

FLICKERUP AUSTRALIAN YOUTH & SCHOOLS COMPETITION RESOURCE



www.flickerfest.com.au

ABOUT FLICKERFEST

WHO WE ARE

Flickerfest began as a small local festival at the Balmain High School in 1991. Since then it has grown to become Australia's leading Academy® accredited & BAFTA recognised competitive Australian & International Short Film Festival with 1000's of entries coming from filmmakers across the globe.

FLICKERFEST, Australia's premier international short film festival, will be held at the Bondi Pavilion on Sydney's famous Bondi Beach in January 2027. The Festival in 2027 will celebrate 36 years of screening the best short films from Australia and around the world in competitions and special showcases. Following the Festival in Sydney, a selection of films will go on tour to 50+ capital cities and regional centres around Australia.



BRONWYN KIDD - FESTIVAL DIRECTOR

Through FlickerUp, Flickerfest is thrilled to support our most talented emerging filmmakers 18 years and under and discover the stories that matter to them. Supporting and discovering our newest Australian screen creatives is critical to the future of our Australian film industry and Flickerfest is honoured to provide a platform for our audiences to meet our most talented new screen filmmakers and to encourage our FlickerUp filmmakers to feel confident to pursue their filmmaking dreams.

LEIGH RUSSELL - FLICKERUP CURATOR

I am always impressed with the quality of films we get through the FlickerUp programme. This is my absolute favourite strand of the festival, as it is a wonderful launchpad for young filmmakers. I am looking forward to viewing the entries for our 2027 festival. Have fun making your film!

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HOW TO ENTER YOUR FILM

AWARDS AND JURY

- AFTRS Award for Best Australian Youth Short Film
- Yoram Gross Award for Best Australian Youth Animation
- Avid Award for Best Editing in an Australian Youth Short Film

The FlickerUp jury over the years has been led by industry professionals including: Eliza Scanlen (*Little Women, Babyteeth*), Hunter Page-Lochard (*Cleverman, Brand Nue Dae*), Odessa Young (*Shirley, The Daughter*), Marvin Rowland (*The Gamers 2037*), Morgan Davies (*Stormboy*), Jessica Ellicott (*Transmission Films*), James Fraser (*December Boys*), Harry Greenwood (*Hacksaw Ridge*), Mitzi Ruhlmann (*Boys in the Trees*), Morgan Griffin (*The Sleepover Club*), Callan McAuliffe (*The Great Gatsby, I am Number Four*), Rahel Romahn (*The Principal*), Alice Keohavong (*The Rocket*), Renee Brack (SAE), Liron Gilmore (SAE).

SUBMIT YOUR FILM

FlickerUp 2027 competition is an Australian Youth & Schools Competition which screens at Flickerfest – open to films from students enrolled in secondary schools in Australia, or individuals 18 and under.

(Films are to be completed in the last 2 years & be under 25mins).

2027 FlickerUp submissions close:

Visit: <https://flickerfest.com.au> to submit your film and for terms and conditions.

TIME FRAME

- Entries Open / August 2026
- ENTER YOUR FILM! / August - Nov 2026
- Entries Close / 23 Nov 2026
- Notification / Dec 2026
- Films due / Mid Dec 2026
- Film screening / 30 Jan 2027

*dates subject to change

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW SHORT DOES MY SHORT FILM HAVE TO BE?

Films submitted must be under 25 minutes long. In previous festivals we have screened films that can tell a great story in 1, 5, 10 and 15 minutes. You don't need a lot of time to tell a fabulous story. The shorter, the better.

WHAT TYPES OF FILMS CAN I ENTER?

We don't have any theme - we want you to have the freedom to choose. We love seeing all types of films: any genre and style including live action, documentary, silent, music clips, experimental, stop motion, animation.

I MADE MY FILM LAST YEAR, CAN I STILL ENTER?

All films screened at Flickerfest 2027 must have been completed within 2 years of the entry closing date and must be in English or have English subtitles.

WHAT PERMISSIONS DO I NEED FOR MY FILM?

You need permissions for anything in your film that does not belong to you and can include music, footage, where you film and/or actors you use.

CAN MY SHORT FILM HAVE SWEARING IN IT or VIOLENCE?

We have a PG audience at our screenings and we ask you keep that in mind. We do not screen films with gratuitous violence, racism or sexual content.

I DON'T HAVE A PROFESSIONAL CAMERA - DOES THAT MATTER?

No, a great story is what counts. You can use your phone, camera or film camera. Head to our resources and tips page for assistance in polishing your film.

CAN I VIEW FILMS FROM PREVIOUS FESTIVALS?

Yes, you sure can. We have a FLICKERUP Vimeo channel where you can view past films and also hear from the filmmaker. <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7476020>

HOW DO YOU JUDGE THE FILMS?

We have an industry professional jury who looks at various elements of your film - your story, sound, pacing.

IS THERE AN ENTRY FEE? AND CAN I ENTER AS MANY FILMS AS I LIKE?

Yes we have an entry fee (please refer to our entry page for details). You can enter as many films as like. If you are a school, please contact us on a bulk entry discount: coordinator@flickerfest.com.au

WHAT ARE THE FESTIVAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS?

Visit our website for our full terms and conditions www.flickerfest.com.au

WHO DO I CONTACT FOR HELP IN ENTERING, TECH ISSUES OR QUESTIONS?

Contact our festival coordinator on coordinator@flickerfest.com.au



HEAR FROM OUR PREVIOUS WINNERS



Filmmaker: Grace Mincherton

Film: Round To It

Year: 2021

Award: Award for Best Australian High School/Youth Short Film

FlickerUp aids as an inspiration for young filmmakers. It provides the well-needed motivation for filmmakers to push their imaginations further and explore areas in the film industry that are left undiscovered. Personally, FlickerUp gave me confidence in my abilities in filmmaking which encouraged further exploration in film.

Filmmaker: Radheya Jegathev

Film: iRony

Year: 2018

Award: Avid Award for Best Editing in a High School/Youth Short Film

I think FlickerUp plays a very inspiring role for young filmmakers, and is very encouraging to be part of as an emerging creative. When I was selected for it, I was enthralled at the opportunity to be screened as part of Flickerfest, especially as an Academy Award and BAFTA Qualifying festival. For young filmmakers, to be able to participate in something like that really shows us that we can pursue our dreams and passions, especially at a time when you're trying to figure out what you should or can do in life and your career.

Filmmaker: Miles Gibson

Film: *Malcolm & John*

Year: 2016

Award: FlickerUp Award for Best High School/Youth Production

In filmmaking, it's incredibly important to be able to set yourself goals, see what others around you are making as well as see your own work in front of an audience. FlickerUp presents an incredible opportunity to pursue these.

Filmmakers: Gabrielle Gregoire and Olivia Lawson

Film: La Torta

Year: 2021

Award: Avid Award for Best Editing in a High School/Youth Short Film

For young filmmakers, FlickerUp provides the opportunity to showcase our films, our stories and ourselves as creatives. It also provides inspiration and a sense of connection to the whole film industry in Australia.

I think it's a great opportunity for young filmmakers to see their film on a big screen while also taking the time to see what others are doing, in FlickerUp and also Flickerfest. It's also a really good thing to hear feedback on your project (and others) so that you're not stagnant and always improving!

Filmmaker: Elliot Gibson

Films: *Let Me In*, *Let Me In* and *Anansi*

Years: 2020 and 2019

Award: Yoram Gross FlickerUp Award Best High School/Youth Animated Short Film

Definitely enter your films – it is an easy application process, and it is fantastic to see and learn from other people's films. It is also really rewarding to see your film on the big screen in a great venue!

READ MORE HERE: <https://flickerfest.com.au/flickerup-alumni/>

TIPS ON MAKING YOUR SHORT FILM

Short films are the beginning of any journey to exploring or launching a professional career in the film industry.

An Exciting & Original Idea

Original ideas are not easy to come-by but a good way of avoiding clichéd ideas is to watch lots of other short films, look out for any trends and stay clear of them. Even if your idea isn't completely original try to look at the subject matter from a different angle or using a different style/technique. If you're struggling for ideas, you could try to find inspiration in your experiences or those of the people that you meet or through the stories that you read in newspapers, magazines and online. **The best short films are often based on a true story or personal experience because they feel authentic.**

Some tips for writing a short film THE SHORTER THE BETTER

A short film can be anything from fifteen seconds to forty-five minutes in length. Make your short film script as short as possible because the shorter the short, the less costly it will be to produce. Of course, digital technology frees up filmmakers, yet time still costs money, so does feeding a hungry crew, and if you shoot too fast your short film might end up looking amateurish. It has to be cheap but shouldn't LOOK cheap! Plus, if you want to get your short into a festival, then keep it to no more than 10-15 minutes, which is usually 7-15 pages maximum. Why? Because if your short film is longer, it will take up a longer slot and festivals love to play as many shorts as possible! **You can also create real emotion in just a few minutes.**

KEEP THE PRACTICALITIES OF WRITING IN MIND

The great thing about shorts is that they can be anything because they are not reliant on big budgets. However, don't discard the practicalities of writing your script. Do not fill your script with pages of chase-action scenes and car crashes, as many writers seem not to realise how time consuming it would be to actually shoot. In fact, see the writing of a short as an opportunity to become more aware of what each line you put down on paper implies and costs. Visions of white horses galloping in the moonlight certainly look amazing in your mind but are you sure you're good friends with a horse wrangler and/or a CGI specialist? If you only have access to modest resources, think small. **Write for locations that are interesting yet practical, think of access and control.**

MAKE IT VISUAL

"Film is a visual medium". "Show, don't tell." Those are the golden rules of screenwriting the experts keep telling us. Yet it's astonishing to see how talky most scripts are. Film is about telling stories in pictures, which is the most economical way of telling a story. When you make a short film, economy is everything. Create visual backstories for your characters. Externalise through visual images their temperament, their profession, their status, etc. Less is certainly more where dialogue is concerned.

TIPS ON MAKING YOUR SHORT FILM

FIND SINGLE MOMENTS

The best short films are often a single moment that is played out, but one that has a **story at its heart**. What do we mean by story? We mean a conflict that has to be resolved, where there's a dilemma at stake and a choice that the protagonist has to make and a journey they need to go on.

TELL A STORY

You should always try to tell a compelling story. Beware of ideas that are concept- driven or just aim at breaking all the rules for the sake of breaking rules. Short films are a great opportunity to push the boundaries of what cinematic storytelling can do, yet they must still engage your audience emotionally.

As a rule of thumb, unless it is extremely brief a short film should have a hero with a goal and an obstacle/antagonist in the way.

ENGAGE THE VIEWER

Since you have so little time to make an impression the impact of page one is crucial, just as it is crucial to hook the reader in the first 10 pages of a feature length script. What is the world of the film? Do we barrack for the main character? Does the world and story of the film feel authentic? The ending is also essential as it's rare to truly feel moved at the end of a short, so **work towards a meaningful, satisfying ending.**

BEWARE OF CLICHES

There are many clichés in short films, and much navel gazing. How come everybody feels the need to write about hit men for hire, heists, and criminals? Avoid stereotypes unless you have a fresh slant on them. Write what you're familiar with and what resonates with you rather than writing something you borrowed from other films. Don't shy away from small stories, short formats are the perfect vehicle for them and you won't often get the opportunity to tell small stories as a professional writer.

Last but not least, **watch as many short films as possible.**

Strong Beginning

Your short film has to grab their attention from the very first shot, the harsh reality is that if your film doesn't grab their interest within the first two minutes, in all likelihood they may not sit through it till the end. Don't waste time on lengthy introductions – spark their interest in the story as quickly as you can. Similarly if your film starts with a long establishing shot where nothing really happens, viewers may switch off before you get to show them your great plot and idea. If the pace of your film is naturally slow and ambling, make the shots as rich and enticing as possible to draw the viewer in.

MOST IMPORTANTLY

Have fun making your short film and learn from the process.

RESOURCES

BE INSPIRED

FlickerUp Youth Short Film channel

We are excited to be bringing a collection of short film with introductions from our talented young filmmakers to a wider audience through our FlickerUp Youth Short Film Channel. The FlickerUp Youth Short Film Channel gets behind the scenes with our talented FlickerUp filmmakers giving them the opportunity to share their inspiration, process and techniques that has brought their films to life. We hope you enjoy this FlickerUp collection and are inspired to tell your own stories on screens big and small.

VIEW HERE: <https://vimeo.com/showcase/7476020>

MUSIC FOR YOUR FILM

Music from Moby for film students for their short film, available to licence for free.

<https://mobygratis.com/>

FILMMAKING SKILLS

The Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) has a wealth of resources for the first-time young filmmaker or more experienced.

Film It is an online resource covering a range of filmmaking skills found in pre-production, production and post-production stages.

<https://www.acmi.net.au/education/film-it/>

Stopmotion Animation

Tinkerlab

<https://tinkerlab.com/easy-stop-motion-animation-kids/>

How to make a LEGO animation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Effc2dMmOJE>

Stop Motion Central - claymation

<https://www.stopmotioncentral.com/claymation/>

NETWORK with like minded young film lovers

Film in Revolt

www.filminrevolt.org



CONTACTS

Festival Director: Bronwyn Kidd
Production and Tour Manager: Shane Rennie
FlickerUp programmer: Leigh Russell

FLICKERFEST

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