



Australian
Directors' Guild

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2020 ADG AWARDS

SUBMISSION RULES & REGULATIONS

A. INTRODUCTION

The ADG Awards were established in order to celebrate the outstanding achievements and contributions by Australian Directors.

The annual Australian Directors Guild Awards are the only peer-judged awards for directors in Australia. These prestigious Awards cover the breadth of screen directing, with categories across feature film, documentary, television, Subscription Video on Demand, commercial, short film, animation, online and music video.

B. DEFINITION

The ADG define that a director helms and is responsible for the creative storytelling and experience of a project in any format.

C. KEYDATES 2019 - 2020

Early Bird submission	12 December 2019 – 20 January 2020
Regular submissions	20 January – 24 February 2020
Extension of submissions	25 February – 10 March 2020
Nominees Announcement	1 April 2020
2020 ADG Awards	11 May 2020

D. ELIGIBILITY & CATEGORIES

1. To be eligible for the 2020 Australian Directors' Guild (ADG) Awards, the Director of the project **must be a current member of the ADG.**

A current member refers to a member who has paid a membership fee to the Guild at least up to 30 June 2020.

2. For non members / those who are not current members of the ADG that wish to submit projects to the 2020 ADG Awards can apply/renew membership here: <https://adg.org.au/membership>

3. The 2020 ADG Awards has 21 categories:
 - 1) *Best Direction in a Feature Film (Budget \$1M or over)*
 - 2) *Best Direction in a Feature Film (Budget under \$1M)*
 - 3) *Best Direction in a Short Film*
 - 4) *Best Direction in a Student Film*
 - 5) *Best Direction in a Documentary Feature*
 - 6) *Best Direction in a Documentary Series*
 - 7) *Best Direction in a Documentary Short Subject*
 - 8) *Best Direction in a Film made for TV or SVOD*
 - 9) *Best Direction in a Children's TV or SVOD Drama Program episode*
 - 10) *Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Drama Series episode*
 - 11) *Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Drama Serial episode*
 - 12) *Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Mini Series*
 - 13) *Best Direction in a TV or SVOD Comedy Program episode*
 - 14) *Best Direction in an Online Drama Series*
 - 15) *Best Direction in an Online Comedy Series*
 - 16) *Best Direction in an Animation Project*
 - 17) *Best Direction in an Short Animation Film*
 - 18) *Best Direction in Commercial Content*
 - 19) *Best Direction in a Commercial Advertisement*
 - 20) *Best Direction in a Music Video*
 - 21) *Best Direction in an Interactive or Immersive Title*

4. Some categories are only open to Full Members, whilst others are open to all.

Membership Type	Eligible Category/s
Full Members	ALL categories, <u>EXCEPT</u> for Best Direction of a Student Film
Associate Individual Members	Only eligible on the following categories: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Best Direction in a Short Film• Best Direction in a Online Drama Series• Best Direction in a Online Comedy Series• Best Direction in an Animation Project

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best Direction in Commercial Content • Best Direction in a Commercial Advertisement • Best Direction in a Music Video • Best Direction in an Interactive or Immersive Title
Associated Student Members	ONLY eligible for Best Direction of a Student Film

5. CHOOSING A CATEGORY – to choose a category, it must be based on what distribution channel/platform it is intended to be screened on.
i.e. A feature length project can be intended for SVOD distribution but have a theatrical premiere. In this case, the project should be considered within the TV/SVOD category instead of Feature Film category. If you are unclear about the category prior to submission please contact the ADG office for clarification.
6. Members can enter different, eligible works into different categories.
Where a member has different and separate works that are eligible for the same category (i.e. an episode from TV Series A and an episode from TV Series Z), each work will be considered separately and on its own. If more than one category may be applied to an entry, the onus is on the entrant to submit to the category that they feel is the most appropriate.
7. For projects with multiple directors, they only need to be submitted once.
However, should the project get nominated and eventually win an ADG Award, only the director/s who is/are a current member of the ADG attached to the project will be acknowledged as Nominee/s and as Winner/s.
8. The relevant director/s must be clearly listed as DIRECTOR on the project’s screen credit list, with exception for Commercial categories and Music Video.
9. Every project submitted for the ADG Awards must have **publicly screened for the first time between 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2019** in order to be eligible for entry in the 2020 ADG Awards.
 - a. A **public screening** denotes the **selection** of the work to be screened on any platform by a third party. Platforms include, but are not strictly limited to, cinema, television, subscription video on demand (SVOD), DVD, web/online and film festivals.
 - b. Every applicant must be able to submit first public screening proof / evidence as part of the submission process. The proof can be – cinema poster, press article, screenshot of the upload date (for online projects) and

many more. If unsure – please contact the ADG Awards Producer Chantelle Von Appen (02) 9555 7045 or awards@adg.org.au

- c. IMPORTANT NOTE FOR STUDENT FILM PROJECTS - Projects eligible in the Best Direction of a Student Film category must have been **completed** between 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2019, and applicants must be able to provide some written reference / confirmation from the director's respective tertiary institution confirming that the project/s were made whilst studying at the institution.
 - d. IMPORTANT NOTE FOR COMMERCIAL AND MUSIC VIDEO CATEGORIES – applicant must include a statement from the client / owner of the project to verify the first public screening date. Please see the Authority to Compete document for clarification.
10. Once a project has been accepted as a valid entry to the ADG Awards, it is ineligible to be re-submitted to the Awards in future years.

11. **SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

a) **Best Direction in a Feature Film (Budget \$1M or over)**

- A scripted/dramatised film with a duration of 75 minutes or more that is intended to be distributed via cinematic release/s – including film festival circuits.
- The project must be produced with a total budget \$1M or more.
- Directors to provide proof of final cost of film as part of the submission
- Directors must provide documentary evidence such as a Statutory Declaration, Completion Guarantor Letter or equivalent confirming the final budget. This will be held commercial-in-confidence.
- Any feature length project that was originally released on television or SVOD, is not eligible for this category and must be submitted under *Best Direction of a Film made for Television or SVOD* category.

b) **Best Direction in a Feature Film (Budget under \$1M)**

- A scripted/dramatised film with a duration of 75 minutes or more that is intended to be distributed via cinematic release/s – including film festival circuits.
- The project must be produced with a total budget less than \$1M. Directors to provide proof of final cost of film as part of the submission
- Directors must provide documentary evidence such as a Statutory Declaration, Completion Guarantor Letter or equivalent confirming the final budget. This will be held commercial in confidence.
- Any feature length project that was originally released on television or

SVOD, is not eligible for this category and must be submitted under *Best Direction of a Film made for Television or SVOD* category.

c) Best Direction in a Short Film

- A scripted/dramatised film with a maximum duration of 45 minutes as a complete story in a single screening; that has had or intended to be distributed via cinematic release/s – including film festival circuits, or distributed via online (third party platform).

d) Best Direction in a Student Film

- The Student category is for a production of any length or format made by a full time or part time student whilst at a tertiary institution.
- Projects must have been completed between 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2019 to be eligible for submission.
- Applicants must be able to provide some written reference / confirmation from the director's respective tertiary institution confirming that the project/s were made whilst studying in the institution.

e) Best Direction in a Documentary Feature Film

- A project that is a creative treatment of actuality other than a news, current affairs, sports coverage, magazine, infotainment or light entertainment program.
- A film that is primarily a promotional film, an industrial or instructional film, or essentially an unfiltered record of a performance is not eligible.
- A feature length documentary with a **duration of 75 minutes or more**, made for cinematic, DVD, television, SVOD or online release.

f) Best Direction in a Documentary Short Subject

- A project that is a creative treatment of actuality other than a news, current affairs, sports coverage, magazine, infotainment or light entertainment program.
- A film that is primarily a promotional film, an industrial or instructional film, or essentially an unfiltered record of a performance is not eligible.
- A documentary program with duration of **less than 75 minutes** for television, DVD, SVOD and online release.

g) Best Direction in a Documentary Series

- A project that is a creative treatment of actuality other than a news, current affairs, sports coverage, magazine, infotainment or light entertainment program.
- A film that is primarily a promotional film, an industrial or instructional film, or essentially an unfiltered record of a performance is not eligible.
- A documentary series applies to a series of documentary programs made for television, DVD or SVOD release of up to 24-hrs airtime in a

consecutive 12-month period.

- Only individual episode of a series are to be submitted, not the complete series.
- In the case of multiple directors – multiple episodes can be submitted with note that only one (1) episode to represent each director.
- The episode entered must have gone to air FOR THE FIRST TIME between 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2019.

h) Best Direction of a Film made for Television or SVOD

- A feature length drama/scripted program of 75 minutes or more which tells a complete story in a single screening, with intention to be distributed via television or SVOD broadcast.
- Films that have theatrical release (both commercial or festival screenings) but get aired on television or SVOD are not eligible for this category, and will need to be submitted under Best Direction in a Feature Film.

i) Best Direction of a Children’s TV or SVOD Drama Program

- Any fiction television or SVOD series and/or standalone program must be made specifically for children or groups of children, be entertaining and well produced with high production standards, and enhance a child’s understanding and experiences as is appropriate.
- Animated programs may choose to enter the animation category instead.
- For series program - it requires a specific episode to be submitted. The episode entered must have gone to air FOR THE FIRST TIME between 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2019.

j) Best Direction in a Television or SVOD Drama Series

- TV or SVOD Drama Series is a series of drama programs made for television or SVOD release, of up to 24-hrs airtime in a consecutive 12-month period.
- An entry in this category requires a specific episode to be nominated. The episode entered must have gone to air FOR THE FIRST TIME between 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2019.
- Entries for a Television or SVOD Series category should be limited to one episode per director from each specific production. Only individual episodes of a series are to be nominated, not the complete series.

k) Best Direction in a Television or SVOD Drama Serial

- A TV or SVOD Drama Serial is a series of programs made for television or SVOD release of over 40 hours in a consecutive 12 months period.
- An entry in this category requires a specific episode to be nominated. The episode entered must have gone to air FOR THE FIRST TIME

between 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2019.

- Entries for a Television or SVOD Drama Serials should be limited to one episode per director from each specific production. Only individual episodes of a series are to be nominated, not the complete series.

l) Best Direction in a Television or SVOD Mini-series

- A series of drama programs made for television or SVOD broadcast with total of no more than 7 hours in length, screens in a consecutive period (e.g. weekly or daily) can be considered as TV or SVOD Mini Series.
- An entry in this category requires the entrant to submit one episode to be judged as a single entry.
- The episode entered must have gone to air for the first time between 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2019.

m) Best Direction in a Television or SVOD Comedy

- An episode for a comedy series or a standalone comedy television or SVOD production is eligible to enter into this category.
- Comedy can include parody, mockumentary and/or satire.
- The episode/s entered must have gone to air for the first time between 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2019.

n) Best Direction in an Animation Project

- An animated project is defined as a motion picture created with a significant number of the major characters animated, and in which animation comprises no less than 70% of the film's running time.
- Animated productions made for cinematic, television, DVD, SVOD and online release are all eligible for Animation category.
- Feature length Animation works will also be eligible in the Feature category.
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o) Best Direction in a Short Animation Film

- A short motion picture created with a significant number of major characters animated, in which animation comprises no less than 70% of the film's running time.
- Maximum duration of 45 minutes as a complete story in a single screening; that has had or intended to be distributed via cinematic release/s – including film festival circuits, or distributed via online (third party platform).

p) Best Direction in an Online Drama Series

- Web Drama Series is a series of drama programs made for web release of up to 24-hrs airtime in a consecutive 12-month period.
- Web denotes free online access including free online streaming access including Ad-Supported Video on Demand (i.e. YouTube, Snagfilms, smh.tv and many more) and Catch-up TV sites (i.e. iView, SBS on

Demand) – with note that it is only applied to a program that is only available through that particular online platform.

- Television program reruns are not considered for this category.
- Stand-alone web drama project can be entered under short film category.

q) Best Direction in an Online Comedy Series

- Web Comedy Series is a series/one off comedy programs made for web release of up to 24-hrs airtime in a consecutive 12-month period.
- Web denotes free online access including free online streaming access including, but not limited to: Ad-Supported Video on Demand (i.e. YouTube, Snagfilms, smh.tv and many more) and Catch-up TV sites (i.e. iView, SBS on Demand) – with note that it is only applied to a program that is only available through that particular online platform.
- Comedy can include parody, mockumentary and/or satire.
- Television program reruns are not considered for this category.

r) Best Direction of a Commercial Content Project

- A project can be considered as Commercial Content when its content designed for the purposes of educating consumers or promoting a specific idea, product, event or place.
- A work must be 10 minutes or more in length and made for screening on any platform.
- The project must be first screened publicly between the dates of 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2019.

s) Best Direction of a Commercial Advertising

- A project can be considered as Commercial Content when its content is designed for the purposes of educating consumers or promoting a specific idea, product, event or place.
- A work must be less than 10 minutes in length and made for screening on any platform.
- The project must be first screened publicly between the dates of 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2019.

t) Best Direction in a Music Video

- A music video is made with the purpose of promoting complete piece of music/song, which accompanies it.
- The music video must have been publicly released for the first time between 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2019.

u) Best Direction in an Interactive or Immersive Title

- Work in any interactive or immersive format (including video games, 360 video, VR experience, location based experience) will be considered

across any digital platform.

- An entry in this category requires the entrant to submit sufficient material for experience design and storytelling to be appraised (e.g. online store activation code, private download link, video playthrough). Video marketing trailers or teasers that do not clearly show the user experience are not sufficient.
- Entrants must have helmed and been responsible for the creative storytelling and experience in the title to qualify.
- The work entered must have been publicly released for the first time between 1 July 2018 and 31 December 2019.

E. ENTRY PROCESS AND SUBMISSION FEE

All entries should be made via the 2020 ADG Awards competition entry page – <https://adg.awardsplatform.com>

1. Applicants are required to submit basic production information about the project:
 - Project title
 - Running time of the project
 - Synopsis
 - Production year
 - First public screening proof
 - Short director's biography and directors' headshot.
 - *Other supporting materials:*
 - *Feature film categories* - final cost of film as part of the submission. Directors must provide documentary evidence such as a Statutory Declaration, Completion Guarantor Letter or equivalent confirming the final budget. This will be held commercial in confidence.
 - *Interactive or Immersive Title* - sufficient material for experience design and storytelling to be appraised (e.g. online store activation code, private download link, video playthrough). Video marketing trailers or teasers that do not clearly show the user experience are not sufficient
2. Applicants are required to submit full-length screeners / projects as **digital link** only – as either a streamed or downloadable format. *DVD screeners and cinema screening passes are not acceptable.* Please contact awards@adg.org.au for any concern or queries regarding screeners.
3. A signed copy of Authority to Compete and Copyright License Agreement must be submitted as part of the submission process (uploaded via the online form). This requires signatures from the ADG Member who directed the project and Producer/Owner/Copyright holder of the project.
4. In the case that any third party requires online access on behalf of the ADG member, the relevant ADG member must email awards@adg.org.au to give written authorisation for the third party to gain access.

5. All applicants must pay the appropriate fee in full for the submission to be accepted by the ADG. Below is the submission fee based on the category and submission period.

CATEGORY	EARLY BIRD Deadline: 20 Jan 2020	REGULAR SUBMISSION Deadline: 24 Feb 2020	EXTENDED SUBMISSION Deadline: 10 March 2020
Feature Film (Budget \$1M or over)	\$90	\$120	\$132
Feature Film (Budget less than \$1M)	\$90	\$120	\$132
Documentary Feature Film	\$90	\$120	\$132
Documentary Series	\$90	\$120	\$132
Documentary Standalone	\$90	\$120	\$132
Movie made for Television or SVOD	\$90	\$120	\$132
Children's Television or SVOD Drama Program	\$90	\$120	\$132
TV or SVOD Drama Series	\$90	\$120	\$132
TV or SVOD Drama Serial	\$90	\$120	\$132
TV or SVOD Mini Series	\$90	\$120	\$132
TV or SVOD Comedy	\$90	\$120	\$132
Commercial Content	\$90	\$120	\$132
Commercial Advertisement	\$90	\$120	\$132
Animation	\$90	\$120	\$132
Web Drama Series	\$82.50	\$110	\$120
Web Comedy Series	\$82.50	\$110	\$120
Music Video	\$82.50	\$110	\$120
Short Animation Film	\$67.50	\$90	\$100

Student Film	\$67.50	\$90	\$100
Interactive or Immersive Title	\$67.50	\$90	\$100
Short Film	\$67.50	\$90	\$100

6. Please note that deadline is subject to change. Always check the deadline before submitting a project. All the prices stated above are inclusive of GST.

IMPORTANT:

Correct entry information is the responsibility of the applicant. The ADG is not liable for errors in a listing that is the result of incorrect information being submitted on the entry form. The ADG cannot be held responsible for projects being entered in the wrong categories.

F. JUDGING PROCESS

1. The ADG Events Committee reserves the right to determine which submissions qualify in all categories. Requested variations to category eligibility may be considered in exceptional circumstances.
2. Wherever possible, ADG members will be given the first opportunity to participate as judges. Directors deemed most appropriate for experience and merit in their applicable genre or category are approached to judge the ADG Awards.

G. NOMINATION

- You will need to supply the materials below in order to be nominated and agree to the following terms;
- 1. Excerpts of the project in high resolutions (broadcast quality) film clips – maximum length 30 seconds for feature length film / mini series, and 15 seconds for others. Files need to be in digital format (quick time or MP4)
 2. Film stills in high resolutions (no less than 300dpi, minimum size of 40mm x 40mm)
 3. Press kit (production notes, key credits, director/s’ biography)
 4. It is the applicant’s responsibility to cover any additional costs associated with submitting the require clips to the ADG Awards. These includes, but are not limited to, shipping/ mailing cost, editing cost, and more.

5. All materials must be submitted through the awards force application. You are able to change materials right up until the submission date. Just log back into your application through the awards force portal.

H. COPYRIGHT CLEARANCE

1. Applicants / the representatives acknowledge and agree that they are solely responsible for obtaining all necessary authorisations and/or licences relating to the use of copyright material and material containing the intellectual property rights of any person in the nominated film materials (including licences of moral rights). The ADG takes no responsibility for any failure by the applicants to obtain any necessary authorisations and/or licences.
2. The ADG will not be responsible for paying any license fees or copyright royalties in relation to the nominee's materials that are used as part of the ADG Awards ceremony broadcast.
3. The Producer(s) / Client(s) / Owner of the project agree that the ADG has the right to:
 - Screen the submitted projects, free of charge to all jury members for the purposes of determining the nominees / winners of the ADG Awards.
 - Screen nominated film excerpts on large screens and monitors at the Awards Ceremony and at any pre and post the ADG Awards Ceremony / functions.
 - Incorporate (and permit its assignees, licensees, producers, agents and contractors to incorporate) selected excerpts and stills from the nominated film into television programs produced by the ADG (or an assignee, licensee, producer, agent or contractor of the ADG) in relation to any the ADG Awards ceremony where all intellectual property rights will be owned by the ADG and or licensed to other third party licensees at the ADG's absolute discretion (including for transmission for an unlimited number of times of each of the programs and in any version thereof, in whole or in part via any and all media now known or hereafter developed in perpetuity).