



ZAFTAs ENTRY GUIDELINES

About the ZAFTAs

The Zimbabwe Annual Film and Television Awards (ZAFTAs) is the premier event that recognizes and celebrates the outstanding achievements and contributions of actors, directors, producers, writers, presenters, technicians, and other industry players, connecting them to global audiences.

Our mission is to promote creativity, collaboration, and excellence in the film and television industry. The ZAFTAs are held annually in Harare, Zimbabwe, providing a platform for showcasing the best of Zimbabwean talent to the world. As the custodian of the awards, the Cinema Society of Zimbabwe (CSZ) is committed to upholding the highest standards of excellence and promoting the growth and development of the industry.

Our inaugural event is slated for 2 December 2023, and we promise an unforgettable experience for all attendees. The event will open with a glamorous red-carpet parade, followed by an awards ceremony complete with live musical entertainment. We are excited to showcase the best of Zimbabwean talent and to provide an opportunity for industry players to network, collaborate, and learn from each other.

We are dedicated to creating a positive impact on the industry and the wider community by celebrating the power of film and television to inspire, educate, and entertain. We believe that the ZAFTAs will not only showcase Zimbabwe's unique voice and perspective but also help to raise the profile of the industry both locally and internationally.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the Zimbabwe Annual Film and Television Awards. We invite you to join us in this exciting new initiative and to be a part of the celebration of exceptional cultural and creative industry players.

The ZAFTAs Trophy

- All ZAFTA winners will be presented with the ZAFTAs Trophy and the Certificate of Achievement.
- The ZAFTAs Trophy is a symbol of national pride, hard work and success and it reflects the dreams and ambitions of the Zimbabwean cultural and creative industry.

Classification of Films (Genres)

Submissions will be classified into the following genres:

- **Feature Films:** Film works with a length of 60 minutes and above based on imagination and not necessarily fact.
- **Short Films:** Film works with a running time of 59 minutes or less, including the credits, and based on imagination and not necessarily fact.
- **Documentary:** Film works of between that are based on factual events or facts about a person(s) or place(s).
- **Animation:** This genre will house all film works consisting of a series of drawing, puppets; both computer and non-computer generated, to give the illusion of movement when projected in rapid sequence. (From 2 min+.)
- **Television Drama/Series;** A television drama/series is a show presented in a dramatic way and explores a range of genres, from comedy, soap opera, science-fiction to costume drama, and usually engages with issues of the day in an accessible fashion that an audience can connect with. (Duration between 5mins – 60 mins)
- **Music:** Music videos are short films that accompany a song and aim to enhance its meaning and impact. The award category celebrates the artistry and innovation of music video directors and cinematographers who have made a significant contribution to the industry.
- **Online Content:** Encompasses a wide range of online content, including web series, podcasts, blogs, social media content, and other digital media formats.

Television Categories

1. Outstanding Television Series Award

Awarded to the producer(s) for excellence in a scripted television series, typically based on the overall quality of the series as a whole rather than individual episodes. In order to be considered for this award, a series must have aired during the eligibility period and have been broadcast on any Zimbabwean television channels.

2. Outstanding Cinematography for a Television Series

This award recognizes exceptional achievement in the visual artistry of a television series. This category typically honors a single-camera series that exhibits outstanding cinematography and camera work, with a focus on the technical aspects of the production such as lighting, framing, camera movement, and overall visual style.

3. Outstanding Directing for a Television Series

Awarded in recognition of exceptional directing in a television series. This category typically honors directors who have demonstrated exceptional creativity, vision, and skill in crafting the overall tone and style of a series, and who have guided actors and crew to bring the story to life on screen.

4. Outstanding Editing for a Television Series

This award recognizes exceptional editing in a television series. This category typically honors editors who have demonstrated exceptional skill in crafting the pacing, structure, and overall flow of a series, and who have worked closely with directors, writers, and other members of the production team to create a cohesive and compelling final product.

5. Outstanding TV Actress

Awarded to an actress for exceptional acting skills, compelling character portrayal, the ability to engage and captivate the audience, and a strong presence that enhances the overall quality of the show.

6. Outstanding TV Actor

Awarded to an actor for exceptional acting skills, compelling character portrayal, the ability to engage and captivate the audience, and a strong presence that enhances the overall quality of the show.

7. Outstanding TV Presenter

Awarded to television presenter of a factual or entertainment programme. Awarded for exceptional communication skills, charisma, versatility, relatability, and the ability to engage and captivate audiences.

8. Outstanding Children's Program

Awarded to the producer(s) for outstanding achievement in the production and overall success of a programme designed specifically for children (Age 1-15) or youth audience (Age 16-25) (may include drama)

9. Outstanding Achievement in Wardrobe and Costume Design for Television Award

Awarded to television soapie, telenovela, comedy or drama that have demonstrated exceptional skill and creativity in the design and execution of costumes and wardrobe. The award celebrates the art of costume design and the significant contribution it makes to the overall look and feel of

a series. Costumes can be used to create character, establish time period and setting, or enhance the visual style of a film.

10. Outstanding Achievement in Writing for a Television Show Award (Soap, Telenovela, Comedy or Drama Series)

Awarded to exceptional writing in television shows that showcase creativity, originality, and technical excellence. This award category celebrates the artistry and innovation of television show writers who have made a significant contribution to the industry through their exceptional work.

11. Outstanding Educational Programme Award

Awarded to the producer(s) for outstanding achievement in the production and overall success of a production of any format programme that combines education and entertainment that is designed to improve the knowledge of, or present information to, the viewer but does not meet the specific criteria of categories such as talk or reality, etc.

12. Outstanding Indigenous Culture, Language and Tradition in a Television Series Award

This award will be given to television drama/soap/telenovela that deliver a dialog of up to 60% of the total series in indigenous languages with subtitles to strengthen the heritage and cultural identity of our communities.

13. Outstanding Lifestyle Programme Award

Awarded to the producer(s) for outstanding achievement in the production and overall success of any magazine, travel, fashion, and cooking programme produced either as entertainment, education, or actuality. (This excludes studio-based talk shows and could be shows that include insert segments).

14. Outstanding Current Affairs Programme Award

Awarded to the producer(s) for outstanding achievement in the production and overall success of a programme created specifically in a news/actuality format excluding documentary that has a running time of a minimum of 20 minutes but not more than 40 minutes.

15. Outstanding Television Documentary Series

Awarded in recognition of excellence in a documentary series that explores a specific topic or subject matter. This category typically honors documentary series that demonstrate exceptional

storytelling, research, and production value, as well as a commitment to presenting factual information in a compelling and engaging way.

16. Outstanding Reality-Competition Television Series Award

Awarded to the producer(s) for outstanding achievement in the production and overall success of any programme communicating "real life" situations with a competition element for entertainment purposes, by means of setting out challenges or activities.

Film Categories

17. Outstanding Actor in a Feature Film Award

Awarded to an actor who has delivered exceptional performance in a leading role in a feature-length film. These actors are recognized for their ability to embody their characters, convey complex emotions, and bring depth and nuance to their performances.

18. Outstanding Feature Film Award

Awarded to the producer(s) for outstanding achievement in the overall realisation, production, and success of a full-length film with a running time of a minimum of 60 minutes.

19. Outstanding Actress in a Feature Film Award

Awarded to an actress who has delivered exceptional performance in leading role in a feature-length film. Actresses are recognized for their ability to embody their characters, convey complex emotions, and bring depth and nuance to their performances.

20. Outstanding Performance in the Diaspora Award (Regional)

Awarded to an actor/actress for exceptional acting skills, compelling character portrayal, the ability to engage and captivate the audience, and a strong presence that enhances the overall quality of the show. This award considers performers outside of Zimbabwe but within Africa.

21. Outstanding Performance in the Diaspora Award (Global)

Awarded to an actor/actress for exceptional acting skills, compelling character portrayal, the ability to engage and captivate the audience, and a strong presence that enhances the overall quality of the show. This award considers Zimbabwean performers outside of Africa.

22. Outstanding Writing for a Feature Film Award

Awarded to exceptional writing in feature films that showcase creativity, originality, and technical excellence. This award category celebrates the artistry and innovation of feature film writers who have made a significant contribution to the industry through their exceptional work.

23. Outstanding Achievement in Directing Award

Awarded to an individual for outstanding interpretation and realisation of a production. This includes the guidance of performances (including voiceover), visual expression, the guidance of script uses of sound and music and the final impact of the production.

24. Outstanding Achievement in Cinematography Award

Awarded to an individual for outstanding cinematography – this includes lighting, composition, lensing, and overall contribution to the success of the atmosphere and narrative of the production - using film or video.

25. Outstanding Achievement in Production Design Award

Awarded to a member of a creative team for the most effective creation of a physical atmosphere and visual look that conveys the story and its characters. This includes set design, choice of location, props, textures, and colours. Production designers and Art Directors will be considered within this category.

26. Outstanding Achievement in Wardrobe and Costume Design Award

Awarded to films that have demonstrated exceptional skill and creativity in the design and execution of costumes and wardrobe. The award celebrates the art of costume design and the significant contribution it makes to the overall look and feel of a film. Costumes can be used to create character, establish time period and setting, or enhance the visual style of a film.

27. Outstanding Achievement in Sound Design Award

Awarded to an individual/ team for the highest sound quality and design of effective audio that succeeds in enhancing and supporting emotional content and atmosphere of the story through a combination of music, sound effects, and good voiceovers.

28. Outstanding Achievement in Original Music/Score Award

Awarded to an individual/ team for the composition of the best original music score that enhances the emotional content and atmosphere of the production. Entrants must specify the original music (score, source, and any other music), with a music cue sheet with original cues clearly marked.

29. Outstanding Achievement in Editing Award

Awarded to an individual/team responsible for editing the production – creatively interpreting and realizing the narrative and structure, as well as the overall pace style and finishing.

30. Outstanding Representation of Indigenous Culture, Language and Tradition in a Feature Film Award

This award will be given to feature films that deliver a dialog of up to 60% of the total film in indigenous languages with subtitles to strengthen the heritage and cultural identity of our communities.

31. Best Achievement in Makeup & Hairstyling Award

Awarded to films that have demonstrated exceptional skill and creativity in the design and execution of makeup and hairstyling. The award celebrates the art of makeup and hairstyling and the significant contribution these elements make to the overall look and feel of a film. Makeup and hairstyling can be used to transform actors into characters, create historical accuracy, or enhance the visual style of a film.

32. Outstanding Achievement in Writing for A Short Film Award

Awarded to exceptional writing in short films that showcase creativity, originality, and technical excellence. This award category celebrates the artistry and innovation of short film writers who have made a significant contribution to the industry through their exceptional work.

33. Outstanding Student Film Award

Awarded to the producer(s) from a training institution for outstanding achievement in the production of a Student Film.

Student entrants must be registered with a recognised education facility during the eligible time of entry.

34. Outstanding Short Film Award

Awarded to the producer(s) for outstanding achievement in the realisation production and overall success of fiction films with duration of no more than 40 minutes long.

35. Outstanding Experimental Short Film

Awarded to short films that explore new and unconventional approaches to filmmaking, using experimental techniques and forms to create unique cinematic experiences. These films often challenge traditional storytelling conventions, and can incorporate elements of abstract art, avant-garde music, or non-narrative structures. The award honors filmmakers who push the boundaries of the medium and offer innovative perspectives on the art of filmmaking.

Documentary Categories

36. Outstanding Documentary Feature Award

Awarded to the producer(s) for the outstanding achievement in a single-episode, nonfiction, creatively authored film depicting real people or events. This is distinguished from news, natural history, or current affairs by the incorporation of creative elements such as engaging characters, narrative tension, or insights into the human condition. It can also use a hybrid of formats (animation, recreations, etc.) and styles with a duration of a minimum of 40 minutes or more running time.

37. Outstanding Documentary Short Award

Awarded to the producer(s) for outstanding achievement in a single-episode, non-fiction, creatively authored film depicting real people or events. This is distinguished from news, natural history, or current affairs by the incorporation of creative elements such as engaging characters, narrative tension, or insights into the human condition. It can also use a hybrid of formats (animation, recreations, etc.) and styles. With a duration of no more than 39 minutes.

Animation Categories

38. Outstanding Animation Award

Awarded to the director and or producer(s) for outstanding achievement in the realisation, production and overall success of an animated film, or programme including traditional 2D, 3D, clay animation, or any other form of animation, done shooting frame by frame, created entirely in the digital domain on computer, or a combination of techniques to create an animated character and/or performance.

Music Categories

39. Outstanding Directing in a Music Video

This award is given to directors of music videos that showcase exceptional creativity, technical skill, and artistic vision. These videos are recognized for their ability to enhance the overall listening experience of a song by combining music, visuals, and storytelling into a cohesive and engaging narrative. The award celebrates the art of music video production and honors those who have made a significant contribution to the industry through their innovative and impactful work.

40. Outstanding Cinematography in a Music Video

Awarded to exceptional cinematography in music videos that showcase creativity, technical excellence, and visual storytelling. Cinematography is the art and technique of capturing and manipulating images on film or digital media, and in music videos, it plays a crucial role in enhancing the visual narrative of the song.

Online Content

41. Outstanding Web Series Award

Awarded to web series that have demonstrated exceptional creativity, quality, and originality in storytelling and production. Web series are episodic programs designed for online distribution, typically with shorter episodes and seasons compared to traditional television shows. This award category celebrates the emerging medium of web series and honors those who have made a significant contribution to the industry through their innovative and impactful work.

42. Outstanding Online Content (Non-fiction) Award

Awarded to online content that has demonstrated exceptional creativity, quality, and impact in telling non-fiction stories or presenting factual information. This award category recognizes the growing importance of online platforms in disseminating information and showcasing the work of journalists, documentary filmmakers, and other content creators who produce non-fiction content for the web.

Discretionary and Public Awards

43. Lifetime Achievement Award

This award is presented to an experienced individual with an extensive and outstanding contribution to the South African film and television, both locally and internationally.

44. Outstanding Contributor Award

This award is given to a person who has immensely contributed to the development of the film and television industry.

Other special awards may be awarded at the discretion of the ZAFTAs Executive and Judging Committees.

How to Enter?

- Each submission to be accompanied by a completed Entry Form. Entry Forms will be available on the ZAFTA website at <https://www.zafta.org/downloads> or ZAFTA Submission Centres in Gwanda, Gweru, Bulawayo, Harare (ZIFFT Offices) and Mutare among others.
- If you do not own the rights for the production, a letter of permission is required.
- Each Entry is required to be subtitled in English.
- Cue sheets to be included with each submission for consideration under the original music category.
- One film/television show can be submitted under multiple categories.
- Entries submitting under Writing categories must submit the film and its screenplay. For television, submit 2 episodes and their screenplays.
- Entries submitting under Production Design/Art Direction, Hair & Makeup and Costume Design must submit a motivation which includes the budget, creative treatment, timelines, number of members on each team, and whether the set is an original creation or an existing set.
- Submit 2 x Full Episodes and a showreel of no more than 30 minutes, for the Best TV Presenter category.
- Current Affairs shows to submit 2 episodes between 20 minutes and not longer than 60 minutes. NOTE: Segments WILL NOT BE eligible for submission.
- TV Comedy Submission 2 x Full Episodes
- TV Drama Submission 3 x Full Episodes
- Outstanding Actor/Actress category, submit a film or 2 television episodes in which the actor appeared. A 10 mins showreel is optional.
- Online Content (Web series) 3 x Full Episodes minimum of 5 mins long and a max of 24 minutes

Terms and Conditions

To be eligible for consideration, all films must meet the following requirements:

- Participation in the ZAFTA 2023 awards implies acceptance of the rules and regulations.
- Films that were previously submitted to other Awards are acceptable for submission.
- There are **No Submission** fees.
- The film(s) submitted in the **Indigenous Culture, Language and Tradition** should have **English** subtitles.
- **Film(s) and documentary works being submitted must have been produced between January 2018 and September 2023.**
- **Television productions, music videos, and online content created between January 2022 to September 2023 will be accepted.**
- Films from any country must have been directed or produced by a Zimbabwean citizen.
- There are no limits to number of submissions.

- Video Format Requirements. Accepted File formats include .MP4, .AVI, MOV, .MP4, .M4V. Resolution from 480p,720p and 1080p
- We only accept multiplexed files (i.e., with audio, video, and subtitles in a single file). Your film file should not exceed 4GB.
- You are required to thoroughly test your film before submission.
- Trailers as a substitute for your film and work-in-progress shall not be accepted at the Awards.
- **Return of Materials;** any material submitted will not be returned.
- **Eligibility:** The awards committee will review all eligible entries and select a list of nominees. Nominees will be announced prior to the awards ceremony. The awards committee reserves the right to disqualify any entry that does not meet the eligibility requirements or violates any of the submission guidelines.
- **The Ceremony:** The awards ceremony will be held on 2 December 2023 and location to be determined by the awards committee. All nominees are invited to attend the ceremony, and the winner will be presented with the award during the ceremony.
- **Publicity:** By submitting your entry, you agree to allow the awards committee to use your name, likeness, and footage from your eligible performances/submissions for promotional and publicity purposes.
- **Disputes:** Any disputes arising from the submission process or the awards ceremony will be resolved by the awards committee, and their decision will be final.
- **Changes:** The awards committee reserves the right to change the submission guidelines, categories, or eligibility requirements at any time without prior notice. Any changes will be posted on the awards website.

Submission Links

You can submit to the ZAFTAs using any of the links below;

- through the ZAFTAs Filmfreeway link <https://filmfreeway.com/thezaftas>
- the ZAFTA Google Form here the ZAFTA Google Form here <https://forms.gle/wZTrwvBMV2DRKvAH6>
- by sending files to thezaftas@gmail.com through WeTransfer (Make sure you upload the Entry Form too).

Requirements if your submission is selected/nominated for ZAFTAs

- **Publicity Materials:** You will be required to submit publicity materials, including but not limited to, filmmaker biography, trailer, images, posters, clips and an electronic press kit. All publicity materials are to be to awards@zafta.org by the deadlines provided at the time of selection.

Key Dates for ZAFTAs

Call For Submissions	21 July 2023
Deadline For Submissions	10 September 2023
Nominees Announcement	20 - 30 October 2023
Awards Night	2 December 2023

Contact Us

Thank you so much for your interest in the ZAFTAs. We look forward to a fruitful engagement.
For more information, please contact us

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