



## Sony Future Filmmaker Awards

### Major new awards program for short films announced

Creo is delighted to announce the launch of Sony Future Filmmaker Awards, a major new annual awards program for short films, providing a gateway for the development of creative excellence. Sponsored by Sony and free to enter, the Awards set out to elevate original voices from around the globe with a fresh perspective on storytelling.

Thirty shortlisted filmmakers will be selected and flown to Los Angeles for the Awards ceremony, taking place on **February 22, 2023** in the Cary Grant Theatre at the historic Sony Pictures studio lot in Culver City, California. Winners from six categories - including the Environment and Future Format - will be announced on the night and rewarded with cash prizes and a range of Sony's Digital Imaging equipment. Winners will be selected by a panel of leading figures chaired by award-winning theatre, television and film director Justin Chadwick.

Following the Awards night, all 30 winners and shortlist will attend two days of workshops, screenings and panel discussions led by Sony Pictures executives and top experts in their fields. The exceptional two-day program will cover a wide range of topics from pitching to legal, to working with talent agencies and using cutting-edge technologies including animation and CGI. This invaluable opportunity supports filmmakers' career progression by providing them with exclusive access and unparalleled insight into the inner workings of the industry.

**Justin Chadwick, award-winning theatre, television and film director and Chair of the Jury**, says: *'We are in a moment of great change in the film industry: where studios are looking for original new voices that can cut through the noise and find new ways of communicating with audiences. With the Sony Future Filmmaker Awards we are looking for the next generation of storytellers whose work can engage, inform, entertain and excite. If you have something to say and you want your voice to be heard, we want to hear it.'*

**Kenji Tanaka, Senior Vice President, Sony Corporation**, says: *'Sony's Purpose is to "Fill the world with emotion, through the power of creativity and technology." Working alongside our collaborators Creo to launch the Sony Future Filmmaker Awards, we are truly excited about what this new initiative offers to filmmakers, as it furthers our commitment to content creators and the stories they tell. From access to our world-class facilities and leading experts to the most advanced and innovative technology, we aim to break down all barriers to creativity and provide creators with the tools and the opportunities they need to propel them to the next level.'*

**Scott Gray, Founder and CEO of Creo**, says: *'We are thrilled to launch the Sony Future Filmmaker Awards, with the aim of elevating and championing filmmakers from across the globe. The prize presents a unique opportunity to filmmakers and an exceptional boost to their professional development. This new initiative further builds on Creo's strong track record of setting-up programs to support and advance the careers of creatives and we are grateful to Sony for their sponsorship and to Justin Chadwick for his expert guidance as Jury Chair.'*



The Sony Future Filmmaker Awards includes the following competitions and categories:

### **Filmmaker**

The Filmmaker competition elevates original voices that bring a fresh perspective to storytelling.

- Three categories: **Fiction**, **Non-Fiction** and **Environment**. The Environment category is run in association with Sony Pictures Television's "Picture This" initiative, which champions creativity that communicates a positive future for the planet.
- Entries must be between 5 to 20 minutes in length and can be shot on any device.
- Shortlist of up to 15 filmmakers (maximum five per category).
- Winners and shortlist all receive a trip to Los Angeles to take part in the Awards ceremony and two-day workshop program.
- The three category winners additionally receive \$5,000 (USD) and an FX9 Cinema Line Camera (plus lens).

### **Student Filmmaker**

The Student Filmmaker competition rewards the talent soon set to shape the industry.

- Two categories: **Fiction** and **Non-Fiction**.
- Entrants must be studying a film course at a registered institution at a diploma or degree level worldwide.
- Entries must be between 5 to 20 minutes in length and can be shot on any device.
- Shortlist of up to 10 is selected (maximum five per category) to ensure representation for the different continents and a diverse range of global talent.
- Winners and shortlist all receive a trip to Los Angeles to take part in the Awards ceremony and two-day workshop program.
- The two category winners and their institutions additionally receive a range of Sony's Digital Imaging equipment.

### **Future Format**

The Future Format competition challenges filmmakers to respond to a new technical brief each year.

- For 2023, submissions to be shot exclusively on a smartphone.
- Entries must be between 2 to 5 minutes in length and can be shot on any smartphone.
- Shortlist of up to five is selected.
- Winner and shortlist all receive a trip to Los Angeles to take part in the Awards ceremony and two-day workshop program.
- The category winner additionally receives \$2,500 (USD) and a range of Sony's Digital Imaging equipment.

The deadline for all entries is **December 13, 2022, at 07:00 AM (CT)**. The two-day workshop program will take place at the Sony Pictures studio lot in Culver City, California on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The jury panel for the inaugural edition will be announced in September 2022.

For more information and to submit to the Awards visit: [www.sonyfuturefilmmakerawards.com](http://www.sonyfuturefilmmakerawards.com)



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## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Sony Future Filmmaker Awards

Established by Creo and sponsored by Sony, the Sony Future Filmmaker Awards is a major new annual awards program for short films devoted to supporting and elevating independent filmmakers and creators from across the globe. Set apart by its exceptional prize, the Awards provide successful filmmakers with invaluable opportunities in the form of a trip to Los Angeles and to the historic Sony Pictures Studios in Culver City, California, where they gain exclusive access to experts and unparalleled insight into the inner workings of the industry. Winners additionally receive cash prizes and a range of Sony Digital Imaging equipment. Free to enter, the Awards comprise three competitions: Filmmaker, Student Filmmaker and Future Format, and are judged by a panel of leading figures. By supporting talents in film, video and storytelling, the Sony Future Filmmaker Awards provides a gateway for the development of creative excellence. [www.sonyfuturefilmmakerawards.com](http://www.sonyfuturefilmmakerawards.com)

### Justin Chadwick

Justin Chadwick is an award-winning British theatre, television and film director. He is best known for critically acclaimed films including the Oscar, BAFTA and Golden Globe-nominated *Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom* (2013), the AFI and IFTA nominated *The Other Boleyn Girl* (2008); *Tulip Fever* (2017) and *The First Grader* (2010). His films have won numerous awards including the Audience Award at Durban International Film Festival, the Audience Prize for Best Film at Doha Tribeca Film Festival, both Best Director's Choice and Audience Choice Awards at the Sedona Film Festival, and Best Feature Film at the Palm Beach Film Festival 2010. His award-winning short films include *Boy* (2011), *Shakespeare Shorts* (1996) and *Family Style* (1993). His directorial work for television includes *Eastenders*, *Byker Grove*, *The Bill*, and *Spooks*, and he established two series: *Red Cap* (2003-2004) and *Murder Prevention* (2004) and BAFTA award-winning and Golden Globe-nominated *Bleak House* (2005). Justin has additionally been nominated for an Emmy Award and the BAFTA Award for Best Direction. His recent work includes lead director on *Tin Star* (2017) for Sky and for *Becoming Elizabeth* (2022) for Starz.

### Creo

Creo initiates and organises events and programming across three key strands: photography, film and contemporary art. Established in 2007 as World Photography Organisation, Creo has since grown in scope, furthering its mission of developing meaningful opportunities for creatives and expanding the reach of its cultural activities. Today, its flagship projects include the Sony World Photography Awards, PHOTOFAIRS Shanghai, Photo London and the Sony Future Filmmaker Awards. Working in partnership with Angus Montgomery Arts, Creo helps deliver the group's ventures, comprising some of the world's leading art fairs. Taking its name from the Latin for 'I create', it is in this spirit that Creo sets out to empower and give agency to creative voices. [www.creoarts.com](http://www.creoarts.com)



### **Sony Corporation**

Sony Corporation is responsible for the Entertainment, Technology & Services (ET&S) business in the Sony Group. With the vision of “continuing to deliver Kando and Anshin\* to people and society across the world through the pursuit of technology and new challenges,” Sony will create products and services in areas such as home entertainment & sound, imaging, and mobile communications. For more information, visit: [www.sony.net](http://www.sony.net)

\* Both Japanese words, Kando means emotion and Anshin has various meanings such as peace of mind, reassurance, reliability and trust.

### **Sony Pictures Entertainment**

Sony Pictures Entertainment (SPE) is a subsidiary of Tokyo-based Sony Group Corporation. SPE's global operations encompass motion picture production, acquisition, and distribution; television production acquisition, and distribution; television networks; digital content creation and distribution; operation of studio facilities; and development of new entertainment products, services and technologies. Sony Pictures Television operates dozens of wholly-owned or joint-venture production companies around the world. SPE's Motion Picture Group production organizations include Columbia Pictures, Screen Gems, TriStar Pictures, 3000 Pictures, Sony Pictures Animation, Stage 6 Films, AFFIRM Films, Sony Pictures International Productions, and Sony Pictures Classics. For additional information, visit [www.sonypictures.com/corp/divisions](http://www.sonypictures.com/corp/divisions)