

Z-FEST FILM FESTIVAL

WELCOME TO Z-FEST XII

KICK - OFF PARTY



Z-FEST FOUNDING SPONSOR

Z Systems is a full-service support company for the world of Pro Video.

We are experienced video and audio professionals
eliminating the technical headaches of production and post.

We fuel the creativity of producers, broadcasters, field shooters, editors, and production artists.



Z- FEST PLATINUM SPONSORS

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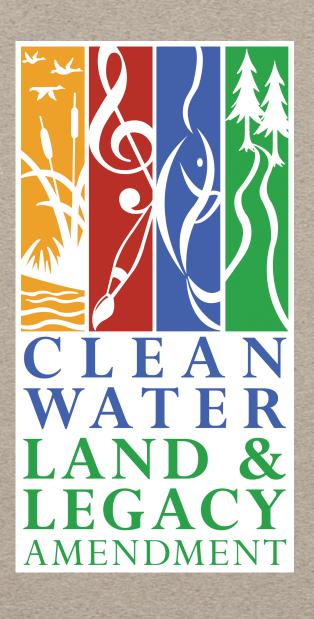


Z- FEST PLATINUM SPONSORS

EMAGIC OF MOVIES & MORE



Z- FEST PLATINUM SPONSOR



metro regional arts council

MRAC Funding and this activity are made possible by the voters of Minnesota through grants from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



Z- FEST GOLD SPONSOR





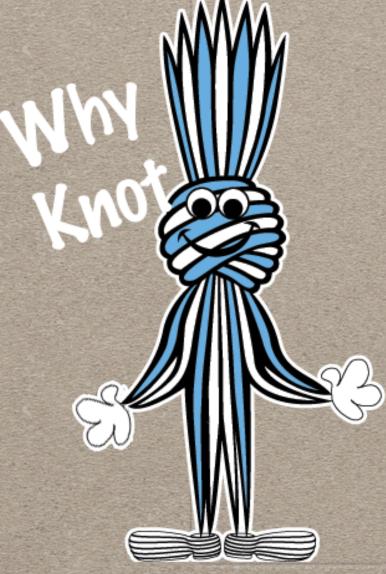
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college of CREATIVE ARTS



G-Technology[™]



Panasonic



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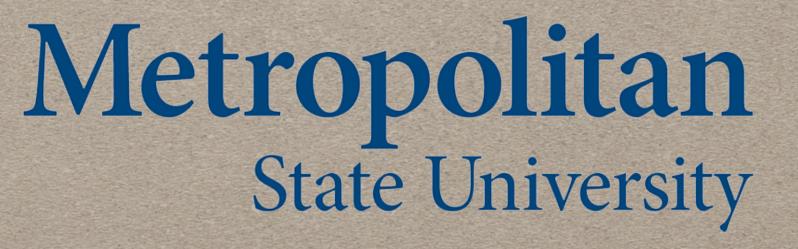
Z- FEST BRONZE SPONSORS

Blackmagicdesign













Z-FEST-BREWERY SPONSORS



- St Paul Brewing Co. Located in St Paul.
- Both offer awesome Beer, Taprooms, Brewery Tours, Screening Events, Local music, plus other fun local events.



Next time you go going out, please Check out these fantastic local Brewery's and again be sure to tell them that you are a "Z-Fester" and you really appreciate their sponsorship.

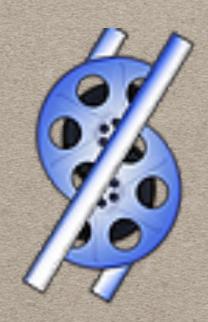


Z-FEST FESTIVAL FRIENDS

SOUTH DAKOTA















Z- FEST SCRIPT CONTEST

Sponsored by:

Metropolitan State University

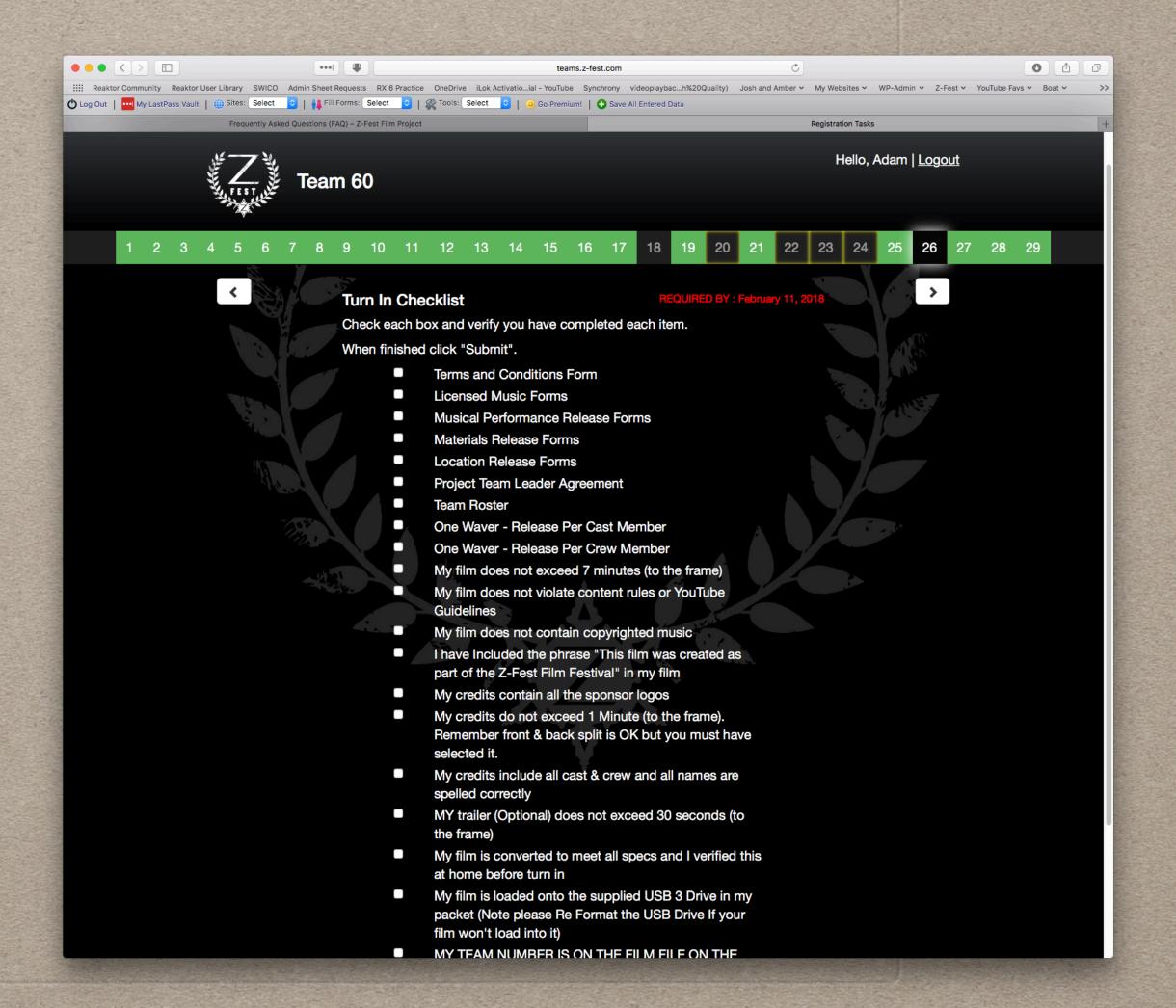


Best Screenplay will be judged by script only - not your film.



Z- FEST TASK MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Any Questions?





CHANGES FORTHIS YEAR



PRORES OR H.264 ONLY THIS YEAR! TASK 2 - FORMS:

FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD THRU THE TASK SYSTEM

PLEASE DOWNLOAD THE FORMS ASAP

WE KNOW THEY ALL EXPIRED ON 2/6/21 BUT...
IF YOU CONTINUED FILMING AFTER THAT DATE SIMPLY CROSS OUT THAT DATE AND PUT IN 4/3/21

FORMS INCLUDES THE MASTER TURNIN SHEET! ITS CALLED

"THIS SHEET MUST ACCOMPANY YOUR USB DRIVE.PDF"

BUT SINCE WE ARE NOT DOING JUST USB DRIVES YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE TO INCLUDE THIS SHEET IN YOUR "DOCS.ZIP"



PRORES OR H.264 ONLY THIS YEAR! TASK 4 - PC EDITORS:

Adobe and Avid have announced support for Apple ProRes video format export on Windows computers. Now ProRes 422HQ export are available within Premiere Pro, After Effects, and Media Encoder and Media Composer.

Therefore, we are now requiring that all screeners are turned in using the ProRes format.

If you are on PC and editing in DaVinci Resolve please follow this tutorial to deliver your master to us in ProRes 422 or ProRes 422HQ, (You may still turn in your film in DNxHR worst case senario)

If you are on PC and editing in Sony Vegas You will probably have to use H.264./ MPEG 4 which is more for web video, not the big screen.

For many years, exporting ProRes on Windows computers has been quite a hassle, and for video professionals, it was one of the "why Mac-over-Windows" arguments. This does not apply anymore: Adobe and Avid have finally announced support for Apple ProRes export on Windows platform.

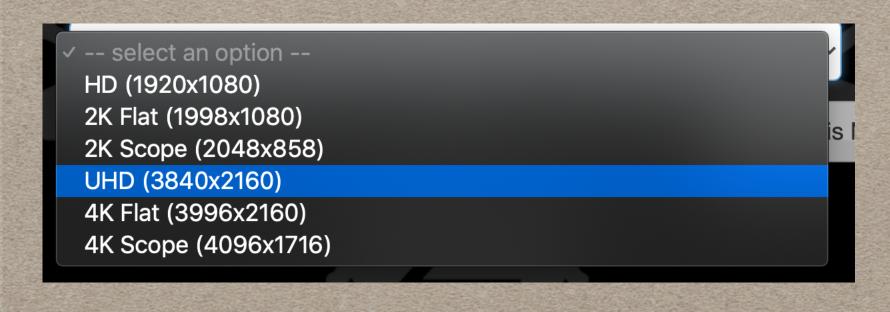


WE PREFER SCOPE OR FLAT TASK 9 - FILM RESOLUTION:

DOWNLOAD THE RESOLUTION EXAMPLES

YOU WILL SEE THERE ARE ONLY 5 IN THE DOWNLOAD

THE MISSING ONE IS "UHD"



UHD IS SIMPLY 2X HD



DOWNLOAD TASK 10 - SPONSOR LOGOS

DOWNLOAD THE SPONSOR LOGOS

THEY ARE NOW AVAILABLE.



TASK 11 - END SLATE

WE WILL ACTIVATE THIS WHEN THE SLATES ARE RENDERED

REMEMBER YOU MUST HAVE ALL YOUR INFO IN THE SYSTEM TO EVEN GET YOUR SLATE

SLATES ARE A DOWNLOAD ON THE TASK SYSTEM AGAIN THIS YEAR

NO USB DRIVE PROVIDED



Z- FEST END CREDITS

- Film Length must not exceed 7 minutes. +1 for min Credits
- You can sacrifice screen time for credit time. For example 6 min film - 2 min credits
- Your story cannot continue into your credits. i.e. Fade to black then credits.
- Splitting your Credits front and Back is fine as long as the two halves add up.
- Story starts when intro credits end or VO or Dialogue begins.
- Use of creative credits to include sponsor logos is strongly encouraged!
- "How to Credits" Tutorial for some examples.



TASK 16 - SCREENING DATES

WE WILL ACTIVATE THIS WHEN THE DATES HAVE BEEN UPDATED SOON.

REMEMBER YOU MAY NOT END UP SCREENING ON YOUR PREFERRED DATE.

THIS IS JUST TO TRY AND BALANCE THINGS OUT.



TASK 20-22 OPTIONAL CONTESTS

WE WILL NOT ACTIVATE THESE TASKS THIS YEAR

TRAILER CONTEST, POSTER CONTEST, AND SHOUT OUT CONTESTS ARE NOT HAPPENING THIS YEAR AS CONTESTS.

HOWEVER YOU CAN AND SHOULD STILL MAKE A TRAILER, A POSTER, AND PROMOTE BENT BREWSTILLERY IN YOUR FILM IF APPLICABLE.



Z- FEST TRAILER NON-CONTEST (OPTIONAL)

- Your trailer will be "Turned In" on your USB drive, or uploaded to the cloud storage of your choice.
- Send us a link to teams@z-fest.org if you upload
- Since there is no contest your trailer can be up to 90 sec.
- We will put all the trailers on YouTube and fans will vote for their favorite. No prizes this year sorry.
- You can get a sneak peek at your competition.
- · It's bad taste to "thumbs down" your film community



Z-FEST POSTER CONTEST

This year's Z-Fest will not feature a Movie Poster "contest"

Each team can submit a movie poster if they wish to take part in this. We will try and have the theater show them in the lobby like last year.

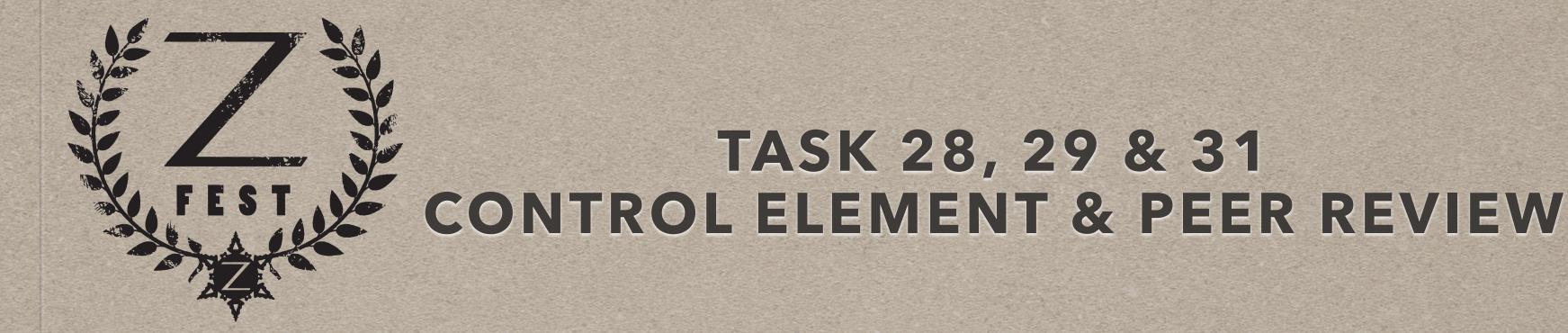
- The poster must have the title clearly visible.
- submit it as a .PNG 24x36 and/or 11x17 variations

Due <u>before May 15</u>, Submitted digitally- email it to <u>teams@z-fest.org</u>



Z- FEST SHOUT OUT AWARD THIS CONTEST IS A SEPARATE CATEGORIES IN THE FESTIVAL

- Bent Brewstillery Has Been our "Shout Out" sponsor for Many Years
- This year we will not be offering a "Shout Out Contest" award but feel free to include Bent Products in your film they are still a fantastic sponsor.



WE WILL NOT ACTIVATE THESE TASKS THIS YEAR

CONTROL ELEMENTS AND PEER REVIEW NOT HAPPENING THIS YEAR DUE TO LIMITED STAFF.

• There is no Control Element for this year



TASK 27 & 30 FEEDBACK AND SURVEY

WE WILL ACTIVATE THESE AFTER FILM TURN IN.

REMEMBER TO CHECK BACK IN AND COMPLETE THEM AFTER YOU HAVE TURNED IN YOUR FILM.
THANK YOU.

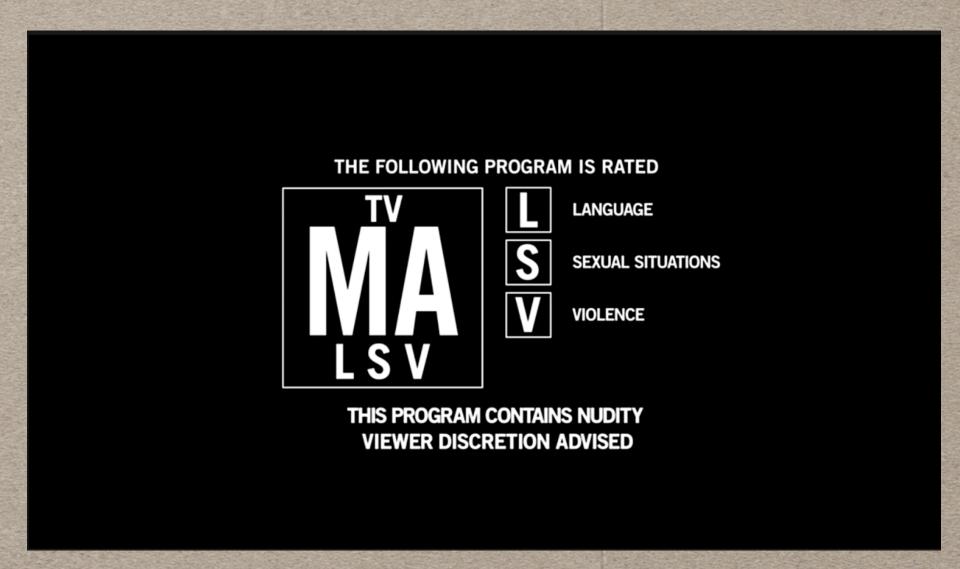


Z- FEST CONTENT WARNING

MAKE YOUR OWN WARNING SLATE.
THIS WILL NOT COUNT AGAINST YOUR FILM TIME.
PLEASE ADD A CONTENT WARNING FOR THE FOLLOWING:

SUICIDE
RAPE
MURDER / VIOLENCE/
FIREARMS

STRONG / FOUL LANGUAGE SUGGESTIVE OR SEXUAL CONTENT DRUGS / ALCOHOL / TOBACCO





Z-FEST PACKET CONTENTS

NO PACKETS THIS YEAR EVERYTHING CAN BE DIGITAL INCLUDING SCREENER UPLOAD

MASTER TURN-IN SHEET IS NOW INCLUDED IN YOUR DOCS DOWNLOAD



Z-FEST TURN-IN CHANGES



Z-FEST TURN-IN

•Saturday = Judging

• Simple Youtube Link in the system - Task 24

•Monday = Screener

 MASSIVE UPLOAD to the Drop Box/ Google Drive/ Mail Big Files of your choice. This should be started ASAP after your Judging edit is finished.



Z- FEST SATURDAY TURN- IN

APRIL 3RD: LINK MUST BE POSTED BEFORE 11:59PM

- You must use your own YouTube account
- Breaking the link = Disqualification
- Judging Videos must be UNLISTED- not "private".
- Embedding must be Enabled (<u>click here for instructions on this</u>).
- Monetization and Mid-Roll Ads must be turned off
- View counts do not show up on your account correctly so don't panic that a judge has not seen your film.



Here's how to do this:

- 1.Log in to YouTube.
- 2. Click your profile picture, then go to YouTube Studio.
- 3. Select Videos from the left menu.
- 4. Select the video for which you want to turn off any ads.
- 5. Click Monetization in the left menu.
- 6.In the Monetization box click Off and Apply the changes.
- 7. Click Save in the upper right.



Z- FEST LATE FILMS

WHAT HAPPENS IF I MISS THE TURN IN ON SATURDAY



Z- FEST LATE FILMS

- Sorry your Film will be disqualified.
- Disqualified films will still be screened at the theater.
 - No late films will be judged.
 - No late films will be eligible for prizes or awards.
 - Still must meet all time constraints and <u>Content</u> <u>Guidelines</u> to be screened.



Z-FEST SUNDAY TURN-IN NOT OPEN ON SUNDAY

- You should be home FINISHING uploading your screener.
- Before Uploading:
- · Check your credits for missing or misspelled people.
- Check your audio levels
- Check your footage for color issues and export glitches.
- Checking your content warning slate
- Making sure you are not violating any YouTube or Z-Fest content guidelines.
- Check that all the film specs are correct Compression and Aspect ratio.
- Fill out your editor sheet fully, and digitize all your paperwork.
- Zip all files into one big .zip before uploading except huge screener file



Z-FEST MONDAY TURN-IN

APRIL 5TH BY 5:00PM SCREENER AND PAPERWORK DUE

- Drop off early anytime Sat or Sun via the mail slot.
- Use a USB 3.0 Flash drive in an envelope or packet with team number on it clearly
- Drop off Monday in person if you like. Wear a Mask.
- Or "no contact" Upload Your Screener "this is still due on Monday so start your upload early"
- No hard drives- No Laptops No onsite rendering



• One LARGE Stereo Screener File. (30-80GB)

Pro Res 422 HQ Quick Time or AVID DNxHR or DNxHD format

Via Link

- One SMALL h.264 YouTube mp4 video file in stereo. Via Link
- Surround Sound files. You Must Include 6 AUDIO STEMS.
 This is optional.
- PDF Poster for Contest This is optional

via email or link

• 30 sec Trailer for Contest- This is optional

Via link

• All Paperwork as .zip file

via email or link



- Please for the love of God put your team # on:
- Every email
- Every link
- Every file name
- and even when you text me
- Basically every correspondence!



Z- FEST TUESDAY TURN- IN APRIL 6TH:BY MIDNIGHT

- On Tuesday finish uploading your nomination clips by midnight.
- After that make sure you have completed all tasks in the task system.



Z- FEST NOMINATION AWARDS

Judges will also be voting on the following:

- Best Director
- Best Production Design
- Best Actor
- Best Supporting Actor
- Best Actress
- Best Supporting Actress
- Best Original Score
- Best Costume Design
- Best Visual Effects
- Best Editing

- Best Cinematography
- Best Screenplay Script Contest
- Best Lighting
- Best Prop
- Best WTF Moment
- Best Fight Scene
- Best Hero
- Best Villain
- Best Kiss
- Best Makeup



Z-FEST NOMINATIONS

- Create your nominations clips.
- Please only create clips for the categories you nailed!
- Only those teams with nominations can win.
- Upload to your Youtube Account UNLISTED with Embedding on.
- Also Disable all ads and monetization.
- Don't break or change the links ever
- Copy Links
- Fill Out Form
- DUE BY Midnight on Tuesday 4/06/21
- We will lock the entrys that time.





Z- FEST TICKET SALES

- Only Judges, Staff and Volunteers get free tickets.
- Ticket pricing:
 - \$10 Single Screening
 - \$TBA Multi Session Screening ("Best of Fest" not included)
 - \$15 Best of Fest- And Awards Gala- Raddison Blu



Z- FEST TICKET SALES

- Pre Sales here at Z-Systems (9am-5pm) for example blocks of tickets or large groups
 - In the past we have sold out most screening. The only way to guarantee a ticket is to purchase early. Also plan on coming to both the Emagine Willow Creek Theater and the Raddison because they are two entirely different experiences.
- Tickets for all screenings will be available:
 - Online (all major credit cards, Paypal)
 - At Z Systems (Visa, MC, AMEX, cash, check)
 - At the Theater on the evening of the screening (cash preferred)
- · Tickets will be available at the door until sold out, for all screenings.



Z- FEST THEATER SCREENINGS

- There will be 3 event dates. Seating for all events is General Admission.
- The screening order list will be posted on Facebook a few weeks before the screenings.
- Films will be distributed into 4 separate sessions, with each session containing about 10-12 films.
- The 10 top films will be re-screened in the ballroom at the "Best of Fest".
- Friday June 4th, Saturday June 5th at the Emagine Willow Creek theater two sessions each night. Screenings start around 7pm. (each session TDB)
- Friday June 25th is the TENTATIVE date for the Best of Fest Gala at the Raddison Blu MOA, awards ceremony to follow promptly.
- Screening starts at 7pm.



Z- FEST EMAGINE WILLOW CREEK

THIS IS THE BEST SCREENING EXPERIENCE FOR ANY FILMMAKER SO MAKE A NIGHT OF IT!

- This is an exciting new theater for us! Luxury Seating, Huge Screen, bright colors, amazing sound, easy parking.
- All food and beverages purchased at the theater help support Z-Fest so please bring your appetite.
- Stop by the "E-Bars" before you head to your seat and support local breweries with a beer from regional companies like Atwater, Shorts, Bell's, Founders, & more.
- Concessions and Cocktails will be avail throughout the screening.
- Exit quickly in "ceremonial dismissal" row by row like on airplanes.
- Visit https://www.cinemasafe.org/
- Encourage your colleagues, friends, family, and even strangers to attend Z-Fest this year.

Z- FEST THEATER SCREENINGS

Tickets for each of the screenings are sold separately. You may attend as many screenings as you like.

- We apologize, but some films may not screen on the "Preferred Night" selected in the task system. We try our best to accommodate everyone.
- Each of the screenings will be a red carpet event with a press backdrop. (Photo OP so dress to impress)
- You must be 21+ to drink, but minors are welcome to attend all events.
- The Best of Fest screening/Awards Show is one event with a single ticket.



Z- FEST AFTER PARTY

- After the screenings at the Emagine Willow Creek, We haven't quite determined if hanging out with people is a good Idea. We might be able to hang together outside since its not the dead of winter like normal. This will be discussed closer to the date.
- After the Awards show at the Raddison Blu, We may head over to Game Works with social distancing.



Z- FEST AWARDS SHOW HOST

DEREK HUGHES



Z-FEST CASH AND PRIZES

- This year we will giving away many prizes.
- BIG Checks! \$1000, \$500, \$350
- Cash for Script contest
- G-Tech Drives
- Black Magic Products
- Camera Rental Packages
- Bent Brewstillery Beverages



Z- FEST JUDGING THE FILMS

- All films will be prescreened by a panel of Judges.
- Only the **Top 25 films** goto round two in our online judging system.
- Our judging system does not correctly increase Youtube "View Count" so don't worry if you have no views. You may still be in the top 25.

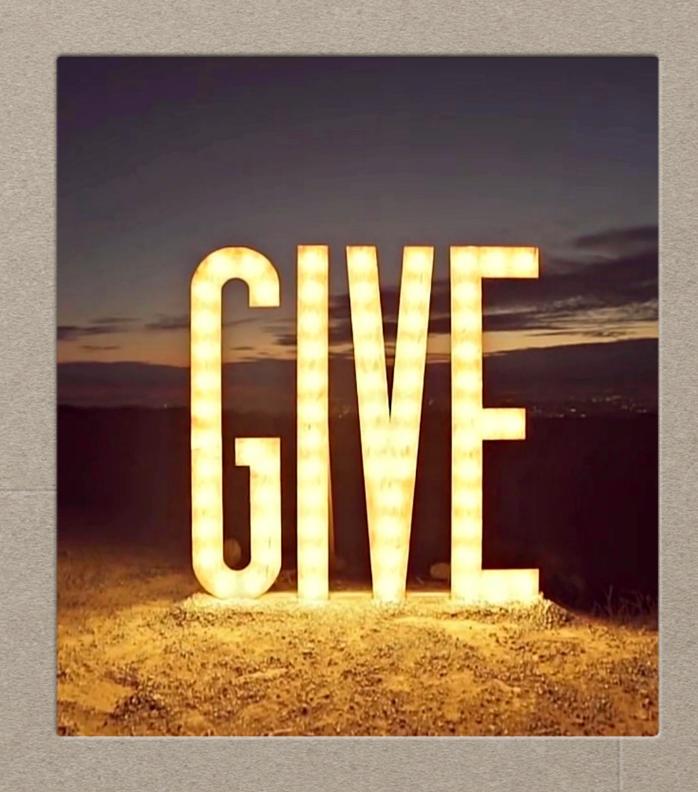


Please Like him on Facebook and watch his hit FX Series "Baskets" with Zach Galifianakis. Louie won the Emmy and Critics Choice award for his role.



Z-FEST FILM FESTIVAL

- Z- Fest is a 501(c)(3) Non Profit
- Ask your boss or others to become a Sponsor
- Have friends and family make a donation on the website if they can.





Z-FEST FILMMAKER APPRECIATION

That wraps up things for Z-Fest XII.

- If you have questions, just ask!
- Call or text Adam Colt at 651-263-0801 during normal human hours.
- Email: Teams@z-fest.org

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR FILMS!

ADDITIONAL INFO



Z- FEST CONTENT GUIDELINES REMEMBER YOUR AUDIENCE

- Your film will be posted on YouTube and other sites it cannot contain:
- Derogatory or defamatory content towards LGBTQ or other groups
- Copyrighted content
- Sexually explicit content
- Hateful or defamatory content
- Content intended to shock or disgust people
- If you do not follow the Content Guidelines, your film can be disqualified. We reserve the right to disqualify any film if we think they violate these terms. Films we find "Over the Top" or too offensive in our opinion will be pulled from the competition.



Z- FEST FIVE CRITERIA

- Your film must be a newly created film, made especially for the Z-Fest Film Festival.
- Your film must contain the Sponsor Logos and Slate we will provide you after kickoff.
- Your film must contain the phrase "This film was created as part of the Z-Fest Film Festival"
- Your film should contain a content warning if warranted.
- Your film and trailer must be exactly at or under the time constraints.



Z-FEST PAPERWORK

- Fill out all paperwork! (see New Checklist)
- Get Signed releases for:
 - Cast
 - Crew
 - Locations
 - Music
 - Materials
- Films with missing paperwork may be disqualified
- Films without properly signed releases will not be shown.



Z- FEST MUSIC RELEASE FORMS

Third Party Music Licensing Instructions

- Up to 15 percent of video content and up to 100% of music can be licensed for a Z-Fest Film.
- Third-party audio content must be properly attributed by filling out a music release form, which is provided at the Z-Fest kick-off event.
- For public domain music:
 - o Indicate the title for the piece on the music release form.
 - o Make a note that it is public domain.
 - Attach printed verification that the music is public domain to the release form.
- · For music licensed from the web:
 - Fill out the music release form.
 - Print the license agreement and the proof of purchase for musical work you are using and attach it to the release form.
- A proof of purchase from a music licensing website is not the same as licensing agreement. Teams must submit BOTH of these documents for each piece of licensed music.
- A licensing agreement contains language which grants permission to the licensee to use the musical work in their project.
- · Click here to see an example of an acceptable licensing agreement.
- Many online music licensing services have a licensing agreement on their website. If
 you did not receive such a document or cannot find it, contact the licensing company.
 You cannot use copyrighted musical works in your film without a proper and legitimate
 licensing agreement which explicitly grants you permission to use the musical work.



Z- FEST WHY 7 MINUTE LIMIT

- Two good reasons Cost and Judging
- Our entry fees are very reasonable \$50-\$125
- Renting theaters and operating costs can get expensive. More screen time = More \$\$\$
- Judges have asked us to keep the length short. They volunteer their time 25 films x 8 min. is almost 3 1/2 hours of just viewing time not including scoring and deliberation.



Z-FEST-10 MINUTE FILMS

- You can submit a film 10 minute or less for general screening.
- It will be deemed ineligible because It would be an unfair advantage over the 7 min films.
- But it will get screened!



Z- FEST JUDGING THE FILMS

- Last Year 20+ Judges volunteered
- Almost 50/50 split Male/Female
- From 7 Different States
 NY,CA,NV,MN,FL,CO,VA
- Fair and Impartial Judging



Z- FEST JUDGING THE FILMS

- Films are judged according to the following criteria:
 - Directing
 - Acting
 - Screenplay
 - Production Design
 - Lighting
 - Cinematography
 - Audio/Sound Design
 - Editing
- Directing, Acting, and Screenplay are weighted in our system.



Z- FEST AWARDS AND PRIZES

- The film with the best ranking wins 1st Place in the festival and is awarded "Best Picture".
- The top-scoring films win prizes.
- Your total points help determine your rank.
- Additional awards for "Best Actress", "Best Director", etc. are determined separately.



Z- FEST GENRE AWARDS

Awards for "Best in Category"

- Best Comedy (incl. Romantic Comedy)
- Best Drama
- Best Sci-Fi/Fantasy
- Best Suspense/Horror/Adventure
- Best Documentary
- Best Specialty (Music Video, Art, Silent, Animated)

You choose which category you compete in during the registration process.



Z- FEST "PEER REVIEW"

- This year we will not offer the "PEER REVIEW" option due to Covid staffing issues.
- It is however a unique opportunity to see what the judges see.
- Judges will only see your film on the "small screen" before they
 pass judgement. Therefore it's important for your film not only to
 shine on the big screen but also the web.
- This is peer review process is always optional but recommended.
- Previous years results were strikingly similar to official judges.
- We hope to offer this next year in 2022.

Tutorials links

REQUIRED BY: January 26, 2018

Here on this page are many helpful tutorials:

- Setting Audio Levels
- Good Mixing Suggestions
- Understanding Aspect Ratio
- Turn In Tips
- Using Adobe Premiere
- Using Avid DNxHR
- Using the Peer Review system
- Script Formatting
- Best Way to Include Sponsor Logos
- Nomination Clips

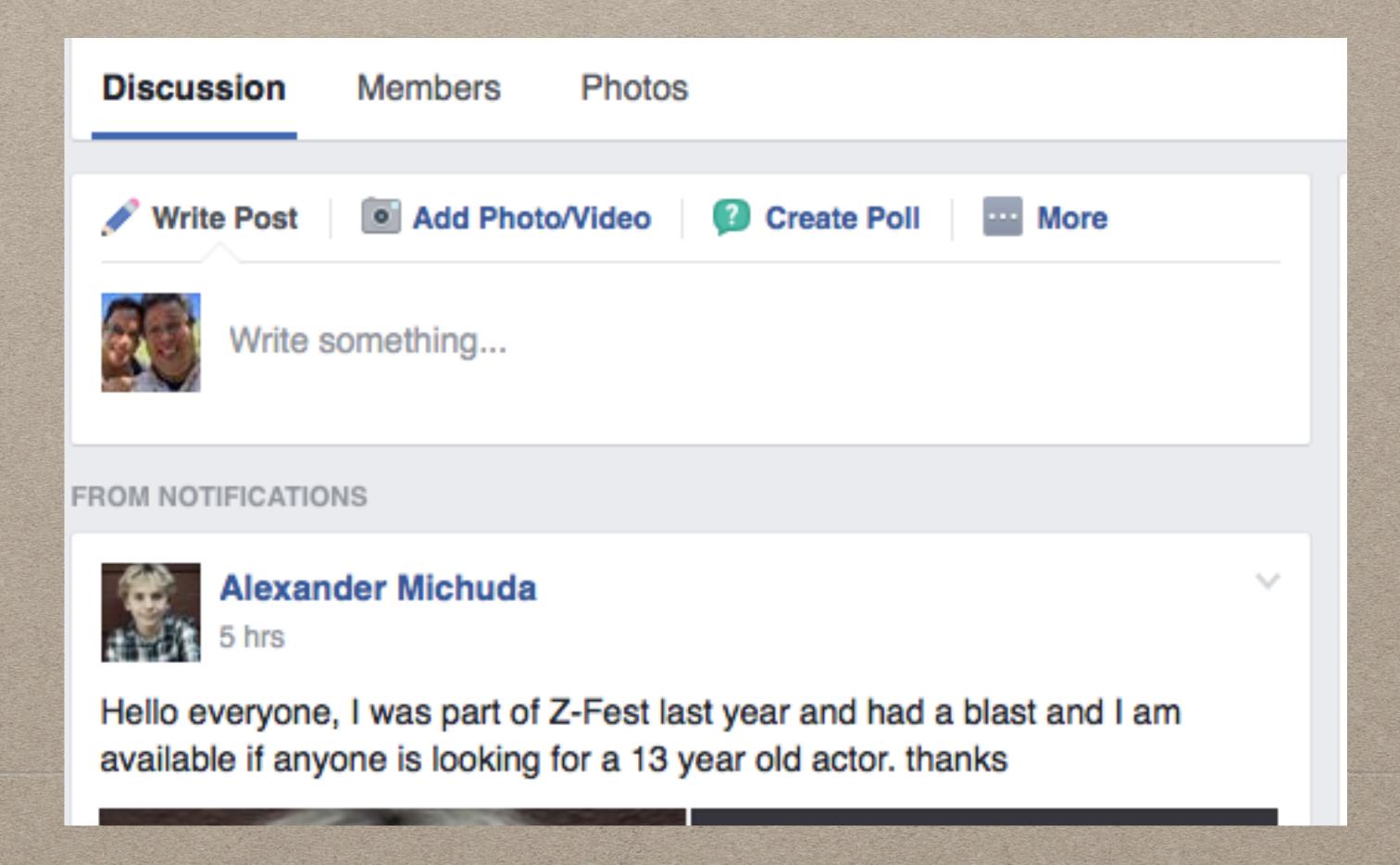
Yes I'll check them out





Z- FEST PRODUCTION STILLS

Every team is asked to upload at least 3 "production stills" to the Z-Fest Facebook page.





Z- FEST RESOLUTION EXAMPLES

HERE'S WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE...

16 x 9 Example

16 x 9 Pillarboxed

16 x 9 over Scope

16 x 9 Stretched to fit Scope

16 x 9 over Flat

16 x 9 stretched to fit Flat