

168 Film Project Frequently Asked Questions

HOW DO I GET INVOLVED WITH 168?

1. Go to our website and enter your contact info into the Directory. All deadlines and events are in the schedule, which you can download at www.168project.com.
2. Use the directory to see if there is a team in your area. Consider starting a team in your area. Remember, you can compete from anywhere. We just email you a verse and the rules and away you go. There IS a fee per TEAM, NOT per individual. Entries are required to sign an entry and licensing contract. This contract gives the 168 limited license to your film.
3. Sign-up for our email newsletter too. This is our primary mode of communication.
4. Come to mixers in L.A. or organize mixers and castings in your area.

FINANCING YOUR FILM?

In addition to the entrance fee all producers are responsible for financing their own films. Discounts are available in the Los Angeles area with certain vendors. Go to the "forms & download" page and download the "Producer's Resource Guide".

WHAT POSITIONS ARE IN DEMAND?

We can never get enough Production Assistants and Gophers. Editors, Directors of Photography, Gaffers and other technical positions are always in great demand. Please refer these people to us.

If you are a WRITER or DIRECTOR, it is harder to get placed on a team because there are many more people who want to do these jobs. And of course, ACTORS are the most PLENTIFUL of all the ingredients, so MANY ACTORS TAKE THE PLUNGE and start a team, thus avoiding casting altogether.

WHAT THE CONTEST IS NOT:

It is not for pre-existing screenplays. All 168 films are created during a 2 ½ week period in Feb 2009. **NO writing will occur before the Verse Assignment.**

DATES FOR COMPETITION AND FESTIVAL:

Please see the "168 Schedule" that is available on the front page or our website.

OUR CONTACT INFO:

168 Hour Film Project
145 S. Glenoaks Blvd. Suite #159
Burbank, CA 91502
www.168project.com
818-557-8507

OUR PHILOSOPHY:

The 168 is primarily about process and individual growth. Secondly, it is about awards and competition. You are expected to abide by the rules and to conduct yourself in a way that is honoring to God. Script writing will NOT occur before the scripture is assigned. You will be disqualified if you write early. The spirit of this competition is that you would trust that inspiration for the story will be provided based on your theme and verse. Scriptural Integration (how well your film expresses the original meaning and intent of the verse) is weighted heavier than any other judging category, so you MUST understand your verse to do well in this contest. Tip: have a "spiritual advisor" on your team to help in this regard. Prayer is encouraged. Ask what the Word is trying to tell you, then show this in your film. Brainstorm for concept and genre and look at your assets, such as locations, actors, and crewmembers to plan your shoot based on your resources.

COPYWRITE:

As a 168 Producer, you agree to give us a limited license to market your short film through our website and at outside events. Any further distributions will be negotiated transactions with you the filmmaker.

BUDGET:

There are no restrictions on budget. We are all learning and it is an honor for newcomers to work and compete with pros, and vice versa. Creativity and an excellent story will hold up very well, even against a higher budget. Good producers are known for budgeting according to their resources and being frugal. A smaller budget will naturally expand your creativity and skills to help you become a better producer. The playing field is never level, and the bar should be high.

FORMAT/LENGTH:

Q: How long can the final project be?

A: Projects are a max of 11 minutes. Your short can be up to 11 minutes all told.

Q: How do I know how long my story is?

A: You should time the script by reading it aloud. Generally, one page is equal to one minute of screen time.

Q: Can I shoot film? What is the delivery format?

A: Shoot in any form, but you must deliver on DV/MiniDV, DVCAM, hard drive or data disk. HD entries must be converted to 1080i.

NO VIDEO DVDs, NO LP SPEED, NO VHS! We will be sending you more info about how to turn in your film. Please check our website for updates and look for email updates.

Q: If my editor or I have technical questions is there anyone I can call?

A: Please call the office and we'll do our best to answer your question. If we can't we'll try to hook you up with an experienced editor.

PAPERWORK:

Q: How do releases work for semi-public areas, i.e. the lobby, elevators, etc of my apartment building? Do I need a release from my landlord, or is my release enough?

A: You should get releases whenever you can. All 168 releases are merely suggestions. You must do your own legal work. 168 is not liable for your releases.

Q: What about releases for public spaces: street, public parks, etc.? What if someone happens to walk through the shot in the background, for example?

A: If you can recognize someone, you should try to get a release.

Q: When are the releases due?

A: Releases are due with your finished film.

Q: Where do we get the release forms?

A: Forms are posted on the website under the "forms & download" page.

Q: Do we need releases for music?

A: Yes, see the website for forms.

Q: What is the "Crew-Actor Documentary Release" form for and do I need to turn it in?

A: We need you to get everyone who works on your film to sign this form. This form gives us permission to use any photos or video you may provide us for marketing and promotion of the 168 Project. You need to turn this release form when you submit your film.

MUSIC:

Q: Can we use pre-recorded music or must it be created in the 168 Hours?

A: You may use prerecorded music, but you should have the rights to do so. There is such a thing as festival screening rights. If you are planning a life for your film, other than festivals, you should get a composer and acquire the rights to the music they compose. Royalty free music is acceptable. Songs from your friend's band are ok-as long as they sign a release. Only music composed during production week is awards eligible. Many composers are just waiting to be asked to participate.

Q: Can our composer write music before the production week and still have his music nominated for BEST ORIGINAL SCORE?

A: Teams who write and record music prior to production week will NOT be eligible for the BEST ORIGINAL SCORE Award. If you record anything other than music (ie. vocals, dialogue or picture) then your film will be ineligible for ALL awards because you have violated the production start rules.

Q: I have part original and part pre-recorded music. Can this be considered for the Best Original Score Award?

A: No pre-recorded music is eligible, nor is a hybrid (part original, part not) composition.

PRODUCTION INSURANCE:

Q: Do I need production insurance?

A: Yes, you do if you plan to get city permits for locations and get equipment from rental houses.

Q: Where can I get affordable insurance?

A: We have a production company who is offering their insurance coverage to 168 members for a fee of \$375 (non-members \$400). Please go to our "form & downloads" page to get all the forms. You can also talk to friends who have production companies and see if they would be willing to add you to their insurance for the length of your production.

CASTING:

Q: Do you provide help with casting?

A: Yes, we do. On February 6TH we will be hosting a "Casting Day" where 300 actors will come for auditions. Please look at our website for more details.

LOCATIONS:

Q: Does the 168 offer any help in securing locations.

A: Not at this time.

BEHIND THE SCENES DOCUMENTARY AND B-ROLL AND PHOTOS

Q: What is the BTS Documentary category?

A: We encourage every team to shoot "behind the scenes" footage on their film. Grab a buddy, give them a camera and tell them to follow the whole process from Verse Assignment Night to Film Turn-In Day. After you get all the footage, edit together a doc that tells the world how your film came together. We will judge your documentary and if it's one of the best ones, we'll screen it at the Film Festival...plus the winner will be awarded a plaque at the Award Ceremony.

Q: What are the requirements?

A: It needs to be under 11 minutes long and be turned in by March 6th at our office at Media City Church. You can also mail it to our mailing address. 145 S. Glenoaks Blvd. Suite #159 Burbank, CA 91502

Q: How do I get publicity on local TV News? What about Behind the Scenes Documentary Footage (BTS) and still photos?

A: All BTS and stills are optional. We put out news stories and press releases with stills for compelling stories within the contest. But, you have to tell us your story. If you can cut a video Broll package (a selection of clips for a news story) down to 10 min. it would help us greatly when we deliver the package to the local news stations. You can also submit to your local stations, who will be VERY happy to get a ready-made news story connected with Hollywood.

There is a prize for the Best BTS Documentary.

VERSE AND THEME INTEGRATION:

Q: How should I integrate the contest theme in conjunction with my assigned verse?

A: Your film should incorporate the contest theme (ie. "Family Business" for 2009) in a direct or subtle way. Please feel free to use your artistic license here.

Regarding your verse, you should understand the context in which it exists and again, use your artistic license to weave the verse into the story. Some verse integration will be very obvious, others simply implied. You are encouraged to write a justification/explanation of your use of the verse. This is optional. You will be judged on how skillfully, artistically and ingeniously you weave the verse into the story.

JUDGING:

Q: How will the films be judged?

A: All films will be pre-screened and numerically rated by qualified personnel. The top scoring films will go to our jury for similar rating and awards.

Q: Can I enter from another state or another country?

A: Yes, However you must follow all the rules and your deadline the same. Your production week starts earlier than the inside California teams. You must provide a FedEx or other account number so we can send you the stone (with the verse on it) and other materials.

UNLIMITED DOCUMENTARY:

Unlimited Documentaries will use the 168-determined theme (“Hearing God”) like all other entries, but they are free to select their verse and subject with regards to content rules. Upon payment of registration fees, completion of the contract, and registration of verse, Producers may start production without restriction, beginning no earlier than September 15, 2009 (max. length 11 min. including everything). They will only compete within this special category. The best films will screen in whole or in part as determined by the 168 management.

Q: What if my Unlimited Documentary focus Changes drastically and the verse no longer fits?

A: You must submit a foundational verse based on the theme initially to shape and focus your film. However, to plan for the inevitable unpredictability of docs, you may change the verse later if necessary.

PURE ANIMATED PROJECTS:

Pure Animated Projects are defined as films with motion capture or animation in EVERY shot. Only Pure Animated films may build models and create characters early, beginning one week before the Verse Assignment. Absolutely no animation or key framing etc will occur before Verse Assignment. Pre-existing/purchased digital assets are not eligible for awards. Pure Animations are not restricted after Verse Assignment except for meeting the turn-in deadline. Pure Animation will compete only in its own category.

LIVE ACTION/ANIMATED/EFFECTS HYBRID PROJECTS:

These films combine synthetic elements and live action. For the contest, all CG Effects and Animation, etc. is considered a part of live action. These assets include Motion Capture, Plates and Virtual Sets. They MAY be planned after the Verse Assignment, but you MAY NOT shoot or do work on any of these elements before your Production Start. (Otherwise you can't compete for Best Picture because it wouldn't be fair to others).

MUSICALS AND MUSIC VIDEOS:

Producers can start writing lyrics for their film when they receive their verse, but they can only record the vocals during production week. Teams that record vocals before production week are not eligible for any awards. Producers can produce music before production week (just as other teams can), but their musical will not be able to compete for “Best Original Score”.

INTERNATIONAL FILMS:

International Films are eligible to compete in all categories, including best film. Deadlines are given in local times. Turn-in deadline corresponds to the timestamp at your mail carrier. Verses will be delivered via email.

AWARDS:

Categories are for BEST: 1. Scriptural Integration 2. Film (drama or comedy) 3. Comedy 4. Screenplay: Drama 5. Screenplay: Comedy 6. Director 7. Cinematographer 8. Sound Designer 9. Original Score 10. Production Design 11. Actor 12. Actress 13. Supporting Actor 14. Supporting Actress 15. Editing 16. Documentary 17. Documentary Unlimited (you pick theme and verse, 11 minute time limit still) 18. Children's Film 19. Animation 20. Student Film 21. 3-5 Minute Film 22. Documentary (BTS of “168 Project”) 23. Music Video 24. International 25. Evangelista Award (film with best gospel message)

MANDATORY EVENTS:

Q: Do we need to attend assignment night? How would we get the Bible verse from Zimbabwe?

A: Each team must have an email and/or phone link or a representative present during assignment night (where the verse is given).

Q: What is the safety meeting?

A: You must attend the safety meeting or have a safety briefing with your team if you are an out of town team. Each producer will sign a “safety and production guideline” document that states you promise to be “safe” on your set.

OTHER FILM FESTIVALS:

Q: Can I submit to other festivals, promote and screen my film before during and after the 168 Film Festival?

A: Yes, you can submit to other festivals, but it's up to you to make sure that your film is not broadcast in its entirety via internet, TV or other means until after the 168 Film Festival is over. You can and should make a trailer for your website (YouTube, etc.) to promote your film and your screening at the 168 Film Festival.