



Conditions of Entry

Terms and Conditions for Entry for the 2026 Melbourne International Comedy Festival's Funny Shorts

By submitting your Film through FilmFreeway, the Filmmaker agrees to the following:

1. Definitions

'Acceptance Criteria' means the elements set out in Section 2 of these Conditions of Entry that all Films must satisfy to be accepted.

'Film/s' means the short film submitted.

'Filmmaker' means the person(s) who created and holds all rights to the Film. Reference to as single Filmmaker includes all Filmmakers relevant to the Film.

'The Festival' means the 2026 Melbourne International Comedy Festival.

'MICF' means the Melbourne International Comedy Festival Limited.

'Screening' means the public presentation of the film either; in a cinema or other space; online via YouTube, Instagram, Facebook or other social media or digital platforms; on a streaming service such as Netflix, SBS On Demand, ABC iView or other digital streaming services; or broadcast via terrestrial network broadcasters such as ABC TV, Nine, SBS or other broadcast networks.

'Submission Declaration Form' means the form to be completed by the Filmmaker at the time of submission.

2. Acceptance Criteria

- (a) Films must be less than ten (10) minutes in length including opening and closing credits.
- (b) Films must have been completed between 1 January 2025 and 2026 Funny Shorts submissions closing date.
- (c) Filmmaker(s) must be over 18 at the time of submission, and must be Australian citizens or Australian permanent residents.
- (d) Films must not be publicly available to view, stream or otherwise broadcast to the public between the date of submission and the final Festival Funny Shorts screening date (14 April 2026). For the avoidance of doubt, Films may have already premiered at a cinema, festival, on television or other streaming service, provided that from the time of submission to the final MICF Funny Shorts screening date the Film is not able to be viewed by the public (whether free or at a cost) on any other broadcast channel.
- (e) Films must be submitted via FilmFreeway, along with a completed Submission Declaration Form.
- (f) A Submission Declaration Form will not be regarded as complete until the Film synopsis, Filmmaker's information, relevant creative credits and the AI declaration are all submitted.
- (g) At the time of submission, the Filmmaker must declare any significant use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Film's Submission Declaration Form. This includes:
 - i. Use of AI to generate imagery, dialogue, or sound design.
 - ii. Use of AI to simulate performances by real or fictional individuals.
 - iii. Use of AI tools in scripting, editing, or post-production. (Note: We rely on the filmmaker's honest self-reporting, aligning with current industry-wide norms regarding AI integration in creative practices.)



- (h) An uploaded film file must be of appropriate quality, with English subtitles (if the original language is not English).
- (i) Entries will not be accepted without payment of the entry fee.
- (j) The Festival reserves the right to make exceptions to the Acceptance Criteria at their discretion.

3. Funny Shorts

- (a) Funny Shorts has been established to recognise and reward excellence in screen comedy. Films should be original, short-form, and funny.
- (b) The Filmmaker must:
 - i. ensure all information submitted through FilmFreeway or through any other form of correspondence with MICF is true and accurate;
 - ii. upload the Film correctly via the Festival's FilmFreeway page by 23:59 (AEDT) on 20 February 2026;
 - iii. pay the Entry Fee (charged in USD) through FilmFreeway;
 - iv. accept that all Entry Fees are non-refundable;
 - v. own the rights or have permission from the rights holders to use all vision, sound, performances, music and images in the Film, as necessary to submit the Film to MICF, and for the Film to screen at the Festival, on the Festival's YouTube Channel and via sub-license to any Australian broadcast, social media or streaming platform(s) if it is selected.
 - vi. have the sole and full right and authority to accept the Conditions of Entry and grant the rights required in the Conditions of Entry.
- (c) MICF will not accept physical submissions. All Films must be submitted through FilmFreeway.
- (d) MICF is unable to extend the deadline and cannot accept requests to waive the Entry Fee.
- (e) Any costs associated with entering the Film are to be paid by the Filmmaker.
- (f) It is the responsibility of the Filmmaker to read and understand the Conditions of Entry. If a film is deemed ineligible for the competition after the Entry Fee has been paid, refund of such fee will be entirely at the discretion of the Festival.
- (g) MICF reserves the right to withdraw a Film from the competition if it deems the Conditions of Entry have not been met.
- (h) The Filmmaker agrees to indemnify MICF against any and all legal claims arising from the content of the Film, including but not limited to the infringement of copyright and intellectual property, libel, defamation, invasion of privacy and breach of contract.
- (i) The Filmmaker will inform MICF, if, having submitted the Film, the Filmmaker becomes aware of any potential claims against the Film.
- (j) MICF does not claim any ownership rights to the Film.
- (k) By submitting the Film, the Filmmaker grants to MICF a non-exclusive licence to publicly screen the selected film, if selected as a Finalist Film:
 - i. at the 2026 Melbourne International Comedy Festival in theatres contracted for use by the Festival;
 - ii. on the Festival's YouTube Channel or other Festival social media platforms for a period of 12 months until 19 April 2027.
 - iii. via sub-license to any Australian terrestrial broadcast or digital streaming platform(s) for a period of 12 months until 19 April 2027.
- (l) By submitting the Film, if selected as a Finalist Film, the Filmmaker grants to MICF a non-exclusive licence to:



- i. publicly broadcast up to 30 second excerpts from the Film for the purposes of promoting the Film as part of 2026 Funny Shorts;
- ii. use stills from the submitted materials and descriptive material about the Film in the marketing and promotion of 2026 Funny Shorts; and
- iii. make information extracted from the submitted materials available to the media.

4. Selection and screening

- (a) All Films will be viewed by the MICF selection committee for shortlisting, and presented to the Jury of Funny Shorts for final judging.
- (b) The number of shortlisted films selected by MICF is at the sole discretion of the MICF selection committee.
- (c) The Jury, appointed by MICF, will consist of members of the film and comedy industry. The majority of Jury members will be Australian.
- (d) The Jury will determine the list of 2026 Funny Shorts Finalist Films. The number of Finalist Films is at the discretion of the Jury, in consultation with MICF.
- (e) The Jury will determine the winner, from the list of Finalist Films, of the 2026 Funny Shorts Award. The Jury Chairperson will exercise a casting vote in the event the Jury is unable to determine a winner. The results will be known only by the Jury and MICF and will be embargoed until the announcement at the 2026 Funny Shorts Premiere Screening.
- (f) The Filmmaker (director(s), or their nominee(s)) of the winning film in the 2026 Funny Shorts will receive a cash prize of AUD\$5,000, The Filmmaker (director(s), or their nominee(s)) of each Finalist Film in 2026 Funny Shorts will receive a screening presentation fee of AUD\$150.
- (g) Additional prizes, awards, or benefits may be offered at the Festival's discretion. Any person, including as determined by MICF, who has taken part in, or to have or perceived to have an interest in relation to, the production or distribution of a Film in 2026 Funny Shorts will declare that interest and will not participate in the selection or judging process.
- (h) Jury decisions will be final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
- (i) Filmmakers will be notified in writing if their Film has been selected as a Finalist Film.
- (j) Once a Film has been selected as a Finalist Film, the following materials must be provided to MICF:
 - i. at least two high resolution stills from the selected Film;
 - ii. a one paragraph (short) synopsis (in English);
 - iii. director's statement about the film; and
 - iv. a file of the Film in broadcast format: H.264 or Apple ProRes 422.
- (k) The entrant may not withdraw the film from MICF once it has been selected as a Finalist Film.
- (l) MICF may refuse to allow the participation of any Film where the format of that Film fails to meet the technical requirements for a public screening of good quality.