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ANNUAL
AWARDS

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SECTION 1

1.1 DEFINITIONS (ALPHABETICAL ORDER)

Associate - A producer or screen practitioner with insufficient full producer credits to join SPA membership as a producer member.

Category - Division within the Awards that best represents the format or genre of title.

Documentary Program or Series Production – defined by SPA in line with **The Broadcasting Services Standards 2020**: *a program that is a creative treatment of actuality other than a news, current affairs, sports coverage, magazine, infotainment or light entertainment program.*

Entrant - Primary or designated contact for the nominating business and title.

‘Hero’ Scene – In regard to submitted clips for entries, a hero scene encompasses a key moment that captures the audience’s attention and highlights the quality of the production e.g., a particularly dramatic or funny scene, awe inspiring imagery etc. including dialogue is recommended (if possible).

IMPORTANT: all clips must be submitted ‘clean’ without watermarks.

Member: Producer - A business, company, or individual who is a current financial member of SPA and with at least one full producer credit. Credits must have received a broadcast, theatrical or online release. Broadcast credits must be no less than 30 minutes, and theatrical credits must be no less than 50 minutes.

Member: Services & Facilities - Businesses that provides services and/or facilities that directly contribute to the production of screen content. It includes, but is not limited to; lawyers, accountants, completion guarantors, insurance companies, sound and music composers and licensors, film distributors, post-production houses and studio facilities.

Nominee - The business, or individual on behalf of the business, responsible for production of the title, who is the candidate for a SPA Award.

Non-Member – A business or individual who is not a current financial member of SPA

Primary Contact - The person authorised as point of contact for the business as listed on SPA’s membership database.

Production Business - The business responsible producing the title, the candidate for a SPA Award.

Production Title or Program - Name given to the production being submitted to the SPA Awards.

Showreel A short video clip containing examples of a body of work **from the entry qualifying period only, 1 January – 31 December 2025.**

SF40 SCREEN FOREVER (SF40), 28-30 April 2026, The Star, Gold Coast

SPA Screen Producers Australia.

1.2 ABOUT THE SPA AWARDS

The SPA Awards highlight industry excellence and are the only peer judged awards solely for production businesses whose work drives the industry.

They celebrate great Australian screen productions; honour the skill, accomplishment, and imagination of its Production Businesses; aim to increase awareness of the critical role producers play in creating Australian screen stories; and spotlight the importance of international trade to screen businesses.

The SPA Awards Ceremony and SCREEN FOREVER Gala Party are on the final day of SF40, 28-30 April 2026 with **the Awards period of eligibility from 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025.**

The SPA Awards are peer voted and aim to capture the full scope of screen production and producers across Australia.



ELIGIBILITY - RELEASE OR BROADCAST
1 JAN - 31 DEC 2025

1



20/10/2025: GUIDELINES RELEASED

3



14/11/2025: EARLY BIRD ENTRIES CLOSE

5



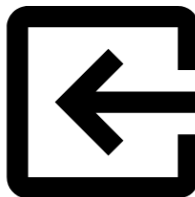
10/12/2025 TO 30/01/2026
MEMBER VOTING PERIOD:
FINALISTS & WINNERS

2



27/10/2025: EARLY BIRD ENTRIES OPEN

4



5/12/25: STANDARD ENTRIES CLOSE



24TH ANNUAL SPA AWARDS & SF40 GALA PARTY
THURSDAY, 30 APRIL, 2026

SECTION 2

2.1 THE NOMINATION PROCESS

We know it's important that your title stands out to the judging community of SPA members, so we've put together a handy guide on how to create the perfect nomination.

2.2 PRODUCTION AWARDS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- **IMPORTANT:** If the entry has co-production partner/s, **only financial members of SPA will be officially recognised** in all communications, on trophies and at the Awards Ceremony. It is imperative SPA members check the member status of any co-production partners before submitting the entry to ensure all producer acknowledgements are correctly submitted. Contact membership@screenproducers.org.au to confirm membership status or discuss processes for joining SPA for any co-production non-member companies or individuals.
- Nominations can only be submitted, and Awards entered by, current financial **Full Members** **except:** Short Film Production of the Year and Online Production of the Year are open to Associates.
 - For a summary of memberships please refer to our [website](#).
 - The SPA guidelines and definitions for receiving a full producer credit for feature film, television drama, and factual/documentary productions, are available [here](#).
- Only the member production business or producer responsible for the title may nominate in the production categories.
- The title must not have been previously submitted into the Awards.
- **The title must have been first released, or will be released, to its audience between 1 January 2025 and 31 December 2025.**
- Screen Producers Australia reserves the right:
 - to reject an entry not made in accordance with these Guidelines.
 - to select and use an excerpt from the submitted production, trailer or excerpt, as part of the finalist reel at the Awards ceremony and other SPA marketing and advocacy activities.
 - to exercise its absolute discretionary powers in deciding which Awards will be presented each year, and if necessary, decline to present any particular Award if the quantity or quality of submissions do not warrant an Award.
 - to supplement categories or re-categorise nominations, including creating subcategories, as circumstances may require.
 - to rely solely on the information and materials submitted, without any requirement or expectation on SPA to make further inquiries with the Entrant.
 - to exercise discretion in matters relating to the Awards, notwithstanding any other provision in these Guidelines.
- Participation in the Screen Producers Australia Awards implies full and complete acceptance of all the afore mentioned conditions.

2.3 PRODUCTION AWARDS NOMINATION PROCESS

When preparing your nomination, we ask all submissions include the following supporting materials (check list).

- ☐ Nominators contact information.
- ☐ Key producers contact information.
- ☐ Minimum one, maximum three key producers.
- ☐ Production title.
- ☐ Release or broadcast date.
- ☐ Video asset 1: **HERO SCENE**: This must be a notable moment of action, dialogue, or drama appropriately reflective of your title, no longer than 10 seconds with **no watermark**.
- ☐ Video asset 2: **TRAILER**: A broadcast or theatrical trailer
- ☐ Submitted Hero Scenes and trailers must be 'clean' without logos
- ☐ **Scripts** IMPORTANT: Each Video asset submitted **must include a script** for ease in adding captions (subtitles) to the final Awards video package for accessibility purposes.
- ☐ **Phonetic Spellings** IMPORTANT: SPA encourages the inclusion of phonetic spelling for any titles or names where appropriate. It is a priority to ensure VO artists, hosts and presenters use correct pronunciations and entrants may be contacted to confirm pronunciations if needed.
- ☐ Refer to the **File Delivery Technical Specifications** in **Appendix A**.

2.3.1 ENTRY SUPPORT ASSETS

- ☐ Production synopsis (100 words maximum.)
- ☐ 2x production stills. (Still frames from production only)
- ☐ 1x primary and 1x inverse production title graphic. (Transparent .eps or .psd file)
- ☐ 1x primary and 1x inverse business logo. (Transparent eps or psd file)

Submitted materials must be cleared for public use and exhibition. This includes business logos, production stills, and excerpts.

Entries for the **Production and Business Awards open on 27 October 2025** and incur an entry fee as follows (\$AUD):

- **Early bird** (Incl. GST)
 - \$120 (until 23:59hrs, 14 November 2025 AEST)
 - \$480 (capped amount for multiple entries of four or more)
- **Standard rate** (Incl. GST)
 - \$185 (From 15 November until 23:59hrs, 5 December 2025 AEST)
 - \$740 (capped amount for multiple entries of four or more)

Individual Awards nominations are free.

2.4 BUSINESS AND INDIVIDUAL AWARDS ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Nominations can only be submitted by current financial full producer, services and facilities (Business Awards only) Members and Associates.
- The Award recipient must be a current financial full producer, services and facilities (Business Awards) members and Associates.
- Nominations for the Business Awards may be self-nominated.
- Nominations for the Individual Contribution Awards may be self-nominated or nominated by another Member.
- Nominations for the Business and Individual Contribution Awards do not incur an entry fee.
- Nominations must meet the criteria requirements specific to each category.

2.5 BUSINESS AND INDIVIDUAL AWARDS NOMINATION PROCESS

- Nominations for the Individual Contribution Awards **do not** incur an entry fee.
- Entries to the Individual and Business Awards **must** be accompanied with:
 - Nominator's contact details.
 - A 200-word (max) outline detailing the Business or Individual's contribution over the eligibility period. **Note: the outline must exclusively focus on the eligibility period. Generic business overviews and reference to historic productions outside the eligibility period will be inadmissible.**
 - A current highlights reel (for Media Super Production Business of the Year and Breakthrough Business of the Year categories) if self-nominating. **Note: the showreel must exclusively focus on productions from the eligibility period. Content from historic productions outside the eligibility period will be inadmissible.**
 - One primary and, if possible, one inverse Business Logo. (Transparent eps, psd, png file)

SECTION 3

VOTING

3.1 SELECTION OF FINALISTS & WINNERS

PRODUCTION AWARDS

- Awards Finalists and Winners are determined by the Screen Producers Australia members who select their preferences from the entry pool in each category of the Production Awards.
- Each current financial membership is entitled to one single vote in each category.
- Only the Primary Contact of the Member business as recorded by SPA may vote in the Awards. A designated agent can be nominated by contacting Brad Taylor membership@screenproducers.org.au. Note: previous voting details have been retained on the Awards portal and receive immediate access.
- Voting members are encouraged to view the submission materials made available.
- This is a combination of the title's trailer, synopsis, and by viewing the material wherever it may be publicly available.
- Selection is suggested to be based on concept (is the story unique/coherent/engaging); execution (how well has it been implemented in its medium); creativity; and overall excellence using the submitted materials as a reference.
- The productions receiving the highest number of votes will be announced as Finalists. Note: the number of Finalists in each category may vary depending on the number of entries received and the allocation of votes.
- The production receiving the highest number of votes in its category is declared the Award recipient at the SPA Awards ceremony at SF40, 30 April 2026 at The Star, Gold Coast.

BUSINESS AND INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION AWARDS

- Members of Screen Producers Australia's Council judge nominations independently and determine Award recipients of the Business and Individual Contribution Award.
- Selection is based on how well the business or individual has displayed excellence and significant contribution in their category.

SECTION 4

CATEGORIES & SUBMISSION CRITERIA

Production Awards – Documentary and Factual

4.1 Documentary Series Production of the Year

- Awarded to the most outstanding Documentary Series Production.
- The Production must consist of:
 - A series of documentary episodes (unlimited number of episodes but no less than two) produced for broadcast television, SVOD or online services, of a non-fiction story.
 - **IMPORTANT:** Refer to Definitions (p3) for how SPA defines a documentary program.

4.2 Factual Series Production of the Year

- Awarded to the most outstanding Factual Production.
- The Production must consist of a series or limited series that is a non-scripted production and consists of a format designed to educate and entertain.
- The format should be primarily observational with minimal external intervention.

4.3 Feature Documentary Production of the Year

- Awarded to the most outstanding standalone Feature Documentary Production.
- The Production must have screened as a theatrical release, as part of a film festival or broadcast television, SVOD or online services.
- The Production must be at least 40 minutes in length, consisting of a non-fiction story.

Production Awards – Scripted

4.4 Animated Production of the Year

- Awarded to the most outstanding Animated Production for a single episode, series or feature.
- The Production must be an animated story for theatrical release, broadcast television, SVOD or online services.

4.5 Comedy Program or Series Production of the Year

- Awarded to the most outstanding Comedy Program or Series Production.
- The Production must consist of:
 - A comedy series (unlimited number of episodes but no less than two) that is intended to be humorous, OR;
 - A standalone comedy program produced for television or online, including stand-up shows or comedy specials.

4.6 Drama Series Production of the Year

- Awarded to the most outstanding Drama Series Production.
- The Production must consist of a series (unlimited number of episodes but no less than two), of a dramatised story made for broadcast television, SVOD or online services.
- Selection is based on concept, execution, creativity, and overall excellence

4.7 Feature Film Production of the Year

- Awarded to the most outstanding Feature Film Production.
- The Production must have screened as a theatrical release, as part of a film festival, or released through online, SVOD or broadcast services.
- The Production must be at least 70 minutes in length, consisting of a dramatised story.

4.8 Telemovie or Miniseries Production of the Year

- Awarded to the most outstanding Telemovie or Miniseries Production.
- The Production must consist of:
 - A single drama program made for broadcast television, SVOD or online that is no less than one television hour in length.
 - A one-off limited drama series made for broadcast television, SVOD or online that is less than 13 hours in total length.

Production Awards – Light Entertainment and Reality

4.9 Light Entertainment Production of the Year

- Awarded to the most outstanding Light Entertainment Production.
- The Production must consist of a one-off ‘special’, limited series or series that is a variety show, panel discussion, host with guests, infotainment, lifestyle, game show, stand-up comedy or similar primarily non-scripted program

4.10 Reality Series Production of the Year

- Awarded to the most outstanding Reality Series Production.
- The Production must consist of a series (unlimited number of episodes but no less than two) that is largely non-scripted and involves participants completing tasks that follow a format specifically designed for the program.
- Participants are usually (but not necessarily) in competition for a prize or prizes throughout, as individuals or teams, and usually (but not necessarily) have a winner or winners at the conclusion of the series.

Production Awards – Factual or Scripted

4.11 Children’s Production of the Year (excluding Animation)

- Awarded to the most outstanding Children's Production, Series or Feature.
- Covers live performance productions for scripted drama, documentary/factual and entertainment series, excluding animation.
- The Production must consist of a series (unlimited number of episodes) or feature made essentially for viewing by children.

4.12 Games, XR and Immersive Media Production of the Year

- Awarded to the most outstanding Games, XR or Immersive Media Production.
- This may include immersive (XR, VR, AR), games (mobile, PC, online or console), transmedia (multiplatform) or social media productions centred around story, narrative or non-scripted.
- The Production must have been available for public consumption during the eligible term.
- The Production must either enhance an existing experience or create a new experience for audiences through interactive engagement.

4.13 Online Series Production of the Year

- Awarded to the most outstanding **Scripted** or **Non-Scripted** Online Series Production.
- The Production must consist of a series (unlimited number of episodes but no less than two) made exclusively for online release, online streaming services, or social media.
- **SVOD programs are excluded from this category** but are eligible to enter other relevant production Awards.

4.14 Short Film Production of the Year

- Awarded to the most outstanding Short Film Production.
- The Production must be made for broadcast, SVOD or online streaming services or accepted as an entry to a recognised film festival during the eligible term.
 - The list of recognised film festivals can be [found here](#):
- The Production must be a maximum of 40 minutes in length, consisting of a dramatised or non-fiction story.

Business Awards

4.15 Breakthrough Business of the Year

- Awarded to a production business that has demonstrated a significant progression of the business and production output in the screen industry.
- The business' achievements must fall in the eligibility period.
- This Award is specifically designed for SME businesses that is not a subsidiary or a larger organisation.

4.16 Media Super Production Business of the Year

- Awarded to a production business that has produced an outstanding project or body of work which has contributed to the advancement of the screen industry.
- The business' achievements must fall in the eligibility period.

4.17 Screen Business Export Award

- Awarded to a business with outstanding international success for an Australian film or television program.
- The film or television program must have significant Australian content; delivered net foreign returns to the Australian economy (e.g. profits, jobs); and raised the profile of the Australian screen industry internationally.
- The business' achievements must fall in the eligibility period.

4.18 Services and Facilities Business of the Year

- Awarded to a Services or Facilities business for outstanding contribution on a locally filmed production released to audiences during the eligibility period.
- View the SPA Services Members Directory [here](#).

Individual Awards

4.19 Commissioner of the Year

- The Commissioner of the Year Award recognises an Australian Screen Commissioner for excellence in their field through demonstrating leadership, editorial excellence, and commitment to engaging with Australian screen producers to further the quality of Australian stories.

4.20 Lifetime Achievement Award

- The Lifetime Achievement Award acknowledges a single individual for their lifetime contribution to enriching Australian culture through their work in the screen industry.

SECTION 5

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How long does it take to submit a nomination?

- Depending on the detail of your written answers, completing the nomination form can take around sixty minutes to two hours to complete, not including time to gather and submit supporting materials for your nomination.
- You can save your nomination and return to your form at any time prior to the close of entries date.
- We recommend completing it as soon as possible though to ensure you do not miss the deadline.

Can I nominate someone else?

- Only a business with a current Full membership or Associate status **may nominate its own title for the production Award categories**.
- If the title is a co-production with another SPA member, it is recommended you speak with the co-producers and coordinate one entry.
- If the title **is a co-production with a non-member**, it is recommended you contact Brad Taylor membership@screenproducers.org.au for advice and options.
- You may nominate others for the **Lifetime Achievement, Commissioner of the Year and Service & Facilities Business of the Year Awards**.

Can I nominate my project in multiple categories?

- No, you should enter your title only in the most appropriate category for its genre with exception of the **Screen Export production category** if you can demonstrate eligibility in the field.

Where do I nominate my title, business, or individual contribution?

- You can nominate online, **from 27 October 2025**, through the following link: screenproducers.awardsplatform.com. **NOTE: This is an external website and setting up a login may be required if you have not utilised the platform in previous years.**

Can I get a discount for multiple entries?

- Yes! We cap entry price at four (4). If nominating more than five or more titles, you will only pay for four. Details at 2.3.1 on Page 8.
- At the end of the submission process, before payment, you will have the opportunity to nominate additional titles. Do this for as many titles as you wish. Any discounts will be applied at checkout.

Can I submit a project that has not been released yet?

- Yes, but the project must have a contracted or confirmed air date, release date or written acceptance to a recognised festival at the time of submission before 31 December 2025.

What happens after I submit my nomination?

- You will receive a confirmation email for your payment.
- Our team may need to contact you during the process to clarify a few details, but there may still be a large period of time with minimal contact. You will be contacted if your submission is successful, unsuccessful, or ineligible.

Do I need to attend the Awards show if I'm selected as a finalist?

- Producers are strongly encouraged to attend the Awards on the evening of Thursday, 28 April 2025 at the conclusion of SF40 on the Gold Coast. It looks great for the production to have representation present. If one of the key producers for the title cannot attend the show, a director, writer, cast member, or someone who can speak on behalf of the absent producer should attend. **We welcome any suggestions and support in including your cast members and on-air talent to present at the Awards ceremony. Please contact Brad Taylor membership@screenproducers.org.au to discuss.**

Do I need to pay for the Awards ticket?

- Yes. However, the cost of attending the SPA Awards and Gala Party is covered in the SCREEN FOREVER Gold Coast Pass. Limited tickets to the SPA Awards and SF40 Gala Party will be made available for those finalists that cannot attend the full Conference.

My assets are not uploading or has been rejected by the portal.

- Double check your file's specification in the below technical guide, Section 6. Your file/s may be the incorrect codec (i.e. ProRes is not accepted), file size too large, or you may have issues with your internet connection.

If you have assessed and the problem persists, please reach out to Brad Taylor membership@screenproducers.org.au with a breakdown of the issue and we will work to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

SECTION 6

APPENDIX A

FILE DELIVERY TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

We accept a variety of video formats. To assist in delivering the correct file type, please liaise with your post-production facility. The below file types are standard for any online screener you may be required to deliver for international festivals, or government acquittals.

Video format requirements

Compression Format

- H.264

Accepted File Formats (endings)

- MOV
- MP4

Minimum Resolution

- Full HD 1920x1080px

Frame Rate

- 25fps, progressive.

Audio format requirements

- 48kHz sound PCM (uncompressed)
- MP3
- AAC (if possible > 160 kBit/s)

File specifications

We only accept multiplexed files (i.e. with audio, video and subtitles in a single file).

For best upload experience, your file should not exceed 5 GB.

Important note

Only clean unwatermarked footage will be accepted. No time codes, watermarks, logos, or bugs are to be visible unless it's intrinsic in the programs' creative intent.

Subtitles

Scripts must be provided for each clip and trailer for ease in adding captions (subtitles) for the AV package

Preparation of the program

Make sure that your program has no colour bars or any black or clock leader sequences before the program starts or after it ends. Please also make sure you upload a progressive (deinterlaced) video file, without any horizontal lines across the image, particularly visible during sequences with rapid movement.