



**Leeds Young** **Animator of the Year Award** Entry Guidelines



**What is Leeds Young Animator of the Year Award?**

LYFF’s Young Animator of the Year Award is a new competition for young animators up to the age of 14 from the UK. A new addition to [Leeds Young Film](http://www.leedsfilmcity.com)’s line-up of competitions, which also include the Golden Owl Awards. The Young Animator of the Year Award continues our tradition of supporting young creatives throughout the UK who are passionate about film. Part of Animation Central, Leeds Young Film Festival’s hub for exciting animation workshops and masterclasses for young people and their families, the Young Animator of the Year Award showcases and celebrates the incredible talent, imagination and drive young people pour into animated short films.

**Who can enter?**

Any young person living in the UK who has made a short animated film since January 2017 can submit to this competition. We welcome submissions from individuals or groups of friends. Films can be up to ten minutes in length. We are not looking for films made by community groups, schools or with big organisations. If you think your film might fall into this category, see below for some other competitions/ festivals to enter.

**Will all films be shown?**

Not all films sent to the Film Festival will be screened. The films will be shortlisted by a panel of industry professionals. Shortlisted films will be broadcast online and winners will be included on our website. All finalists will be screened in a programme celebrating young filmmaking during Leeds Young Film Festival. We hope that shortlisted filmmakers will be able to attend this event.

**What is the prize?**

All shortlisted filmmakers will receive a certificate of nomination and the winner in each age category will receive our prestigious Young Animator of the Year trophy and £100 towards their next film. The winning films will be announced during Leeds Young Film Festival and online at leedsfilmcity.com

**What sort of films are we looking for?**

Films can be of any genre or animation style such as 2D drawn animation, 3D stop-motion or digital computer animation. We are looking for interesting storytelling and the spark of creativity that sets your film aside from other animated short films.

We would also like to know a little bit more about you, why you made this film and how long you have been animating for. We are looking for films from people of all ages and abilities so don’t be shy if this is your first project.

**How will I know if my film has been selected?**

If your film is successful, then we will contact you by Friday 23 March 2018 at the latest. If you do not hear from us by then your film has not been selected.

**For more information contact leedsyoungfilmentry@gmail.com or call Leeds Young Film on 0113 378 5999**

**APPLICATION CRITERIA:**

1. **Produced by children / young people under 14**

 The majority of the people involved in the production of the film must be aged 14 years or under. The production must be young person-led and young people must have devised the script or story. Young people must also have been involved in using the camera and sound equipment and been involved in the editing.

1. **Maximum of 10 minutes, including credits**Films can be of any length up to 10 minutes. We know how much effort goes into making an animated film so even one minute films will be considered – longer is not necessarily better. Trailers will not be accepted – only complete films.
2. **Only films made since January 2017 can be entered**

 Previous submissions will not be accepted.

1. **Maximum 3 entries per person / group.**

You may enter up to three films in total; however only **ONE** film can be shortlisted per person / group.

1. **Contains no copyrighted material**If your film is selected you must have gained permission for any copyrighted material, including music / soundtrack.

**JUDGING CRITERIA:**

* **Young people’s involvement throughout the filmmaking process** - we are really interested in your ideas as the young people who are making the film. We want to hear your ideas and stories and know how much you have driven the project, as well as how much you have been involved in the process of making it. If there has been adult involvement, please tell us how much they have been involved and how much has been your own work.
* **Compelling, interesting and engaging storytelling –** all good filmmaking is good storytelling and we will be looking at how strong and original the ‘story’ is and how effectively it is told with the chosen techniques / formats (e.g. fiction, documentary, style of animation).
* **Originality and creativity** - a good film is not dependent on complicated techniques and expensive equipment, we will be looking at how effectively and creatively the resources/equipment available have been used to tell the story. We are particularly interested in innovative techniques such as interesting camera shots or how the editing has been carried out in a way which enhances the storytelling.
* **Age and ability** – we don’t expect the technical ability of 5 year olds to be as good as 14 year olds and this will be taken into account. However, we do expect the creativity and involvement of the young people to be clearly demonstrated regardless of age.

**HOW TO ENTER:**

The deadline for entries is: **Monday 19 March 2018.**

Please upload a digital copy of the film to Vimeo or YouTube and include the link and password on the application form. Instructions for how to upload your video using Vimeo are available at [**www.leedsyoungfilm.com**](http://www.leedsyoungfilm.com)

**If you choose to upload your film, you must still send in an application form to** **leedsyoungfilmentry@gmail.com****.**

Alternatively, please return the attached entry form with a copy of the film on a DVD or memory stick to:

**Leeds Young Film Festival, Leeds Young Animator of the Year ENTRY 2018, Town Hall, The Headrow, Leeds, LS1 3AD**

**Each film entry MUST be accompanied by an entry form. If you send in more than one film, you will need to complete an entry form for each submission.**

DVDs and memory sticks cannot be returned, so please don’t send the master copy of your film.

Please do not send your film via deadline-specific upload sites such as WeTransfer.

**IDEAS & TIPS:**

We want your films to be the best they can be so here are some ideas and tips to help you:

* Write your story before you start animating. Think about how you are going to design, make or draw your characters. Because it takes a long time to animate films, you want to be sure you know what is going to happen in your story and what shots you need before you start shooting.
* Start your film with a few frames where nothing is moving – it can be confusing to the viewer if your film starts with lots of things moving at once. Give the viewer time to get used to the opening scene before launching into your animation.
* A normal film has 24 -25 frames per second, which means taking that many pictures to make one second of film. This means moving your characters a tiny amount each time. Don’t get impatient and be tempted to move your figures faster – this will only make your animation very jerky when played back at normal speed.
* Don’t be tempted to make a really long film – every minute of animation will require over 1200 frames, which is a lot of drawing, modelling or computer design. The 30 minute Wallace and Gromit short films each took over 2 years to make – start small and work your way up!
* Don’t create an animation with lots of characters – each one will need to be adjusted for every frame of the film which will be very time consuming. Stick to one or two main characters.
* Keep the camera very still, ideally on a tripod if you have one - even the tiniest movement will be noticeable when played back on the big screen.
* Make sure you don’t get your fingers in the frame when making your film. Check each frame as you go along and retake the shot if there is anything in the frame that shouldn’t be there.
* Use artificial light to light your set. If you use daylight it will be very hard to keep the lighting consistent from one shot to the next, especially if you are shooting over a few days.
* Try to get rid of any reflections on your set as these will show up when you play your film back. What may be unnoticeable in a single frame may become very distracting when animated.
* If you need objects to ‘fly’ in your film, consider placing the camera above your set and shooting straight down so that the floor becomes the background. Alternatively use clear fishing wire to suspend objects, as this is almost invisible on film.

**ENTRY FORM Please use one form per film**



**THE FILM**



**Film Title:**

**Year of Production:**

**Running Time (min):**

**Submission Format:**

Digital File Vimeo Link: www.vimeo.com/ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Password: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Youtube Link: www.youtube.com/ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Password: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

DVD Memory Stick

**CATEGORY**

How old were the majority of the crew at the time of the film’s production?


9 and Under 1 10-14 

**CREW**



Please list **all people** who worked on the film, their **role** and **ages** (please use an additional sheet if necessary)

**DIRECTOR(S): WRITER(S):**

**ANIMATOR(S): OTHER:**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF FILMMAKERS:**

**SYNOPSIS**



Please write a brief summary of the film. (max 50 words – please use an additional sheet if necessary)

**PREVIOUS SCREENINGS**



Where else has this film been shown? (please use an additional sheet if necessary)

**ABOUT THE FILMMAKER**



Please tell us a bit more about you and your animation, for instance: How long did it take to make? Is it your first animation or film, or have you made others? What gave you the idea for this film? You could also include some information about any techniques you had to learn or even develop yourself. You don't need to write lots, just a few lines.

**CONTACTS**



**Contact Name: Relationship to Film:**

**E-mail address(es): Telephone No:**

**Full Address:**

**Postcode:**

**AGREEMENT**



Agreement of Participation (to be signed by Filmmaker(s), and parent/ guardian)

I agree that the Film Festival can use the images from the film in their publications, press and media releases about the Awards and Film Festival in print and online.

I agree that the Film Festival can upload the film to the leedsyoungfilm.com website, the Leeds Film Festival YouTube channel and other online channels.

I agree that, if shortlisted, the film can be exhibited on Leeds Big Screen and during Leeds Young Film Festival.

I agree that the Film Festival can keep the disc / digital file for its archive film libraries for viewing by other film festivals and organisations and for use in educational context.

I confirm that permission has been granted from all participants to enter the film into the Leeds Young Film Festival Young Animator of the Year Awards.

I confirm that there are no outstanding copyright or licensing issues with any of the material or soundtrack in this film.

If my film is shortlisted for the Leeds Young Animator of the Year Award, I will attend the screening event at Leeds Young Film Festival.

**Signed: Co-signed by an adult**

**Print Name: Signed:**

**Date: Relationship to filmmaker:** 

**FURTHER INFORMATION**



**OTHER FILM FESTIVALS THAT ACCEPT FILM ENTRIES**

**Berwick Film and Media Arts Festival**

http://www.berwickfilm-artsfest.com/

**British International Amateur Film Festival**http://www.biaff.org.uk/

**Camera Zizanio, Greece**https://filmfreeway.com/festival/CameraZizanio

**Chapel Allerton Short Film Festival**http://chapelallerton.org.uk/

**Cinemagic**

www.cinemagic.org.uk

**Future Film Festival**

www.bfi.org.uk/futurefilm (if you’re 16+)

**Screentest Festival**

www.screentestfest.org.uk

**Wales International Young People’s Film Festival**

http://wicked.wales/

**YOUKI International Youth Media Festival**http://www.youki.at/en/youki-2

**Also check out**

The [BFI website](http://www.bfi.org.uk/education-research/bfi-film-academy-scheme/film-festivals-young-filmmakers), www.festivalfocus.org and www.filmfestivals.com for comprehensive lists of all Film Festivals around the world, including those that accept entries from young filmmakers.

**SOURCES OF COPYRIGHT FREE MUSIC, FILM & PHOTOS**

**Music**

[www.beatsuite.com](http://www.beatsuite.com)

[www.smartassmusic.com](http://www.smartassmusic.com/)
www.nch.com.au

[www.pacdv.com/sounds](http://www.pacdv.com/sounds/)

[www.audiomicro.com/free-sound-effects](http://www.audiomicro.com/free-sound-effects)

**Film/ video clips**

www.gettyimages.co.uk/bbcmotiongallery

[www.archive.org/details/movies](http://www.archive.org/details/movies)

www.[artbeats.com](http://www.artbeats.com/)

[www.netogram.com/int.htm](http://www.netogram.com/int.htm)

www.naturelibrary.com

**Photographs**

http://www.dreamstime.com

[http://www.freedigitalphotos.net](http://www.freedigitalphotos.net/)

<http://www.gettyimages.co.uk/CreativeImages>

http://www.freeimages.com/

<http://www.freephotobank.org/main.php>