



## **Passaic County Film Festival 2024 Call for Entries - Entry Form**

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES:**

**February 1, 2024 by 4:00 PM**

**FESTIVAL SCREENING DATE AND LOCATION:**

**April 27, 2024**

**11:30 am**

**Location:**

**Passaic County Community College  
Public Safety Academy  
300 Oldham Road  
Wayne, NJ**

**The Passaic County Film Festival is sponsored by:  
The Passaic County Board of County Commissioners**

**Pat Lepore**

**County Commissioner Director**

**John W. Bartlett, Esq.**

**County Commissioner Deputy Director**

**Orlando Cruz**

**Terry Duffy**

**Nicolino Gallo**

**Bruce James**

**Cassandra "Sandi" Lazzara**



## Passaic County Film Festival 2024 Call for Entries- Entry Application Form

**OVERVIEW:** This is the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the Passaic County Film Festival, a juried exhibition of student and independent filmmakers' work. The Festival will showcase a wide range of film projects created by students and independent filmmakers who live, attend school, or work in Passaic County.

**OBJECTIVE:** The objective of the Film Festival is to support student and independent film makers by providing a public forum in which to showcase their work and provide an opportunity to interact with members of the television and filmmaking community.

**FILM ENTRY CRITERIA:** All entries must be the sole creative and technical effort of the individual(s) submitting the work. Films must be produced, directed, edited, etc. by High School Students, University Students or Independent Filmmakers only.

**Film entries must be no more than 10 minutes in length. Multi-media/internet videos have a time limit of 60 seconds. Public Service Announcements have a time limit of 90 seconds.** The following film categories apply: 1. General Short Film and Animation; 2. Public Service Announcement; 3. Documentary; 4. Music Video and Performance and 5. Multi-media/internet videos. There will be one **Grand Prize** awarded for the best film of the Festival.

Entries will only be accepted from individuals who are enrolled in an educational institution in Passaic County, who live in Passaic County, who work in Passaic County, or a film that was filmed in Passaic County and **will not** be returned. No films will be judged if they are submitted from the members of the Passaic County Film Commission or their immediate family, however, films may be screened at the festival. *Films previously submitted to the Passaic County Film Festival will not be considered.* The members of the Film Commission reserve the right to combine categories or re-categorize a film entry.

Please note that the Passaic County Film Festival will accept films that adhere to the Motion Picture Association of America Ratings Board, Rating System for the following ratings: **General Audience, Parental Guidance Suggested** and **PG-13 Parents Strongly Cautioned. Some Material May be Inappropriate for Children under 13.** Please note the attached description of these three ratings. Any film containing R-rated material, nudity, graphic violence, or in the exclusive opinion of the Passaic County Film Festival Commission glamorizes drug use or drug references, or alcohol or cigarette consumption or illegal activities **will not be accepted** for screening.

**THERE IS NO ENTRY FEE FOR THIS FESTIVAL.**

**ADMISSION TO THE FESTIVAL ON APRIL 27, 2024 IS ALSO FREE.**

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES:** February 1, 2024 by 4:00 PM

**FESTIVAL SCREENING DATE AND LOCATION:** April 27, 2024, 11: 30 am, **Passaic County Community College, Public Safety Academy, 300 Oldham Road, Wayne, NJ** and YouTube

# Passaic County Film Festival

## Acceptable Rating System for All Films

- G: GENERAL AUDIENCES – All Ages Admitted.** A G-rated motion picture contains nothing in theme, language, nudity, sex, violence or other matters that, in the view of the Film Commissioners, would offend parents whose younger children view the motion picture. Some snippets of language may go beyond polite conversation, but they are common everyday expressions. No stronger words are present in G-rated motion pictures. Depictions of violence are minimal. No nudity, sex scene or drug-use is present in the motion picture.
- PG: PARENTAL GUIDANCE SUGGESTED – Some Material May Not Be Suitable for Children.** The PG rating indicates, in the view of the Film Commissioners, that parents may consider some material unsuitable for their children. The more mature themes in some PG-rated motion pictures may call for parental guidance. There may be some profanity and some depictions of violence or brief nudity. But these elements are not deemed so intense as to require that parents be strongly cautioned beyond the suggestion of parental guidance. There is no drug use content in a PG-rated motion picture.
- PG-13 – Parents Strongly Cautioned. Some Material May Be Inappropriate for Children Under 13.** A PG-13 motion picture may go beyond the PG rating in theme, violence, nudity, sensuality, language, adult activities or other elements, but does not reach the restricted R category. Any drug use will initially require at least a PG-13 rating. More than brief nudity will require at least a PG-13 rating, but such nudity in a PG-13 rated motion picture generally will not be sexually oriented. There may be depictions of violence in a PG-13 movie, but generally not both realistic and extreme or persistent violence. A motion picture's single use of one of the harsher sexually derived words, though only as an expletive, initially requires at least a PG-13 rating. More than one such expletive requires an R rating, as must even one of those words used in a sexual context. The Film Commissioners may rate a motion picture PG –13 if the context or manner in which the words are used, or because the use of those words in the motion picture, is inconspicuous.

**METHOD OF EVALUATION:** All entries will be screened and evaluated by the members of the Passaic County Film Commission. **The following film categories apply: 1. General Short Film and Animation; 2. Public Service Announcement; 3. Documentary; 4. Music Video and Performance and 5. Multi-media/internet videos. There will be one Grand Prize awarded for the best film of the Festival.** A minimum of 5 films must be received per category in order to be judged within that category. If fewer than 5 films per category are received, the films will be judged within the General Short Film category. The Grand Prize will be selected from the first-place winning films in each category entered in the Festival. The members of the Film Commission reserve the right to combine categories or re-categorize a film entry.

**AWARDS:**

The Passaic County Film Festival Award – **The Costello** – will be awarded to the **first, second, and third** place winners from the High School Student entries (class); and the **first, second, and third** place winners from the University Student and/or Independent Filmmaker entries (class). The highest ranked entries in each Class (High School Students, University Students and/or Independent Filmmakers) selected by the judges will be provided an opportunity to be screened at the Festival.

**One Grand Prize for the best film of the Festival will be selected from all first-place winning films in each category** and will also be awarded **The Costello**. The Grand Prize film will be evaluated by the quality of its story telling and film making techniques. Grand Prize films will be ranked 1-5 with 5 representing the highest score.

**EVALUATION CRITERIA:** Each film will be evaluated utilizing the following criteria:

**Scriptwriting (Creativity, Originality, and Structure): 10 points**

**Cinematography (Camera work, lighting quality): 10 points**

**Audio: (Recording, editing and mixing of audio, music): 10 points**

**Editing: (Editing and Postproduction including Special Effects): 10 points**

**Onscreen Performance of Actors: 10 points (Performances will not be judged in Documentaries)**

**Reporting/Research: 10 points (Documentary Films only)**

The highest score a film can receive is 50 points. The film with the highest score in each Category and Class will be declared the first-place winner. The film with the second highest score in each Category and Class will be declared the second-place winner. The film with the third highest score in each Category and Class will be declared the third-place winner.

**ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS:**

Please forward all entries with an accompanying completed and **signed entry form** to:

**[passaiccountyfilmcommission@gmail.com](mailto:passaiccountyfilmcommission@gmail.com)**

**For additional information contact our office at: 973-569-4720**

A pdf version of the film festival application is available at: **[www.passaiccountynj.org](http://www.passaiccountynj.org)** or **<https://www.passaiccountynj.org/government/boards-committees-and-commissions-f-z/film-commission>**

**FILM SOUND WORKSHOP:** The Passaic County Film Commission will sponsor a **FREE** educational workshop - **Film Sound Production 101** - on short film SOUND production on **October 21, 2023, 9:30 am to 11 am**, Passaic County Community College, Public Safety Academy, 300 Oldham Road, Wayne, NJ. The film SOUND workshop will provide technical hands-on training on ensuring good sound quality for your short film. The agenda for the workshop is as follows:

## **Film Sound Production 101** **Curriculum**

**October 21, 2023    9:30 am – 11 am**

### **Part 1: Information session on the 2024 Passaic County Film Festival**

**Welcome and introduction:**

Passaic County Film Commission Members and Guests

**2024 Passaic County Film Festival**

**A. Objectives of the Film Festival/Application/Format of film submissions**

### **Part 2: Film Sound Production 101**

- **Types of Equipment – Equipment List - Proper equipment use**
  - **Microphones: Choices & Gear**
    - **Using a Lav; Wiring Talent; Mounting a Lav; Recording Levels; Monitoring your audio; Microphones & Power; 2-Channel vs. 4-Channel**
- **Proper Technique to Record Your Audio**
- **Locations: Choice and Management**
  - **Assessing an interior**
  - **What you want in a location**
  - **Managing Interiors**
    - **Echo**
    - **Phasing**
    - **Room Tone**
    - **Looping**
- **Post-Production: Editing Basics**
  - **Beginning the Edit**
  - **Levels**
  - **Using Room Tone**
  - **NLE Audio Tools to Deal with Noise**
  - **Building a More Complete Sound Mix**
  - **Fixes You CAN DO in Post**

**Location:** Passaic County Community College, Public Safety Academy, 300 Oldham Road, Wayne, NJ

**RSVP:** [KristenH@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:KristenH@passaiccountynj.org)



# Passaic County Film Festival 2024

## ENTRY APPLICATION FORM

Entry Number: _____ (For Office Use Only)
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Title of Short Film: \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Information:** Please print clearly since email is our primary means of communication.

NAME OF FILMMAKER	EMAIL ADDRESS

Primary Filmmaker Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

### Film Category (select one)

- General Short Film and Animation     Public Service Announcement
- Documentary Film     Music Video and Performance     Multi-media/Internet

### Student Class and School Information

High School: Grade: \_\_\_\_\_                       College: Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_                      Teacher  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address and Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Independent Filmmaker

- Independent Filmmaker
- Film Commissioner: film will not be judged, but considered for screening

# Passaic County Film Festival 2024

## Short Film Information

Title of Short Film: \_\_\_\_\_

Please upload your film on our Google Drive: [passaiccountyfilmcommission@gmail.com](mailto:passaiccountyfilmcommission@gmail.com)

The Format of the short film must be in the following digital format: MPEG4

Please do not use copy protection on your submissions. Copy protected material cannot be technically processed to screen at the festival. The title of the film on the electronic file must match the title of the film on the application in order to avoid confusion. A unique title for your film is appreciated.

Date Film Completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Length of film: \_\_\_\_\_ minutes

Briefly describe the story line of your short film:  
\_\_\_\_\_

How did you learn about the Film Festival?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## INDEMNIFICATION (All filmmakers listed on Page 1 must complete this section, please make additional copies if necessary.)

I /We will indemnify and hold harmless Passaic County, NJ, the Passaic County Film Festival, its sponsors, and partners individually and collectively, from and against all claims, demands, losses, damages, costs, liabilities, and expenses, including legal expenses arising out of or in connection with any and all claims, or third-party claims, based on material submitted to Passaic County Film Festival.

Passaic County hereby has my permission to use my name, my film, photos, and press materials for pre- or post-festival promotion which may include placement on the Passaic County website, Passaic County Facebook page, Passaic County Fair, Cablevision, YouTube and other local stations, in print media and on social media. I/We understand that no entries will be returned to the filmmaker.

By signing this form, I/we understand and agree to all the terms and conditions of the Passaic County Film Festival.

### **Signatures and Date:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Filmmaker Signature                                  Print Name                                  Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent or Guardian Signature                                  Print Name                                  Date  
(If the filmmaker is under 18 years of age, please provide a signature by a parent or guardian)

If you have any questions on this application or on the Film Festival, please contact The Passaic County Film Commission at (973) 569-4720 or e-mail Kristen Holton: [kristenh@passaiccountynj.org](mailto:kristenh@passaiccountynj.org).

**Return all applications to:** Passaic County Department of Planning and Economic Development  
Division of Economic Development, 401 Grand Street, Paterson, NJ 07505, Room 417