

DOME UNDER FILM FESTIVAL 2027

SUBMISSION AND COMPETITION TERMS



By submitting an entry to the Dome Under Film Festival (DUFF or the Festival) for consideration, each participant will be taken to have accepted these terms.

1. Participants

Participation is open to all filmmakers, producers and distributors of fulldome content worldwide. The terms below must be complied with for entry into the Festival. Participants may enter more than one contribution in one or multiple categories: the student film, the short film and full-length film categories.

2. Copyright

By submitting an entry to the Festival, each participant will be taken by Museums Victoria to:

- irrevocably and unconditionally grant to Museums Victoria a non-exclusive and royalty-free licence to do all things necessary to consider the relevant film for screening at the Festival and (if selected by Museums Victoria) screen the film at the Festival, the Australian Planetarium Society (APS) Conference (for films that win an award at the Festival), *The Best of DUFF*, and *The Best of Earth Awards*, including but not limited to making a copy of the film if required, causing the film to be seen and/or heard in public and communicating the film to the public;
- represent and warrant to Museums Victoria that it is entitled to use and deal with any intellectual property rights in the film, including to grant the licence to Museums Victoria described above, and that the use by Museums Victoria of the film (including screening at the Festival, the APS Conference, *The Best of DUFF*, and *The Best of Earth Awards*) will not infringe the rights of any person, including but not limited to copyright and/or moral rights; and
- indemnify Museums Victoria and its personnel from and against all liabilities, losses, damages, costs, expenses, claims, demands, actions, proceedings, or prosecution which may be brought, commenced or prosecuted against Museums Victoria or its personnel or in which any of them may be involved in as a result of the use by Museums Victoria of the film in accordance with these terms or a breach by the participant of the above warranty.

3. Usage Rights

Without limiting the above, participants will be taken to consent to Museums Victoria using stills and trailers from their film (including visuals and audio) on the Internet, in print and in other media for the purpose of advertising, publicising or otherwise promoting the Festival and the screening of the film, including on Museums Victoria's website, social media channels and publicity materials. Each production will be credited to the copyright holder (as advised by the participant) during any screening at the Festival.

4. Selection of Festival Films

The Pre-Selection Committee appointed by Museums Victoria will decide which of the entries will be screened and included in the official Festival program. Without limiting the Pre-Selection Committee's discretion, the criteria for approval are the quality of content and treatment, technical production, artistic interpretation, sound design, creativity, narration, entertainment, and educational values.

5. Preview

Participants must supply a 1K or 2K preview file of their film. The preview must be smaller than 2Gb in file size. The file must be provided via a downloadable link.

6. Presentations

All selected contributions will be presented during the Festival at the Melbourne Planetarium in Australia. The productions will be displayed with six Sony GTZ280 projectors, Evans & Sutherland Digistar 7 system with 6.9K resolution. Sound will be presented in stereo, or 5.1 surround.

Films that win an award at DUFF will also have an additional screening at the Australasian Planetarium Society (APS) Conference. The APS Conference will take place at the Adelaide Planetarium on 2-3 February 2027.

A short selection of films including the DUFF award winners will be packaged together as *The Best of DUFF*. Three screenings of *The Best of DUFF* films will take place at Space Place in Wellington, New Zealand in May 2027.

7. Full Length Films

Entries of full-length films must satisfy the following conditions:

- The film must have been completed after 1 January 2025.
- The film must be complete. If a film exists in different lengths, only one version is permitted.
- Language is preferably in English.
- The film must have been originally produced in the fulldome format. Giant screen productions adapted to the dome cannot be admitted.
- Running time must be no less than 15 minutes and no more than 60 minutes.
- Trailers and excerpts cannot be admitted.
- Formats admissible: see Data Formats section.

8. Short Films

Entries of short films must satisfy the following conditions:

- The film must have been completed after 1 January 2025.
- The film must be complete. If a film exists in different lengths, only one version is permitted.
- Language is preferably in English.
- The film must have been originally produced in the fulldome format. Giant screen productions adapted to the dome cannot be admitted.
- Running time must be no less than 1 minute and no more than 15 minutes.
- Trailers and excerpts cannot be admitted.
- Formats admissible: see Data Formats section.

9. Student Films

Entries of student films must satisfy the following conditions:

- Entrants must be students enrolled at a secondary school, film school, university or other educational institution at the time the film was produced.
- The film must have been completed after 1 January 2025.
- The film must be complete. If a film exists in different lengths, only one version is permitted.
- Language is preferably in English.
- The film must have been originally produced in the fulldome format. Giant screen productions adapted to the dome cannot be admitted.
- Running time must be no less than 1 minute and no more than 15 minutes.
- Trailers and excerpts cannot be admitted.
- Formats admissible: see Data Formats section.

10. Festival Awards

The Festival will present a number of awards at the Awards Ceremony on 31 January 2027. A Festival Jury appointed by Museums Victoria will determine the awards. The award decisions of the Festival Jury are final and cannot be contested.

11. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Disclosure

The Festival celebrates human-driven fulldome cinema. While the world adapts to evolving technical landscapes, the Festival believes filmmaking is a fundamentally human art form. The Festival discourages the use of generative artificial intelligence for core creative tasks. To maintain transparency, participants must disclose in the Submission Application Form the extent to which AI was used in the production of the submitted film and select the category that most accurately reflects that use.

In this clause, **core creative tasks** includes, without limitation, story development, scriptwriting, concept art, visual design, image generation, animation creation, music composition, voice generation, performance generation, and other activities that materially contribute to the artistic content of the film.

12. Liability

Museums Victoria accepts no liability for damage to the materials and Data Carriers (defined below) submitted to the Festival.

13. Unforeseen Circumstances

In the event that unforeseen circumstances prevent the Festival from proceeding on the scheduled dates, Museums Victoria reserves the right to:

- postpone the holding of the Festival on the set dates, and hold the Festival on other dates as near to the original dates as practicable; or
- close the Festival on any day(s), vary the hours the Festival is open or cancel the Festival,

at its sole discretion and without any liability to Museums Victoria.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Upon entry, participants must complete the Film Submission Application Form providing the following information:

- Title of film (original title and English title)
- Names of relevant producers and/or directors
- Name of production company or institution
- Country
- Date of film completion
- Category, resolution, frame rate and sound format
- Length of the film
- Name & delivery address of the entrant
- Telephone number & email address of the entrant
- Link to a downloadable full-length screener of the film (Minimum 1K, Maximum 2K)
- Synopsis of the film (100 words or less)
- Poster image for the film and/or two still images
- Artificial intelligence disclosure

If a film is pre-selected for entry into the Festival, then the film files must be delivered either via downloadable link, or by a Hard Disk Drive or USB drive (**Data Carrier**).

The Hard Disk Drive or USB Drive must include the following information:

- Title of film
- Name of production company or institution
- Postal Address of the entrant
- Telephone number & email address of the entrant
- A completed Submission Application Form

Hard Disk Drive and USB drives will be returned to the entrants.

Hard Disk Drive and USB drives must be sent to:

Dome Under Film Festival
Melbourne Planetarium
2 Booker Street
Spotswood VIC 3015
AUSTRALIA

Customs Declaration: Data Carriers from other countries must contain the following information:

Content Description – Hard Drive / USB Drive containing educational film.

Museums Victoria accepts no liability for any taxes or duties whatsoever arising in relation to the exportation or importation of any Data Carrier or film by participants.

DATA FORMATS

If your film is accepted into the Dome Under Festival, then you will need to send the final version for screening (Final Delivery). You have two options for doing so:

1. Make available a high-quality full resolution MPEG-4 file available for download; or
2. Provide an image sequence and audio files on a Hard Disk Drive or USB Drive.

Content must meet the following format specifications:

OPTION 1 – High Quality Video Files

We will accept files encoded using either the h.265 (HEVC) codec or the older h.264 (AVC) codec, but please note the different bitrate requirements for the two codecs.

- **MPEG-4 / h.265**

Resolution: 4k (4096 x 4096 pixels)

Frame Rate: 30 or 60fps

Video Format: MPEG-4 using the HEVC (h.265) codec.

Video Bitrate: 60Mbit/s (for 30fps content) or 120Mbit/s (for 60fps content)

Audio Format: Two-channel (stereo) embedded in the MPEG4 file.

Multi-channel (5.1) supplied as separate mono uncompressed WAV or AIFF.

- **MPEG-4 / h.264**

Resolution: 4k (4096 x 4096 pixels)

Frame Rate: 30 or 60fps

Video Format: MPEG-4 using the HEVC (h.264) codec.

Video Bitrate: 100Mbit/s (for 30fps content) or 200Mbit/s (for 60fps content)

Audio Format: Two-channel (stereo) embedded in the MPEG4 file.

Multi-channel (5.1) supplied as separate mono uncompressed WAV or AIFF.

Here are some more recommended encoding settings for your Final Delivery MPEG-4 file:

- Square Pixels
- Main Profile, Level 6.2
- CBR (constant bitrate)
- Higher or Highest Quality

OPTION 2 – Images Sequence and Audio Files provided on a Hard Disk Drive or USB Drive

Hard Disk Drives must be USB powered, USB2.0 / 3.0, NTFS formatted.

- **Image Files**

Dome Master Format 24-bit RGB, 180° equidistant image field

Dome Orientation Bottom = Front, Left = Dome Left, Right = Dome Right, Top = Rear

Resolution Preferred 4K (4096 x 4096 square pixels)
Minimum 3K (3072 x 3072 square pixels)
Maximum 8K (8192 x 8192 square pixels)
Student works Minimum resolution 2K (2048 x 2048 pixels)

File Format PNG, JPG, TIF or uncompressed TGA

Frame Rate Preferred 30fps. 24, 25, 29.97 & 60 fps will also be accepted.

File Names Title + Underscore + 5-digit frame number. Eg: **Title_00000.png. Title_00001.png** etc.
File names must not include umlauts, special characters or symbols. Frame numbers must start at 0 or 1.

Metadata Each frame should include the name of the film, timecode & frame number outside the dome viewable region

- **Sound Files**

Sound files may be delivered as Stereo or 5.1 Surround. Sound files must be the exact same duration as the image sequence. To ensure synchronization, the sound file must begin with the first frame. Please include any black frames in the image sequence or silent sections in the audio files as necessary in order to ensure audio-video sync.

Stereo Uncompressed WAV format

5.1 Surround (Left, Right, Centre, LFE, Left Surround, Right Surround) abbreviated as L,R,C,Lfe,Ls,Rs
24bit 48Khz Uncompressed WAV format as 6 discrete files using the following naming convention: name+undersore+channel name. Eg: **Title_L.wav, Title_R.wav** etc.