



Rules & Regulations

The following document outlines the official rules and regulations for the 2021 Annual Reel Awards.

The 2021 Reel Awards will take place on March 5, 2022.

Please read these rules and regulations in its entirety prior to voting.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Awards Office via email at awards@austinb.media

2021 REEL AWARDS KEY DATES

Timeline

Wednesday, October 6th, 2021	Eligible Film List Published
Friday, October 8th, 2021	Eligible Film List Voting Begins
Saturday, October 9th, 2021	Patreon Nominee Voting Begins
Thursday, October 14th, 2021	All Access Nominee Voting Begins
Friday, December 31st, 2021	Eligibility Period Ends
Monday, January 3rd, 2022	Nominations Voting Ends
Thursday, January 6th, 2022	Nominations Announced
Monday, January 10th, 2022	Patron Final Voting Begins
Friday, January 14th, 2022	All Access Final Voting Begins
Monday, February 7th, 2022	Final Voting Ends
Saturday, March 5th, 2022	Reel Awards Ceremony

RULES FOR ELIGIBILITY

1. All films submitted must be a minimum of 60 minutes long.
2. Eligible films must have been either:
 - o Exhibited at a film festival during 2021 OR

- Exhibited at a movie theater for at least seven straight days between March 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021 OR
 - Not a recording of a Broadway production, a concert, or any other recording of a live performance OR
 - Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, if a film was intended to release in theaters but instead chose to premiere on a streaming video service, paid video on demand, or rental through a virtual cinema, the film is considered eligible for consideration. Films must charge either through a “virtual ticket”, “rental”, or “subscription”.
3. Except for the category of Best International Film, both American and International productions are eligible for awards consideration. Reel Awards defines an “American production” as such:
- A film that features director(s), writer(s) or producers in which United States citizens or permanent residents of the United States are credited. This can be fulfilled by one person with multiple credits or by separate individuals.

An “International Production” is defined as:

- A. A film that features director(s), writer(s) or producers in which citizens outside the United States or permanent residents of a country outside the United States are credited. This can be fulfilled by one person with multiple credits or by separate individuals.
4. Eligibility for every award will be determined by credits as they appear in the credits of the film. If a film is considered to be ineligible for awards consideration, Austin B Media will contact the studio with information why.

CATEGORIES AND THEIR DEFINITIONS

The final categories in which a film will be nominated for is at the sole discretion of Austin B Media. Films may be eligible for several categories but will be only nominated once in each category (a film that is nominated for Best Debut Film cannot be also nominated for Best Overall Film).

Best Documentary: The Award will be awarded to the director(s) and the producers.

Best International Film: Only Internationally-produced films are eligible for this category. The Award will be awarded to the director(s).

Best Overall Film: Films directed by established directors are eligible for Best Overall Film. The Award will be awarded to the director(s), and the producer(s) of the film.

Best Debut Film: Films directed by first-time feature film directors are eligible for Best Debut Film. The Award will be awarded to the director(s) of the film.

Best Debut Screenplay: Writer(s) for which/whom this is their first produced screenplay are eligible for Best Debut Screenplay. Screenwriters with a “Story By” credit can be submitted. The Award will be awarded to the screenwriter(s) involved.

Best Screenplay: All screenplays, including first-time screenwriter(s), are eligible for Best Debut Screenplay. Screenwriters with a “Story By” credit can be submitted. The Award will be awarded to the screenwriter(s) involved.

Best Director: Directors of all feature films, including first-time directors are eligible in this category.

Best Cinematography: All films with cinematographers are eligible in this category.

Best Costume Design: All films with costume designers are eligible in this category.

Best Effects: All films that feature practical, in-camera or visual effects are eligible in this category.

Best Editing: All films with editor(s) are eligible in this category.

Best Hairstyling: All films with hairstylists are eligible in this category.

Best Makeup: All films with makeup artists are eligible in this category.

Best Production Design: All films with production designer(s) are eligible in this category.

Best Song: All films that feature songs in their soundtracks, including adaptations of previously-released music, are eligible in this category.

Best Score: All films that feature a composed score are eligible in this category.

Best Soundtrack: All films that feature previously-released songs in the film and on the soundtrack are eligible in this category.

Best Sound: All films that feature production sound mixer(s), sound editor(s), foley artist(s), or director(s) of audiography are eligible in this category.

Best Stunts: All films that feature stunt doubles, stunt performers, and stunt coordinator(s) are eligible in this category.

Best Lead: All films with androgynous, gender-fluid, gender non-conforming, male, female, non-binary, and transgender lead actors are eligible in this category.

Best Supporting: All films with androgynous, gender-fluid, gender non-conforming, male, female, non-binary, and transgender supporting actors are eligible in this category.

Best Debut Actor: All films with androgynous, gender-fluid, gender non-conforming, male, female, non-binary, and transgender actors are eligible in this category.

NOMINATION GUIDELINES

The Reel Awards nominations are determined by Austin B Media as well as anyone who votes during the voting process. The final nominees will be tabulated by a third-party to ensure that there is no favoritism.

During the nomination process, Austin B Media looks for the following qualities in making the selections for Reel Awards. Any variation of these rules or guidelines are at the sole discretion of Austin B Media:

- Have I seen anything like it before?
 - If so, does it offer a good spin on the original idea?
- Does the film elicit a discussion?
- How does the film push forward filmmaking?