



WE CHAMPION SHORT FILMMAKING

1317 F STREET NW, SUITE #920 \ WASHINGTON, DC 20004 \ [202-393-4266](tel:202-393-4266) \ DCSHORTS.COM

CONGRATULATIONS!

Out of 1,250 films and 159 scripts, we have selected your entry to be included in the 2015 DC Shorts Film Festival from September 10-20, 2015!

**PLEASE READ THIS ENTIRE PACKET!
IT INCLUDES EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THE
FESTIVAL!**

**AFTER READING, VISIT DCSHORTS.COM/WELCOME2015
YOU NEED TO SIGN THE SCREENWRITER CONTRACT, RESERVE ACCOMMODATIONS
AND PASSES.**

**Please complete the contract by FRIDAY, JULY 3
or your script will be removed from programming.**

If you misplace any forms or want to see the latest information, visit dcshorts.com/welcome2015
You should be very proud! We look forward to seeing you in September!

Jon Gann
Programming Director
+1-202-393-4266 office
+1-301-529-3456 mobile
jon@dcshorts.com

DEADLINES

Fri., July 3	Final day to Sign Screenwriter Contract Online	<i>See page 7</i>
Mon., July 13	Last day to approve your Festival Catalog listing and photo	<i>See page 6</i>
Fri., July 24	Last day to request Housing and Screenwriter Passes Casting Information due	<i>See page 4</i> <i>See page 3</i>
Fri., August 14	Final reading scripts due	<i>See page 4</i>
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THE SCREENPLAY COMPETITION

The Award

DC Shorts will present \$1,000 to the winning screenwriter (awarded immediately after the festival weekend), plus a commitment of \$1,000 that will be awarded when the final cut of the film is received by the deadline for submission for DC Shorts 2016 (April 30, 2016). If submitted on time, the film will also have a guaranteed screening at the DC Shorts Film Festival 2016.

The final cut of the film must contain the final on-screen credit "Produced in Association with the DC Shorts Film Festival, dcshorts.com." Representatives of DC Shorts/DC Film Alliance retain the right as a producer to act as a legal representative of the film to develop distribution and marketing deals, and has the ability to screen the film at DC Shorts or DC Film Alliance sponsored events. All prizes are subject to change and updates to the prize package will be posted online at dcshorts.com.

As per the original rules, the purpose of the competition and award money is to foster the creation and successful completion of an independent short film. All film/video shooting must take place after the award presentation. **If it is discovered that principal photography was begun before September 18, 2015, the screenplay will be disqualified from the competition. Restitution for associated expenses will be sought from the screenplay submitter.**

The winner will be determined by an open audience vote, with additional input by members of the Script Reviewer Committee. The decision of the Committee is final.

Schedule of Planned Events

Monday, July 13 at 12:00 noon EST - Mandatory phone call to go over the rules, expectations and to answer any questions. See information below.

Thursday, September 17 at 7 PM - There will be a cocktail reception at Jon's house for all the screenwriters as a chance to meet and relax.

Friday, September 18 from 10 AM to 12 PM - A casting call will be held for the live rehearsal.

Friday, September 18 at 12 PM - The live rehearsal will take place at noon, and space will be provided for the actors to rehearse.

Friday, September 18 at 7 PM - The DC Shorts Screenplay Competition Live Reading will occur at 7 PM. Following the last reading, ballots will be collected and counted and a winner will be announced, with a check for \$1,000 presented to the winner.

Saturday, September 19 at 11:00am -- Closing brunch to evaluate event and say goodbye.

Mandatory Conference Call

In order to better understand the requirements of the competition, we require all writers to dial into a conference call.

Time: Monday, July 13, 12:00 noon EST

Call: +1-978-964-0049

Code: 7244369#

This call will take 20-30 minutes. In past years, the information presented in this call made all the difference between a winning table read and a live fiasco. Please have pencil and paper ready to take notes and think of questions before we begin.

Final Versions of your Screenplay

Materials must be received no later than Friday, August 14.

THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS DEADLINE.

Please email to info@dcshorts.com

A final reading version of your screenplay is due on Friday, August 14. This allows for a month of rewrite and messaging after the conference call. Do not panic -- all will be explained in detail during the mandatory conference call.

Casting Your Reading

Materials must be received no later than Friday, July 24.

THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS DEADLINE.

Please email to info@dcshorts.com.

In order for us to help cast your screenplay reading, we will need a complete breakdown of your script. The breakdown is due by Friday, July 24. If you need assistance with this, please call Jon Gann at the office. The breakdown needs to include a list of characters and their descriptions. Make sure to indicate what you're looking for in a cast, such as each character's age, appearance, gender, height, etc. We will post casting notices around the DC/Baltimore region to our list of roughly 2000 actors, and will pass along headshots and resumes to you for review September 4th.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PRESCREEN AND INVITE ACTORS TO THE AUDITION ON SEPTEMBER 18. Please invite at least 3x more people than you will need. From past experience, one half of those you invite will not attend.

At the audition, each actor will perform a 90 second monologue. Following the last audition, the screenwriters will work together to cast all of the readings. Immediately following, two hours will be provided for rehearsal. If you would like the assistance of a stage or film director, please let us know. Additionally, if you have local actor friends or contacts you would like to bring to the audition, please let us know and provide their contact information.

The Reading Performance

Actors are asked to please wear black pants and shirts. This is to keep the playing field fair for everyone involved. Please do not wear costumes or jewelry, bring props, etc. to indicate character.

The order of the readings will be randomly assigned. Each group will move to the table to read, and the writer will be allowed to make a short introduction.

FESTIVAL ACCOMODATIONS

REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JULY 24.
FORM ONLINE AT <http://dcshorts.com/welcome2015>
CHANGES MAY BE MADE UP UNTIL FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4.

FREE HOUSING

DC Shorts offers assistance in finding **free housing** for screenwriters and 1 guest in private homes throughout the Washington, DC area. All of our housing is Metro (subway/bus) accessible.

There are 3 housing categories:

- A. 1 person in 1 bed
- B. 2 people in 1 bed
- C. 2 people in 2 beds

If you select 1 person, 1 bed, you may be placed in a home with another screenwriter. Request for host housing must be made no later than July 24. Requests made after July 24 may not be accommodated.

A few weeks before the festival, you will receive the contact information of your housing host. We encourage you to contact them immediately to learn of any house rules, etc. If you do not feel comfortable with your housing match, we will make every effort to accommodate you, but we cannot guarantee new housing.

DISCOUNTED HOTEL ROOMS

Through our arrangement with the Renaissance Dupont Circle, we have a limited number of rooms set aside for filmmakers. The luxury hotel is located in the Dupont Circle/West End neighborhood of DC and is a short metro ride from the screening venues and the National Mall.

Standards rooms are priced at only \$139 per night (regularly \$349).

If you are interested in reserving a room, please complete the online Accommodation Request Form. These rooms are available on a first-reserved, first-taken basis. To guarantee the hotel rate, you must book by July 24. All fees and incidentals must be guaranteed with a **credit card**.

Reservations may be cancelled without penalty anytime before Thursday, August 20th, after which time you will be charged for a minimum of one night.

FESTIVAL & MEAL PASSES

REQUESTS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4.

FORM ONLINE AT <http://dcshorts.com/welcome2015>

CHANGES MAY BE MADE UP UNTIL FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4.

Every script accepted entitles you to two (2) Screenwriter Passes that allow entry into every screening at the Screenwriter Lounge as well as all parties and events. Due to space limitations in the Screenwriter Lounge, we cannot extend more than two of these passes per film. Tickets for the screenings will go on sale to the general public in mid-August. You will receive notice of when this happens, as well as the availability of All-Access Passes which your friends and family will be able to purchase a few days before they go on sale to the general public.

Screenwriters automatically receive a Meal Pass which allows you to eat free or discounted meals and snacks at various restaurants within a 5-block area of the theater. There are limits to the amount of food that may be ordered (i.e.: one burrito, chip and drink), and the pass may not be used to pay for alcoholic beverages. We ask that you please leave appropriate gratuities.

TRANSPORTATION TO WASHINGTON, DC

INFORMATION MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JULY 24.

FORM ONLINE AT <http://dcshorts.com/welcome2015>

CHANGES MAY BE MADE UP UNTIL FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4.

We wish we could fly everyone to DC, but our budget does not allow us to do so. If you are traveling from NY, Boston, NC, NJ, PA, TN, or Ontario, we suggest taking the BoltBus or Megabus – both inexpensive and fast options.

If you are flying into Washington, DC, we recommend using Reagan National Airport (DCA); that allows you to get into the city for a \$2.30 subway fare. Flights from Washington Dulles International (IAD) and Baltimore- Washington (BWI) might be cheaper, but the cost to get into the city will be close to \$50 each way by car service. At this time, DC Shorts does not provide transportation to/from area airports or train stations.

CATALOG LISTING AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

CATALOG DESCRIPTION AND PHOTO

CHANGES MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MONDAY, JULY 13.

We spend a great deal of time to create a unique catalog for our event. A PDF proof of the catalog pages will be posted at dcshorts.com/welcome2015 by July 10, at which time you will receive an email asking to look over the file. If you have any changes, please email info@dcshorts.com no later than Monday, July 13, as our catalog goes to press the next day.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND MEDIA COVERAGE

PLEASE DO NOT SEND UNSOLICITED PHOTOS, BIOS OR OTHER ITEMS.

Our Public Relations firm will contact you individually if press materials are needed. If you have questions or wish to speak about a specific story idea, please contact the team at media@dcshorts.com. In the past DCS has garnered amazing press, and has been featured in almost every publication in Washington, DC, as well as many national publications.

SIGNING THE ACCEPTANCE CONTRACT

PLEASE READ OVER CAREFULLY BEFORE FILLING OUT. The form contains important legal information about special programs for the festival weekend and the next year. If you have questions about any of these programs, please contact the DC Shorts office at +1-202-393-4266.

**THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, JULY 3.
THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS DEADLINE.**

SIGN THE ONLINE CONTRACT AT: <http://dcshorts.com/welcome2015>

If we do not receive the completed and signed form by July 3, we will assume that you do not wish to participate and your slot will be given to another film.

We have adopted this formal contract to ensure that the information we receive from you is correct. In addition, it is used by you to opt-into additional exciting programs we offer. Should you have questions about any of these items, please call the DC Shorts Office at +1-202-393- 4266 **BEFORE** you sign the Contract. ***This Contract is a legally binding contract.***

CONTRACT LANGUAGE

I understand that my script has been accepted into the 2015 DC Shorts Screenplay Competition. By accepting inclusion in the festival, I grant non-exclusive rights to perform the script during the festival September 17-19, 2015 in as many readings as required, including the competition reading the "Best of" showcases. In addition, DC Shorts has non-exclusive rights to repeat the showcases during the year at other theatrical venues for festival fundraising purposes only. All profits from ticket sales are property of DC Shorts.

I agree to attend DC Shorts 2015 from September 17 through 19, 2015. With the help of the DC Shorts staff, I will cast a live reading of my script from a bank of actors and directors. The live readings will be performed in front of an audience who will vote on their favorite and, along with the scores of the reviewers, will determine the competition winner.

DC Shorts will present \$1,000 to the winning screenwriter (awarded immediately after the festival weekend), plus a commitment of \$1,000, which will be rewarded when the final cut of the film is received by the deadline, April 30, 2016, for submission for DC Shorts 2016. If submitted on time, the film will also be guaranteed to screen at the DC Shorts Film Festival 2016.

I acknowledge that the purpose of the competition and award money is to foster the creation and successful completion of an independent short film. All film/video shooting must take place after the award presentation on September 18, 2015. If it is discovered that principal photography was begun before this date, the screenplay will be disqualified from the competition. Restitution for associated expenses will be sought from the screenplay submitter.

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DC Shorts reserves the right to remove or reschedule a script from the Screenplay Competition for any reason or no reason and shall not be liable for any refund or claims of any kind arising out of such removal.

I have verified that my contact information is accurate and up-to-date. I understand that this information will be used for all future communication, and may be made available to media, other screenwriters, and Festival staff.

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