



Z FEST FILM FESTIVAL



Z-FEST IS EXPANDING

Thank you, for signing up for Z Fest VI. During the past five years of Z-Fest, we have seen so many great films and filmmakers. We can't wait to see what year 6 has in store for everyone!

This year, we are embarking on a new quest – to go beyond just the annual film fest. Here is our new mission statement:

***To promote, elevate, and showcase
entertaining Minnesota short films.***

In other words, in addition to having the festival itself, we want to show your best work to the masses in Minnesota! This effort will be separate from the festival itself, but we hope to find various means of showcasing the top 10% of the films to the general public. This means that if your film is really good, you may get it shown at other venues in the future.

Based on this new mission, we want to encourage quality films, so we are giving you a whole bunch of time to plan and execute your film project.

Please note, that it is even more important that you have your paperwork in order – talent releases, music rights, etc. Your team must also be comfortable knowing that we may be showing your film in various venues in the future. If this is going to be a problem, please talk to us as soon as possible. This is new territory for us, so we are open to listening to any problems or challenges this may create.



Z FEST VI HOST

Z Systems provides top-quality end-to-end support for the world of Pro Video. Based in Minneapolis, we are experienced video and audio professionals eliminating the technical headaches that plague production and post. We fuel the creativity of producers, broadcasters, dp's, editors, and production artists.

We can match the pricing of the online giants while giving you great local service and support from your pre-sales questions to your service needs years after your purchase.

Please check us out for equipment sales, video camera rentals, and any service



fueling creativity

needs you may have for the Twin Cities and greater Minnesota area.



SPONSORS

Sponsors for Z –Fest VI are still being lined up. Please stay tuned for an updated list.

Do you know of a business or other organization that would like to sponsor Z-Fest? If so, please let us know right away. It is a great way for local businesses to promote the spirit of 'Minnesota Made' and we have a lot of sponsorship levels that are quite affordable.



PLATINUM SPONSOR (Z
Fest V, 2014)

SONY



**PLATINUM SPONSOR (Z
Fest V, 2014)**





GOLD SPONSORS (Z Fest V, 2014)



G-Technology



Adobe





GOLD SPONSORS (Z Fest V, 2014)



SILVER SPONSOR (Z Fest V, 2014)





Festival Support (Z Fest V, 2014)



Independent Filmmaker Project **MN**





**THANKS TO LOUIE ANDERSON Our
Celebrity Judge for 2015**





Z - Fest is Festival Friendly

We here at Z-Fest Take pride in our Film Community

- After Z-Fest, You may enter your Z Fest Film into other festivals, but please keep your sponsor credits intact.
- We will, however, be posting your film online immediately after the festival is over.
- We work actively with other festivals
 - The Minneapolis/ St. Paul International Film Festival
 - The South Dakota Film Festival
 - The 50/Fifty Film Festival
 - The Minneapolis Under Ground Film Festival
 - The Twin Cities Film Festival



CONTROL ELEMENTS



- You get to choose your "Z" Element this year! It can be anything starting with a Z. Once you have picked a Z Element, simply submit a picture for approval. Once approved, you are ready to start shooting.
- While we do need to see the "Z" Element in your film, we do not have a set time amount that it needs to be on screen. You do, however, need to note the timestamp at which the element appears on screen when you drop off your film.
- The control element doesn't have to be obnoxiously visible, it just needs to be present.
- Our aim is to provide a simple way to keep things fair, not to plaster your films in glaring 'Z's.



CONTROL ELEMENTS

- **Your film must be a newly created film, made especially for the Z-Fest Film Festival**
- **Your film must contain the Sponsor Credits we will provide you after kickoff.**
- **Your film and trailer must be exactly at or under the time constraints.**



CONTENT GUIDELINES



CONTENT GUIDELINES

- Your film will be posted on Vimeo and YouTube.
- It cannot contain:
 - 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 will be disqualified. We reserve the right to disqualify films if we think they violate these terms.**



CONTENT GUIDELINES

- Please be aware of your audience
- If your film is derogatory or defamatory towards any group of people such as Women, African Americans, Hispanics or the LGBTQ Community you should add a notification at the head of your film indicating such so we at least know that you know. Or just don't do it.
- We strongly encourage you to not make an offensive film as this will be shown to a general audience. Films we find “Over the Top” or too offensive in our opinion will be pulled from the competition.



END CREDITS



End Credits

- Film Length must not exceed 7 minutes.
- Your story cannot continue into your credits.
- Standard credit roll is just fine.
- Use of creative credits is strongly encouraged!
- See these movies for some examples:
 - Ferris Bueller
 - Stranger Than Fiction
 - Sherlock Holmes
 - The Incredibles



End Credits

End Credits must also include the following:

- “This film was created as part of the Z-Fest Film Festival” and all sponsor logos.(on your Disc)
- **OR** you may choose to use our readymade end credit clip containing all the logos. (on your Disc)
- **If you do not include these elements in your end credits, you will be disqualified.**



PAPERWORK



Paperwork

- Fill out all paperwork!
- **Get Signed releases for:**
 - Cast
 - Crew
 - Locations
 - Music
- Films without properly signed releases **will not be shown.**
- Films with missing paperwork **will be disqualified.**



FILM TURN IN



Film Turn In

Film “Turn-In” will be held at Z Systems.

- Maps and directions are available on our website.
- Free parking available in our lot and on the street
- Mark the date: Sunday, February 8th 2015.
- You must be in the lobby by 6:00pm.
- Early “Turn-In” is encouraged if you are ready.
 - Monday – Friday, 8am – 5pm, or setup an appointment
- Your Film will be disqualified if you are late.
 - Late films will still be shown at the theater.
 - No late films will be judged.
 - No late films will be eligible for prizes.
 - No late films will be eligible for awards.



Film Turn In

Put your Team # on **BOTH VIDEO FILES**

- Bring your film and trailer on an external **Hard Drive**
- USB 2.0 or Firewire 400/800
- **Do not bring:**
 - Video DVD
 - Data DVD
 - Blu-ray BD disc
 - Flash Drives, Flash Cards, Jump or Thumb drives
- Bring your film and trailer on the same drive
- **REMEMBER to Put your Team # on BOTH FILES**
- **Team 33 Video and Team 33 Trailer**



Film Turn - In TIPS

- We have included a new editor document in your packet
- Keep your editing timeline in a “Camera Native” codec
- Export your QT movies using “Current Settings”
- Copy those files to your Ext HD drive as a backup plan.
- Use a compressor to convert your film to these settings.
 - 1920x1080 (actual pixels)
 - 23.98 frame rate
 - Use the highest quality settings



Film Turn - In TIPS

- If you don't know how to convert your file, we can convert it for a \$150.00 fee.
- If you run late on your conversion, turn in your Backup Plan by 6:00pm (and pay the fee) or be disqualified.
- Converting video takes time. Plan ahead. Don't be late.
- **Films Must be in the Apple Pro Res 422 HQ Quick Time format. Lower resolutions will not play well in the theater.**
- **If you are working on PC use the DNxHD Codec provided free.**



FILM PROMOS



Trailer Contest

- Your 30-second trailer will be turned in with your film.
- And YES we mean 30 seconds to the FRAME!
- Fans will vote for your trailer on the internet.
- You can get a sneak peek at your competition.
- The Trailer Contest launches Feb 10th, 2015 and runs until Feb 24th.



Trailer Contest

- The trailer with the most votes wins.
- This is a popularity contest!
- **1st Place: \$200 cash**
- **2nd Place: \$100 cash**
- **3rd Place: \$50 cash**



Production Photos

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





JUDGING THE FILMS



The Louie Anderson Show

Louie Anderson is our celebrity judge again this year.

- Please Like him on [Facebook](#)!
- Please subscribe to his podcast by clicking [here](#)!





HOW FILMS ARE SCORED

- Films are judged according to the following criteria:
 - Directing
 - Acting
 - Screenplay
 - Production Design
 - Lighting
 - Cinematography
 - Audio/Sound Design
 - Editing
- To promote great, well-told stories, Directing, Acting, and Screenplay will be weighted more heavily.



THEATER SCREENINGS



Theater Screening

- There will be three screenings, two nights at the Riverview where we show all the films, and the Best of Fest.
- Films will be distributed into 2 separate sessions, with each session containing 1/2 of the films.
 - Tentatively March 4th and 5th at the Riverview Theater – half the films each night
- The 10 top films will be shown again in the “Best of Fest” screening.

- Tentatively March 19th – Best of Fest & Awards at the MOA



Theater Screening

- The screening order list will be posted on the web on or around Feb 18th.
- The Awards Ceremony will immediately follow the Best of Fest screening.
- There will not be ticket reservations for team leaders or team members.



Theater Screening

- **Tickets for each of the 3 screenings are sold separately. You may attend as many screenings as you like.**
- Each of the screenings will be a red carpet event with a press backdrop. **Bring your camera.**



TICKET SALES



Ticket Sales

- **Ticket pricing:**
 - \$15 – General Admission
- **Tickets for Riverview will be CASH at the door only.**
- **Tickets for “Best of Fest” at MOA will be available:**
 - Tickets will be sold online only. In the event that there are any unsold tickets we will sell them in person at Best of Fest.



AWARDS AND PRIZES



AWARDS & PRIZES

- The film with the most points wins **1st Place** in the festival and is awarded “**Best Picture**”.
- The seven top-scoring films win the major prizes.
- Your total points determine your rank.
- Additional awards for “Best Actress”, “Best Director”, etc. will be determined separately.



AWARDS & PRIZES

The top films pick from a pool of prizes.
(1st place picks first, 2nd place picks second, etc).

Here are some of last year's prizes:

1. Avid Media Composer 7 (*\$999 value*)
2. 2 Adobe Creative Cloud Subscriptions (*\$599 value*)
3. \$1000 Cash
4. AJA I/O XT (*\$1,495 value*)
5. G Tech 4TB G-Drive w/ Thunderbolt (*\$599.95 value*)
6. \$500 Cash
7. G Tech 2TB G-RAID Mini (*\$449 value*)



AWARDS & PRIZES

Judges will also be voting on the following:

- Best Director
- Best Actor
- Best Actress
- Best Original Score
- Best Costume Design
- Best Visual Effects
- Best Editing
- Best Cinematography
- Best Screenplay
- Best Prop
- Best WTF Moment
- Best Fight Scene
- Best Hero
- Best Villain
- Best Kiss



AWARDS & PRIZES

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.



SHOUT OUT AWARDS



SHOUT OUT AWARDS

- This category is **totally separate** from the rest of the categories in the festival.
- Shout Out sponsors pick who wins their cash award. **They do not judge or score the films.**
- Shout Outs have **no effect whatsoever** on your film's score or your eligibility for other awards.
- Competing for Shout Outs is **100% optional.**



SHOUT OUT AWARDS

- **2Gingers is sponsoring a Shout Out Award again this year!** They are offering \$500 to the team that gives them the best Shout Out.
- Any number of teams can compete for this Shout Out by featuring a bottle 2Gingers in their film or maybe an actor wearing a 2Gingers t-shirt... Be creative!
- Remember: do not promote underage drinking and don't show 2Gingers product in a bad light if you wish to win.



SHOUT OUT AWARDS

- After the films are submitted, 2Gingers will choose the film that they believe gives them the best Shout Out.
- That team then wins the \$500. It's that simple.
- If no team decides to compete for the 2Gingers Shout Out Award, 2Gingers gets their money back.

All Shout Out Sponsors will be announced on or before January 1st.



SHOOTING BEGINS



Shooting Begins Now!

That wraps up the rules for Z-Fest VI.

- **If you have questions, just ask!**
- Call Z Systems, inc. at 952-974-3140 during normal business hours.
- Email Adam or Nicolette:
 - adam@z-fest.com
 - nickia@zsyst.com

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR FILMS!



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