



*Film Kenya... Capture Africa!*

## **KALASHA INTERNATIONAL FILM AND TV AWARDS**

### **SUBMISSION RULES AND ELIGIBILITY**

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The Kalasha Awards serve as a premier platform for celebrating excellence across Kenya's film and Television landscape. Driven by the Kenya Film Commission's commitment to industry growth, these awards establish high-performance benchmarks for emerging and established creators. By implementing transparent and democratic evaluation standards, the Commission fosters a culture of healthy competition and professional integrity that evaluates the quality of local productions.

#### **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

**Opening Date:** Entries will be received with effect from **18<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**Closing Date:** All entries must be received by **13<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Submission requirement:** Each submission **MUST** include;

1. Complete Online Google Submission form
2. Google Drive Link of the E-submission (ensure permission is granted)
3. Signed Terms and Conditions form
4. Poster of the submission
5. 20-30sec trailer
6. Classification certificate from Kenya Film Classification Board where applicable

**Government Regulations:** All films submitted for the awards **MUST** be classified by Kenya Film Classification Board (KFCB) (**Attach classification certificate**). The film must comply with government regulations on taste and decency [www.kfcb.go.ke](http://www.kfcb.go.ke)

**Who May Enter:** Films and TV programs except for the Best International Award category must have at least a Kenyan producer, Kenyan director, Kenyan writer, Kenyan cast or crew to qualify. Only the film maker (producer, director or executive producer) may submit an entry for the Awards.

**Production Date:** All productions released from **January 2023** to date. All TV entries must have been on air for at least seven episodes before **January 2026**.

Film entries should not have been previously entered for the Kalasha Film & TV Awards.

**Contact Details:** For information you may call 0729 707497, 020-2714073/4 or email [kalashasubmissions@filmingkenya.go.ke](mailto:kalashasubmissions@filmingkenya.go.ke)

**Copyright:** If the Production uses material (including music) that may be owned by a third party (or if a third party has any right or interest in such material), you may be required to give the Kenya Film Commission written proof that the third party has consented to the use of the material for the purpose of making the production. To promote fairness to other artistes, Kenya Film Commission may disqualify an entry that lacks approval for the use of third-party materials.

### **Decisions and Awards**

- a. An Academy of experts will review all the entries and nominate successful submissions
- b. The Academy's decision will be final.
- c. The Kenya Film Commission accepts no responsibility for late, misdirected, lost, undelivered or ineligible entries.
- d. Awards will not be transferable: The Commission will award the signature Kalasha award, sponsors gift (where applicable) and a Cash reward (based on availability of funds)
- e. Failure to comply with these Terms and Conditions will result in disqualification and an alternate may be selected at the discretion of the Academy and the Kenya Film Commission Board and Management.

### **Kenya Film Commission's Rights**

- a. You hereby grant the Kenya Film Commission the non-exclusive and irrevocable right to broadcast and/or exhibit (and authorize to any third party the broadcast/exhibition of) submitted trailers of the Film and program in all media (including, without limitation, television, video on demand, satellite video on demand, multimedia distribution systems, ADSL, internet and mobile/handheld devices) during the nomination and voting process with the aim of promoting the awards.
- b. All material created by Kenya Film Commission featuring excerpts of the production is and shall remain the property of Kenya Film Commission.
- c. Kenya Film Commission shall have the right to copy the Films and programs (or clip(s) of it) and to send such copies to the nominating Academy for the purpose of reviewing the Film and of promoting the Competition.
- d. Nominated Films may be screened at selected theatres and/or Broadcast Houses or Digital TV (trailers only to be screened by broadcast houses and Digital TV) during the public voting period. Entering your production in Kalasha therefore is deemed be consent for the carriage of the same.
- e. The right to broadcast trailers for the entries for publicity to create awareness of the contents of any entries is hereunder given without prejudice by the appendage of the signature of the authorized official submitting the entry.

### **Third Party Copyright**

Please note: You warrant and confirm that you own or have obtained all rights and/or releases necessary including without limitation:

- a. All rights, releases and/or copyright clearance in relation to all material included in the production owned or controlled by a third-party including music, literary, dramatic and/or artistic works;
- b. Releases for all locations featured in the Film;
- c. Consents from all persons featured in, portrayed or contributing to the filming and production of the project, including the director;
- d. License to use all copyright work used in the production or required for its exploitation, including scripts;
- e. In order to allow the Kenya Film Commission to promote the Competition, the films, or the programs you hereby consent to Kenya Film Commission (and its partners) editing and cutting the production in order to exercise the rights granted to them hereunder and to the use by the Kenya Film Commission any content from the production in conjunction with other content and materials in the exercise of their rights hereunder granted.

### **Publicity**

- a. You agree to provide the name, professional photo and biography of all those involved in the production of the Film or program including actors and directors and grant the Kenya Film Commission the right to use such information in promoting the Film and the Awards.
- b. You agree, and will use reasonable efforts, to procure that other participants in the Film or program agree to take part in reasonable publicity for the Awards as requested by the Kenya Film Commission.

### **Third Parties**

- a. You warrant and represent that you have the right to enter into this Agreement and to grant the rights set out herein.
- b. You warrant and represent that nothing in the Film or program is obscene, defamatory, and libelous or breaches Government of Kenya laws.

### **Indemnity**

You indemnify and hold harmless the Kenya Film Commission, and its affiliated corporations, from and against any and all claims, suits, liabilities, judgments and Damages arising out of a breach by you of any of the obligations, representations or Warranties contained in these Terms and Conditions.

## **AWARDS CATEGORIES**

The awards seek to recognize and celebrate achievements in the following categories;

### **A. FILM CATEGORY**

#### **Film Genres**

##### **1. Best Feature Film**

Any motion picture with a run time between 60 minutes and 180 minutes.

##### **2. Best Short Film**

Any motion picture that is short with a running time of not more than 45 min.

##### **3. Best Documentary (Feature & Short)**

Honors a non-fiction film that presents factual content, compelling storytelling, and strong research or real-life exploration.

##### **4. Best Kenyan Indigenous Language Film**

This category celebrates excellence in storytelling through Kenya's rich and diverse indigenous languages. It recognizes a film that authentically captures and communicates Kenyan culture, traditions, and identity using a native language as its primary medium of expression.

##### **5. Best Animation**

Awarded to an animated film of any length that demonstrates excellence in visual creativity, storytelling, character design, and animation technique.

#### **NOTE:**

For the above five (5) categories, the following need to be submitted:

- Google drive link of the full video and 20-30sec trailer in mp4/mov format
- Film poster
- Classification certificate from Kenya Film Classification Board

#### **Cast**

##### **6. Best Lead Actor in a Film**

The male character whose story the film of play is centered around.

##### **7. Best Supporting Actor in a Film**

The male character who plays a role that is not the lead but which still represents a major character.

**8. Best Lead Actress in a Film**

The female character whose story the film of play is centered around.

**9. Best Supporting Actress in a Film**

The female character who plays a role that is not the lead but which still represents a major character.

**NOTE:**

For the above four (4) categories, the following need to be submitted:

- Character name
- Real name
- Contacts
- Professional passport-size photo

**Crew**

**10. Best Sound Designer**

Personnel who is responsible for providing any required sounds to accompany screen action.

**11. Best film Score**

Original piece of music written and tailored to guide and enhance the emotion and mood of the specific film.

**12. Best Editor**

Personnel who is responsible for managing camera footages, dialogue, sound effects, graphics and special effects to produce final film.

**13. Best Original Screenplay**

Film scripting based on one's own creative ideas.

**14. Best Director of Photography**

Personnel who is responsible for creating the look of a film, color, lighting and for framing every single shot in a film.

**15. Best Production Designer**

Personnel who is responsible for identifying design style for sets, locations, graphics, props, lighting, camera angles and costumes to be used in the film.

**16. Best Costume Designer**

The Costume Designer is responsible for the visual appearance of the actors. These responsibilities include what is seen (clothes, shoes, hats, purses, canes, parasols, jewelry, wigs, makeup, etc.) as well as what isn't (corsets, hoops, boning, character elements such as padded stomachs, etc.

### **17. Best Make-up Artist**

Personnel who is responsible for helping actors portray their characters by applying cosmetics and prosthetics to enhance the onscreen appearance of people in film and TV.

### **18. Best Director**

Personnel who is responsible for controlling the film's artistic, creative and dramatic aspects, visualizing the screenplay and guiding the film crew and actors in the fulfillment of the film's vision.

### **19. Best Gaffer**

Personnel heading of the lighting department on a film responsible for executing the Director of Photography's lighting vision.

### **20. Best Visual Effects (VFX)**

Personnel who create, enhance, or modify visual imagery in film and television using digital or practical effects that cannot be achieved during live-action filming.

#### **NOTE:**

For the above eleven (11) categories, the following need to be submitted:

- Name
- Contacts

## **TELEVISION CATEGORY**

### **TV Genre**

#### **1. Best Unscripted TV Show**

A Television programme that is primarily non-fiction and is recognized for outstanding creativity, storytelling, and production quality without a scripted narrative. It should be between 20 and 60 minutes in length.

#### **2. Best TV Comedy**

Television series that are intended to make people laugh. It involves light or humorous tone depicting amusing incidents and in which the characters ultimately triumph over adversity. It should be between 20 and 60 minutes in length.

#### **3. Best TV Drama**

Television series whose script depicts dramatic events characterized by having multiple plots and characters. It should be between 20 and 60 minutes in length.

For the above four (3) categories, the following need to be submitted:

1. Google drive link of the full video and 20-30sec trailer in mp4/mov format
2. Film poster

## **Cast**

### **4. Best Lead Actor in a TV Drama**

Male character who acts through the entire TV series, and is the main character of the story.

### **5. Best Supporting Actor in a TV Drama**

Male character who acts through the entire TV series, and plays a role that is not the lead but which still represents a major character.

### **6. Best Lead Actress in a TV Drama**

Female character who acts through the entire TV series, and is the main character of the story.

### **7. Best Supporting Actress in a TV Drama**

Female character who acts through the entire TV series, and plays a role that is not the lead but which still represents a major character.

### **8. Best Comedy Act**

The most outstanding individual or ensemble performance in a TV comedy show.

### **9. Best TV Director**

An individual recognized for outstanding creative leadership and direction in a television production, effectively translating the script into compelling on-screen storytelling.

### **10. Best TV Screenplay (Original)**

A Television script that is entirely original and is recognized for excellence in storytelling, structure, dialogue, and creativity.

For the above five (7) categories, the following need to be submitted:

1. Character name
2. Real name
3. Contacts
4. Professional passport-size photo

## **SPECIAL AWARDS CATEGORY**

### **1. Best Student Film**

Includes both short and feature films that have been produced by university or college students.

### **2. Best Student Documentary**

A nonfictional film that gives facts and information about a subject or topic. It includes both short and feature films that have been produced by university or college students.

### **3. Best International Award**

Any motion picture with a run time between 60 minutes and 180 minutes from any East African Country.

**4. Best Children Production**

An educational or entertaining production whose primary audience is the children

**5. Lifetime Achievement Award**

Honours a veteran who has made a significant, long-term contribution to the development of the film and TV industry.

**6. Kituo Halisi Award**

Recognizes a film or TV production that authentically showcases Kenyan culture, heritage, identity, and storytelling traditions.

**7. Best Video Game (XR/VR)**

Awarded to the best video game or immersive experience using VR, XR, AR, or mixed reality technologies.

**8. People’s Choice Award (Feature Film)**

A public-voted award recognizing the most popular feature film of the year.

**9. People’s Choice Award (TV)**

A public-voted award recognizing the most popular TV production of the year.

**10. Jury Award**

A special award given by the jury to outstanding productions that push boundaries—e.g., experimental films, works by PLWD, marginalized communities, or innovative storytelling.

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