



2024 DGC AWARDS

Rules & Eligibility Criteria

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ABOUT THE DIRECTORS GUILD OF CANADA AWARDS

This annual event celebrates the outstanding achievements and contributions of Directors Guild of Canada Members across the country.

SECTION 1: ELIGIBLE PRODUCTIONS

Notwithstanding *Special Awards*, to be considered a “qualifying production” for the 2024 DGC Awards, a production must:

1. Meet at least one of the following criteria:
 - a. Be a DGC Signatory Production;
 - b. Be a non-signatory production within a DGC jurisdiction where all DGC Members involved in the production have received Dispensation from the applicable District Council office no later than at the time of production; or
 - c. Be submitted for consideration as a Documentary or Short Film;
2. Meet the specific eligibility criteria in the appropriate “production category” including the eligibility period for productions of that type (*eg. Feature Film, Television Series, Documentary*);
3. Have a certified *Authorization of Copyright Holder Form* on file with the DGC, signed by either
 - i) the producer or
 - ii) an authorized representative of the production’s copyright holder; and
4. Provide a link to a no charge, commercial free digital copy of any work submitted for consideration and make that copy available to all voting Members throughout the applicable voting period. Alternative links (*eg. paywall, ad supported*) will only be allowed if a good faith effort has been made to obtain a no charge, commercial free digital copy and the copyright holder has refused.

SECTION 2: ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS

Notwithstanding *Special Awards*, for an individual to be eligible for nomination for the 2024 DGC Awards, the person must:

1. Be nominated for work done on a qualifying production;
2. Be a DGC Member who has remained in Good Standing throughout the last year, or a DGC Member who joined the Guild within the last year and has remained in Good Standing since;
3. Be placed in nomination by a Full DGC Member in Good Standing including on their own behalf;
4. Have received an on-screen credit in the employment category for which their work has been submitted for consideration; and

5. Be submitted for consideration for work in an employment category represented by the District Council in the jurisdiction where the qualifying production was contracted as a DGC Signatory Production, or qualify under one of the following exceptions, subject to review and approval by the Awards Committee:
 - a. Be submitted for consideration for the *Allan King Award for Excellence in Documentary, or Best Short Film*;
 - b. Be submitted for consideration on a DGC Signatory Production in a jurisdiction where the DGC does not represent the employment category in question, but there exists a certified bargaining agent (union) with an existing collective agreement representing DGC employment categories (eg. a DGC Member Director working under a DGA or ARRQ contract on a DGC Signatory Production or an DGC member Production Designer or Editor working under an IATSE 891 contract on a DGC Signatory Production);
 - c. Received formal written dispensation from their District Council to work on a non-union basis in a jurisdiction where the DGC does not represent their craft; or
 - d. Be an Art Director submitted for consideration in any of the Best Production Design award categories in instances where no Production Designer is credited on the qualifying production and the Art Director acted as the Head of Department.

SECTION 3: PRODUCTION CATEGORIES

All DGC Signatory Productions will be categorized according to the same classification under which they contracted with the Guild, subject to review and approval by the Awards Committee.

Non-DGC Signatory Productions will be categorized at the discretion of the Awards Committee or their delegates.

The definition of “streaming service” for the purposes of the Awards rules does not include direct-to-consumer digital rentals or releases.

Film (Including Documentary, Feature & Short Film)

To be eligible for consideration in the Feature Film, Documentary Feature or Short Film awards categories for the 2024 awards year, the production must:

1. Not have been considered in any previous awards year unless considered for the DGC Discovery Award.
2. Meet one of the following criteria:
 - a. Have received a i) commercial theatrical release, ii) licenced television or streaming service equivalent, or iii) screening at an eligible film festival, in the period **August 14th, 2023 to August 11th, 2024**; or

- b. Have received a i) commercial theatrical release, ii) licenced television or streaming service equivalent, or iii) screening at an eligible film festival, scheduled in the period **August 12th, 2024 to October 28th, 2024**.
3. For productions that premiered in an earlier awards year but were not eligible for consideration in that year, the 2024 awards year must be the first year in which the production has been eligible for consideration and the first public screening or release, regardless of venue, must have occurred no earlier than the beginning of the eligibility period for the 2022 awards year (**August 16th, 2021**).
4. Provide a link to a digital copy for consideration.

For greater clarity, a film that has had a screening at an eligible film festival in a previous year, at which time a screener was not available, remains eligible in the current awards year if it has had a subsequent commercial theatrical release, or a licenced television release or streaming service equivalent, in the current awards eligibility period, provided that the production has not been considered in any previous awards year.

Documentary Feature

Subject to the general “Film” criteria in the section above, a Documentary may be nominated if a DGC Member served as Director, Executive Producer, Producer or a Department Head. Documentaries do not have to be DGC Signatory Productions.

Any DGC Member in Good Standing credited on the film is eligible to submit the production for consideration. The award for Allan King Award for Excellence in Documentary is presented to the Director regardless of whether the Director is a DGC Member or not. For the purposes of the DGC Awards, a Documentary Feature is defined as a production not less than 40 minutes in duration (including credits).

While feature documentaries commissioned for television are eligible, individual episodes of a continuing documentary series are not.

Short Film

Subject to the general “Film” criteria in the section above, a Short Film may be nominated if a DGC Member served as Director, Executive Producer, Producer or a Department Head. Short Films do not have to be DGC Signatory Productions, nor do they need to be a production where all DGC Members have received Dispensation.

Any DGC Member in Good Standing credited on the film is eligible to submit the production for consideration. The award for Best Short Film is presented to the Director regardless of whether the Director is a DGC Member or not.

For the purposes of the DGC Awards, a Short Film is defined as a production that is less than 40 minutes in duration (including credits).

Short Films that have not received a commercial theatrical release, subscription based streaming service or television equivalent, or screening at an eligible film festival, may be still be eligible for consideration at the Awards Committee if exhibited in a venue, or on a platform, with an equivalent selection process.

Movies for Television

For a production to be eligible for consideration as a Movie for Television for the 2024 awards year, the movie must have aired, or been released on licenced television or streaming service equivalent within the period **June 1st, 2023 to May 31st, 2024**, and must not have been considered in any previous awards year.

Movies for Television submitted for consideration for production design in the Key Craft Awards categories are to be submitted in Best Production Design – Film or Best Production Design – Film (Limited Budget).

Television Series

Only individual episodes of a television series may be submitted for consideration, not a complete series.

For an episode of a series to be eligible for consideration in the Television Series categories for the 2024 awards year, at least one episode must have aired, or been released on licenced television or streaming service equivalent within the period **June 1st, 2023 to May 31st, 2024**, and both the episode and the Member must not have been considered in any previous awards year.

For productions that premiered in an earlier awards year but were not eligible for consideration in that year, the 2023 awards year must be the first year in which the production has been eligible for consideration and the first public screening or release, regardless of venue, must have occurred no earlier than the beginning of the eligibility period for the 2022 awards year (**June 1st, 2021**).

Only one episode may be considered per Member per production in each award category unless such episodes are from separate seasons of the same show. For clarity, if two or more episodes from a given series aired within the eligibility period, but were produced under separate DGC contracts, one episode may be considered per Member per production per contract in each award category up to a maximum of two (2) total episodes.

Mini-Series

Mini-Series may be submitted for consideration, in any given category, either in their entirety or by individual episode. To be eligible for consideration in its entirety, a Mini-Series must have the same creative lead, or the same creative team, in the category in question on every individual episode of the Mini-Series.

For a Mini-Series to be eligible for consideration, in the 2024 awards year, the production must:

1. Not have been considered in any previous awards year;
2. Have aired, or released, at least one episode in the period June 1st, 2023 to May 31st, 2024; and
3. Provided a link to a digital copy of an individual episode for consideration or a sample episode.

Only one episode may be considered per Member per production in each award category unless such episodes are from separate seasons of the same Mini-Series. For clarity, if two

or more episodes from a given series aired within the eligibility period, but were produced under separate DGC contracts, one episode may be considered per Member per production per contract in each award category up to a maximum of two (2) total episodes.

SECTION 4: AWARD CATEGORIES

The award categories are comprised of three (3) groups: *Directorial Awards*, *Key Craft Awards* and *Special Awards*.

Directorial Awards

The *Directorial Awards* categories are as follows:

- *Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Feature Film*
- *Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Drama Series*
- *Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Comedy Series*
- *Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Family Series*
- *Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Movies for Television or Mini-Series*
- *Allan King Award for Excellence in Documentary*
- *Best Short Film*

To be eligible for consideration in these categories:

1. The qualifying production must be a Documentary or Short Film; or
2. The Director of the production must be a DGC Member in Good Standing, and the qualifying production must either:
 - a. Be a DGC Signatory Production; or
 - b. All DGC Members involved in the qualifying production (the Team) must have received Dispensation.

Awards in these categories are presented to all DGC Members in Good Standing involved in the production. Where the award is presented to a single Director, or a maximum of two co-Directors both of whom are DGC members, each Director on the winning production will receive a trophy. In the event of more than two Directors being credited on the winning production, one trophy will be presented. In the event of a tie, the rule above will apply to each winning production. In the case of a tie, both winners will receive a trophy. Other members of the Team may order a trophy at their own expense on an 'as available' basis.

Key Craft Awards

The *Key Craft Awards* categories are as follows:

- *Best Production Design – Film*
- *Best Production Design – Film (Limited Budget)*
- *Best Production Design– Dramatic Series & Mini-Series*
- *Best Production Design – Comedy or Family Series & Mini-Series*
- *Best Picture Editing – Feature Film*
- *Best Picture Editing – Movies for Television & Mini-Series*

- *Best Picture Editing – Dramatic Series*
- *Best Picture Editing – Comedy or Family Series*
- *Best Sound Editing – Feature Film*
- *Best Sound Editing – Movies for Television or Mini-Series*
- *Best Sound Editing – Dramatic Series*
- *Best Sound Editing – Comedy or Family Series*
- *Best Picture Editing – Documentary*

To be eligible for consideration in these categories:

1. The individual submitted for consideration must be a DGC Member in Good Standing; and
2. The qualifying production must either:
 - a. Be a DGC Signatory Production;

All DGC Members submitting to the *Key Craft Awards* categories must have received Dispensation to work on the qualifying production. For the Best Production Design – Film and Best Production Design – Film (Limited Budget) categories, the budgetary cutoff for eligibility purposes will be the top of Tier C in the Standard Agreement. Productions with a budget at or below the top of the budget range for Tier C qualify for consideration in the category Best Production Design – Film (Limited Budget). Productions with a budget above the top of the budget range for Tier C qualify for consideration in the category Best Production Design – Film.

For productions using existing designs not created or overseen by the credited Production Designer (such as individual episodes of television series), Production Designers must indicate what content constitutes original work. This clarification can include time codes and/or a written description.

Where the award is presented to a single recipient, or a maximum of two co-recipient both of whom are DGC members, each recipient on the winning production will receive a trophy. In the event of more than two recipient being credited on the winning production, one trophy will be presented. In the event of a tie, the rule above will apply to each winning production.

Special Awards

These awards are either a) presented annually at the discretion of the National Executive Board, or b) nominated by participating film festivals and selected by jury. Individuals, whether DGC Members or not, may **NOT** submit for consideration for *Special Awards*.

DGC Lifetime Achievement Award

This award is presented to a DGC Member in Good Standing who has been a DGC Member for minimum of 15 years (not necessarily consecutively). The award recognizes a member's full career and body of work. The National Executive Board selects the recipient of this award.

DGC Visionary Award

This award is presented to a DGC Member in Good Standing who has been a DGC Member for minimum of 5 years (not necessarily consecutively). A mid-career award, the honour recognizes extraordinary excellence in a member's body of work to date. The National

Executive Board selects the recipient of this award.

Don Haldane Distinguished Service Award

This award is presented to a DGC Member in recognition of outstanding service to the membership of the Directors Guild of Canada. The National Executive Board selects the recipient of this award.

Honorary Life Member Award

This award is presented to a non-Guild Member whose outstanding contribution to the industry has had a major beneficial impact on the Guild and its Members, or on the field of film & television as a whole. The National Executive Board selects the recipient of this award.

Jean-Marc Vallée DGC Discovery Award

This award is presented to the Director of a Feature Film that reflects a bold, new cinematic voice. The film must be the Director's 1st or 2nd feature, or a film representing a new direction for an established filmmaker, such as a documentarian's 1st dramatic film.

To qualify for consideration:

1. The Director must be a Canadian citizen or permanent resident (*but need not be a DGC Member*);
2. The film's country of origin must be Canada;
3. The film must have been submitted for consideration by film festivals in the current awards year: Atlantic International Film Festival, Toronto International Film Festival, Vancouver International Film Festival, Calgary International Film Festival, Hot Docs, imagineNATIVE, St. John's International Women's Film Festival or the Festival du nouveau cinéma.

The Jean-Marc Vallée DGC Discovery Award recipient is selected by jury.

DGC Impact Award

This award is presented to a DGC Member in recognition of outstanding service and leadership to the production community at large. The National Executive Board selects the recipient of this award and the award will be presented with a citation specifying the area in which the member has made an extraordinary contribution (such as inclusion, sustainability, team building, etc.).

SECTION 5: THE VOTING PROCESS

1. At least four (4) nominees will be selected in each award category by DGC Awards juries.
2. With the exception of the DGC Discovery Award, juries will be composed of Members of the DGC drawn from all District Councils and across all employment categories.
3. Once the Final Ballot is established and the nominees are announced publicly, the

ballot is sent electronically to all Full DGC Members in Good Standing for voting. The voting specifications are as follows:

- DGC Member **Directors** in Good Standing are entitled to vote on the final ballot for *Best Production Design, Best Picture Editing, Best Sound Editing* and all *Outstanding Directorial Achievement categories*;
- Full DGC Members from the **Art Department** in Good Standing are entitled to vote on the final ballot for *Best Production Design* and all *Outstanding Directorial Achievement categories*;
- Full DGC Members from the **Editing Department** in Good Standing are entitled to vote on the final ballot for *Best Picture Editing, Best Sound Editing, Best Picture Editing Documentary* and all *Outstanding Directorial Achievement categories*;
- Only **Full Members** in Good Standing may vote on the Final Ballot for the Outstanding Directorial Achievement categories; and
- **DGC Awards Committee Members** may vote on the final ballot for *all Outstanding Directorial Achievement categories, Best Production Design, Best Picture Editing and Best Sound Editing*, irrespective of their DGC job category.

4. The NDD Chair may vote to break ties.

SECTION 6: CONDITIONS OF ENTRY: DGC AWARDS

1. The Entrant agrees that the DGC Awards Committee, subject to the approval of the National Executive Board, will rule on any dispute in matters relating to the entry, eligibility, nominations, appeals and/or election of any production for a DGC Award. The Entrant acknowledges that the DGC National Executive Board's decision shall be final.
2. The Entrant acknowledges that the DGC Awards Committee reserves the right to amend or modify the rules contained herein at their discretion, subject to the approval of the National Executive Board, or at the sole discretion of the National Executive Board.
3. The Entrant and all individuals submitted for consideration herein release the DGC and its officers, directors, Awards Committee Members and Awards Jury Members, employees, representatives and agents from all liability for any reason whatsoever (including, without limitation, for any incidental and consequential damages) in respect of the Entry and its consideration for any Award, including, without limitation, for any negligence or omission in the processing of the Entry or in its consideration for an Award, however caused.
4. The DGC reserves the right to reject any submission that might bring the Guild, the Awards or our members into disrepute.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION:

Television Series, Movies for Television or Mini-Series – May 26th, 2024

Feature Film, Documentary and Short Film – August 11th, 2024

QUESTIONS:

Tel: 416-925-8200 / Toll-Free: 1-888-972-0098

Email: awards@dgc.ca

If you require clarification or have questions with regard to Submission Eligibility, Nominee Eligibility or Production Eligibility please contact the DGC Communications department at awards@dgc.ca. Matters related to eligibility will be decided by the Awards Committee in their sole discretion. Decisions are final and not subject to appeal.