



Direction for Camera (DFC) Quarterly Film Challenge Handbook

This handbook serves as a comprehensive guide for filmmakers participating in the **Direction for Camera (DFA) Quarterly Film Challenge**. It outlines the mission, goals, responsibilities, and resources available to participants to help ensure a successful journey from the initial concept to the final product.

UPDATED AS OF April 2025

OUR MISSION

To empower underrepresented and emerging Bangladeshi filmmakers and actors by providing an inclusive platform for creative expression through the DFA Film Challenge. We are dedicated to promoting diversity in the film industry by supporting talented filmmakers from all backgrounds and giving them the tools to bring their unique stories to life.

OUR VISION

The DFA Film Challenge aims to break down barriers in the film industry by offering filmmakers the resources, mentorship, and networking opportunities necessary to create impactful films. We want to foster a creative community where underrepresented voices can thrive, producing work that challenges perspectives and celebrates diversity in filmmaking.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

This challenge is free and open to all, regardless of location.

Teams must register on our website to be included in our challenge-specific email list.

Filmmaker Requirements

- **Original Work:** Films must be original works that have been made during the scheduled 72-hour challenge window.
- **Team Composition:** Teams can be composed of anyone wishing to work together. Filmmakers are encouraged to work with a diverse team. Filmmakers do not have to already have a team when registering.



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- **Collaboration:** DFA has created a collaboration Google Sheet that all registrants have access to. We encourage filmmakers to use this resource to find collaborators.

Film Requirements

- **Total Run Time (TRT):** Films must be under 7 minutes, including credits.
- **Format:** Films should be submitted in, at the very minimum, a high-definition (HD) format in either MOV or .MP4 file types.
- **Genre:** The challenge is open to all genres and themes. DFA's challenge goal is simply to have filmmakers make films.
- **Deadline:** Films must be submitted by the official deadline for the current quarter's DFA Film Challenge via FilmFreeway.
- **Editing:** Filmmakers are encouraged to edit and color their challenge films in DaVinci Resolve to be eligible for certain prizes.

HOW OUR QUARTERLY FILM CHALLENGE WORKS

The DFA Film Challenge is a quarterly competition that invites filmmakers to submit original films that highlight their stories.

Participating filmmakers will go through the following steps:

Film Challenge Registration:

- Filmmakers must register through the DFA website.
- The registration link is also available in DFA's social media bios and in DFA newsletters.
- Registrants will gain access to a collaboration spreadsheet to join or invite others to their team.

Film Preparation:

- Participants are allowed to develop ideas and write scripts outside the challenge window. The 72-hour timeframe is strictly for shooting, coloring, and editing.
- On the day of the challenge, participants will receive the official challenge brief, including rules and creative constraints. Adherence to these guidelines is required to qualify for prizes.



Film Production:

- All participants will move on to the production phase, where they will have 72 hours to shoot, edit, and submit their films.
- All teams are encouraged to capture behind-the-scenes photos and videos throughout the challenge. These materials will be used to highlight your creative process in sponsor marketing materials and on social media.
- Films must be shot, edited, and submitted within the 72-hour window. Late submissions will not be considered.
- All partner logos must be included in the end credits to recognize those who made the DFA challenge possible.

Submission:

- After completing the film production, participants must submit their final films through **FilmFreeway**.
- After the challenge, we kindly ask all participants to fill out the feedback form to help us improve future DFA Film Challenges and better support your filmmaking journey.

FILM SUBMISSION CHECKLIST

To ensure you've completed all required steps before submitting your film, please follow this checklist:

- Film Length: Film is under 7 minutes (including credits).
- File Format: Submitted in .MOV or MP4 format.
- Partner Logos: All partner logos included in the end credits can be found in the Member Area of the DFA Website.
- Required Elements: Film includes the required element(s) from the on-the-day brief.
- Submission Platform: Submitted via FilmFreeway before the deadline.

CHALLENGE TIPS FOR SUCCESS



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- **Plan Ahead:** Use the time before the challenge starts to brainstorm ideas, write a script, secure your team, and prep your gear.
- **Keep It Simple:** Focus on telling a great story within the challenge limitations.
- **Capture BTS Content:** Sponsors and partners love seeing behind-the-scenes footage.
- **Stick to the Brief:** Ensure your film includes all required elements sent out on the day of the film challenge to qualify for prizes.
- **Submit Early:** Don't wait until the last minute to submit your film on FilmFreeway. Account for any technical errors and upload time.

FILM SUBMISSION PROCESS

All participants must submit their completed films through FilmFreeway. Follow the steps below to ensure a successful submission:

1. **Register on FilmFreeway:** Create or log in to a free account.
2. **Add Your Project:** Complete all required fields, including project title, type, synopsis, and credits.
3. **Upload Your Film:** Upload your film and a high-resolution poster.
4. **Submit to the DFA Film Challenge:** Visit the DFA Film Challenge page on FilmFreeway, select "Submit Now," and choose your project.
5. **Confirmation and Deadlines:** You will receive a confirmation email once your submission is complete. Late entries will not be accepted.

LOGO & CREDIT REQUIREMENTS

Required Logos Within the member area, a sponsor logo folder with all necessary assets. These logos must be included in the end credits of your film.

Credit Format Include the following acknowledgment in your film: "This film was made as a part of the DFA Quarterly Film Challenge, with support from

ListSponsorNames

."



JUDGING

Films will be judged by a panel of industry professionals, filmmakers, and community leaders. Each challenge will have at least four judges, and each film will be evaluated by at least two separate judges. These will be announced prior to the challenge start.

Judges will be evaluating submitted films based on the following criteria:

- Originality & Creativity
- Direction
- Writing
- Cinematography
- Performances
- Production Value
- Editing

Judging begins the day after the submission deadline and continues for a two-week period. Winners are then announced, and prizes will be made available for pickup or shipping, depending on the winner's location.

SHOWCASE AND AWARDS

Awards Categories

- **Pinnacle Award:** Recognizes the best overall film submission.
- **Spotlight Award:** Given to an outstanding actor-led project.
- **Breakthrough Award:** Honors the best film from a first-time director, writer, or producer.

How Awards Are Announced:

- Winners will be announced 3 weeks after the submission deadline and featured on DFA's social media channels.
- Prizes will be shipped to winners.
- Winner write-ups will be published on the DFA website.



FILMMAKER CONDUCT & CODE OF ETHICS

DFA promotes an inclusive, respectful, and collaborative filmmaking environment.

Participants are expected to adhere to the following Code of Ethics:

- **Respect on Set:** All team members must treat each other with professionalism and respect, ensuring a safe and supportive environment.
- **Inclusivity:** We encourage filmmakers to prioritize diversity and inclusion in their teams and storytelling.
- **Communication:** Clear, open communication is essential.
- **Accountability:** Teams are responsible for adhering to the film challenge requirements.
- **Consent & Releases:** Ensure all actors, crew members, and locations have signed release forms before filming.

RULES & TERMS

- **Registration & Eligibility:** This challenge is free and open to all.
- **Team Composition:** Individuals may submit films, but we prefer collaboration. There is no limit to the number of participants per team.
- **Film Duration:** The total running time (TRT) of each film, including credits, must not exceed 7 minutes.
- **Time Limit:** Films must be shot and edited within the 72-hour period.
- **Film Production:** All footage must be shot during the 72-hour timeframe. Pre-existing footage is not permitted.
- **Constraints:** On the day of the challenge, each team will receive a breakdown of technical and practical constraints that must be incorporated into the film.
- **Submission Requirements:** Films must be submitted by the deadline.
- **Originality & Rights:** All work must be original, created by the team members. Teams must hold all rights to the music, scripts, and any other elements used in their film.



- **Content Guidelines:** Films must not contain explicit content.

RESOURCES

Below are links to essential forms and resources for the DFA Film Challenge:

- **Registration Form:**

[Link to DFA registration form](#)

- **Collaboration Spreadsheet:**

[Link to collaboration spreadsheet](#)

- **Film Submission Form:**

[Link to Film Freeway submission page](#)

- **Feedback Form:**

[Link to feedback form](#)

TROUBLESHOOTING & SUPPORT

If you encounter any issues during the challenge, here's how to resolve them:

- **Registration Issues:** If you don't receive a confirmation email after registering, please email us.
- **Submission Issues:** If you experience problems submitting your film via Film Freeway, please email our support team for assistance.
- **Technical Support:** For general technical questions, you can visit community forums for filmmaking software like DaVinci Resolve.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For any questions regarding the DFA Film Challenge, please contact us at:

- **Email:** s2sfilmla@gmail.com
- **Website:**

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