best Design (Costume, Makeup, Set &/or Art)
Best Original Screenplay
Best Cinematography
Best Soundtrack
Best Post-Production Editing

Group Award

Chosen by Best Picture Committee

Best Picture

Up to three people will be nominated for each individual award. You may be nominated for an individual award even if your movie is not featured as a "Best Picture" finalist at the Film Festival.

Judging Criteria

All films will be reviewed by a small faculty committee that will determine the top SIX films submitted. This Finalist Committee will also decide individual awards. These finalists will then be shown before a live audience in the Center for the Arts. A different panel of judges will make up the Best Picture Committee and will watch the films for the very first time along with the live student audience. Films will be judged on :

Writing Quality 25%

Script has a clear beginning, middle, and end. There is a plot with a clear conflict. There is a clear theme (your movie is 'about' something). Dialogue is written believably and/or consistently depending on the overall nature of the film.

Acting Quality 25%

Actors are believable in their roles. Lines are delivered clearly, and at an appropriate volume. Actors seem to be the characters they are portraying. All performers interact with each other in a consistently believable manner.

Creativity & Originality 20%

The script and filming either breaks new ground, or covers old film territory in a new way. Films which are satires or spoofs are clever, thought-provoking, and on-target.

Technical Quality 20%

Camera angles are varied and effective. Scenes transition well. Sound effects, soundtrack, and special effects (when used) are used well.

Audience Reaction 10%

For a comedy, the audience laughs and seems to enjoy the film. For a drama, the audience seems to be moved to a deeper reflection.

Rules & Regulations

Media Releases

Make sure that every student in your film has Parents' Bill of Rights permission to be filmed. If anyone in your film does NOT have media release permission given to Pasco County Schools, they are not allowed to have their names or pictures appear on publicity posters or films, and your movie will be disqualified. And yes, we will check every single student's eligibility in your film before we produce this Festival.

It's a Movie, not a Music Video

This project is about using film to tell a story. As such, yours should have: a beginning, middle, and an end; characters; dialogue; and a script. Improv or "raw documentary" or unplanned "reality" plots are not permitted. Your challenge is to be intentionally entertaining to your audience.

Community Standards

Your film must be appropriate for school. Your film may be disqualified for use of: explicit language, graphic violence, sexually inappropriate scenes, or for glorification of alcohol, vaping, tobacco or drug use. Imagine that everyone in your family including me-maw who is 110 years old, and the whole school administration will be watching. Who knows? They might be. If you have any questions, show or describe the scene in question to Mr. Gaudet no later than one week before the submission deadline.

Performers

This Festival is intended to show how WCHS students can work together to create something.

Most of your performers should be current full-time Wesley Chapel High School students. You may also cast volunteers from other schools, older or younger brothers, sisters, parents, other adults, etc. Your lead roles should all be played by WCHS students.

Animation Entries

You may submit an animated or stop-motion film. Warning: This is more work than you think it is! All artwork must be original - don't clipart or Google Image your way to the Festival. WCHS students should perform the voice acting for your characters.

Multiple Entries

You may work in up to three different film entries. This includes crew, lead role, and extra parts. If you're in more than three movies, every movie beyond your 3rd will be entirely disqualified.

Crew

Your costume designer, sound designer, screenwriter, camera person, and editor should all be high school students. Please don't have a professional service, or adult, or college student do this work for a high school student film contest. That would just be lame. And you'd be disqualified.

Film Descriptions

To show our school's range as filmmakers, at least 2 finalists will be Comedies. At least 2 finalists will be Dramas. Most films are a mixture of comic and dramatic elements, however for the purposes of variation, please choose which category your movie **best** fits into.

For purposes of this competition a **Comedy** will be defined as "a film which inspires an audience to laugh or be amused." Examples: slapstick, situation comedy, satire, spoof, lampoon, or mock comic documentary.

A **Drama** will be defined as "a film which inspires an audience to deeper reflection or emotion." Examples: romance, tragedy, horror, period drama, high fantasy, science fiction, revealing or historical documentary.

Judges' Note

We've already seen a billion movies where five kids walk into the woods and die one-by-one because they bullied someone years ago and now the killer is getting revenge on them. Please make something else.

Rights Disclaimer Thing

All films submitted become the property of the WCHS Drama Department. By entering the contest, you agree to allow Wesley Chapel High School to show your movie in public, publish it on their WCHSDrama YouTube channel, and to retain any proceeds generated from its showing. Films submitted may also be used in WCHS educational units on Filmmaking. This agreement is made "in perpetuity" which basically means, forever.

This is a non-exclusive agreement. You also hold rights to show or sell the movie you made, to submit it to other film contests, etc. In fact, if you become a finalist or win, this might be a great portfolio builder for a Film School application somewhere.

Questions?

Ask Mr. Gaudet in Room 229, or write to him at sgaudet@pasco.k12.fl.us.