

### **Features**

Feature documentaries, animations, narratives and experimental film all welcome. The only criterion is that the film engages in some way with human rights and social justice issues.

### **Shorts**

Short documentaries, animations, narratives, music videos and experimental film all welcome. The only criterion is that the film engages with human rights and social justice issues.

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## **MISSION & OBJECTIVE**

Now in its eleventh year, the Human Rights Arts and Film Festival (HRAFF) is Australia's premier cultural event devoted exclusively to the exploration of human rights issues through art and film. HRAFF aims to:

- Advance and encourage debate and awareness of human rights issues amongst the broader community through creative media.
- Showcase and support Australian and international artists who are concerned with human rights issues.
- Promote works by or about Australia's Indigenous communities.
- Create a robust, diverse and more cohesive human rights community within Australia.

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## **ABOUT THE FESTIVAL**

Founded in 2007, the Human Rights Arts and Film Festival (HRAFF) is devoted exclusively to the exploration of human rights issues through art and film. Our aim is to foster a stronger human rights culture in Australia.

HRAFF presents an annual film and arts festival which runs for two weeks in Melbourne, Australia and then in Sydney, Canberra, Brisbane, Perth, Darwin and Alice Springs.

Throughout the year, HRAFF undertakes education and outreach programs, and works with organisations to build community projects.

Reaching audiences of over 10,000 people annually, HRAFF is a vibrant array of film, art, music and speakers.

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## **ORGANIZERS**

Lauren Valmadre (Program Director); Aleta Moriarty (CEO); Vy Wijekumar (Marketing and Partnerships Director); Matilda McKenna (Operations Manager)

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## **GENERAL RULES**

**A few tips & FAQs for Filmmakers thinking of submitting to HRAFF.**

**What is a human rights film?**

A Human Rights film is premised on the concept that we all share a universal humanity that is inherently worthy of dignity and respect. It does not necessarily need to address a particular right or convention nor does it necessarily need to be legalistic

Some examples of what we consider “human rights films” are those that:

- celebrate what it is to be human;
- tell those stories that relate to the basic rights of all people;
- uncover and explore human rights violations;
- explore and challenge concepts of discrimination or persecution;
- portray marginalised individuals or communities;
- invite audiences to engage with previously unfamiliar social justice issues, or provide fresh perspectives on social justice issues; and
- Challenge pre-conceptions of what human rights are or should be.

### **What exactly is HRAFF looking for?**

HRAFF is looking for diverse, innovative and creative responses to human rights. We want films that inspire and engage audiences. In particular, HRAFF is seeking films that creatively and artistically engage with the field of human rights and explore the complexities of human existence in the context of political and social structures. It is also important that the films are accessible to a festival going audience and have a high degree of technical excellence.

### **Is there a particular genre that we won't accept?**

No! Films of any genre may be accepted, from documentary, narrative, animation, music video, essay film, comedy, horror, sci-fi, adventure and experimental. We love to watch films that take a fresh and creative approach to human rights.

### **Are there particular kinds of content that you won't screen or that you're less likely to screen?**

Our audience is intelligent and film-literate. We are less likely to screen films that are didactic and simplistic.

Films that feature content including racist, pornographic, defamatory, obscene, hateful, discriminatory behaviour or other acts or thematic material considered to be both extreme and gratuitous will not be programmed.

We screen films on the big screen, not the small screen. Films that are made for, or are considered more suitable for news and current affairs television programming, online content or similar are generally not included.

Similarly, films that are not cinematic or have very low production values may not be included. Films that exist primarily to promote or market a particular NGO or organisation will not be screened. The presence of a particular organisation within the context of the content is, however, acceptable.

Films that have had significant exposure in Australia (through film festivals, television, cinema,

DVD release or online availability) are less likely to be selected.

Films will need to have been produced after 1 January 2016 to be submitted to the 2018 Festival.

### **What about duration? Can I submit long format or feature material, or are we only talking shorts here?**

Films of any duration may be submitted. However, we do not accept series. Films received that are 30 minutes or under in length are considered for short film session programming. Films with a duration extending over 30 minutes will be considered for the features program.

### **What should I know before submitting a film to HRAFF?**

Before submitting your film to our Festival, you should make sure you read and understand HRAFF's Terms and Conditions. These Terms and Conditions outline all of HRAFF's conditions of entry and legal issues relating to you submitting the film. These are available on the website. When you submit your online submission application, we will ask you to confirm that you agree to these terms and conditions.

### **By submitting a film to HRAFF, am I assigning ownership to the Festival? Or does it mean that I can't submit my work for screening anywhere else?**

When you submit your film to the HRAFF, you are granting HRAFF a non-exclusive licence to screen your film to the public at our Festival as well as at other events we organise, such as schools screenings, conferences and fundraisers.

A non-exclusive licence basically means that you are giving us permission to screen your film at our Festival and these events. There are no restrictions on your ability to submit your work to any other festival or to do anything else with the film. You retain absolute ownership of your film.

Our right to screen your film at other HRAFF events ends 24 months after the Festival at which your film is screened. However, as a courtesy, we will notify you beforehand of any additional screenings during that time.

### **Does HRAFF have any other rights to use our film?**

By submitting a film to HRAFF, you also grant HRAFF a licence to screen any part of your film for promotional and marketing purposes. This may include taking excerpts of the film to make a trailer, using still images for our program and making a copy of the film for judges or speakers.

Here's a few things we can't do: HRAFF can't pass on, or give rights to other organisations to screen your film without your permission. HRAFF can't use more than 3 minutes of your film for promotional purposes and HRAFF can't directly make money from screening your film in a context outside the festival.

What else do I have to do before submitting a film?

When you submit a film, you're saying that you have the authority to give us a licence to screen the film and that you have obtained all the necessary permissions and consents from the people who may have rights in elements of the film. Before submitting your film, you will need to make sure that you have written permission to, for example, use all the music that features in your film.

### **I am under 18. Can I still submit my film to HRAFF?**

In order to submit a film to HRAFF, you will need to be over 18. If you are under 18, you will need to get your parent or guardian's consent to submit the film on your behalf. Consent forms are available for download from the HRAFF website and should be emailed to [submissions@hraff.org.au](mailto:submissions@hraff.org.au). Please contact us if you have any questions.

### **So, what exactly do you need from me, film-wise?**

HRAFF prefers submitted films to be a secure online screener or DVD. You need to be responsible for making sure your film has undergone the relevant technical and quality checking before submitting. This should include – checking for digital glitching, artefacting, audio peaking, loss of vision or sound, sound syncing issues or any issues around the way the disc you're giving us actually works. The video in the disc should be of a high quality in encoding – this means that it does not appear compressed, blocky or difficult to view on the final submission disc that you're giving us. Please also ensure what you're giving us is free of scratches fingerprints, and please ensure that your disc is labelled with the title of the film, the duration, and your name and contact details.

When you're submitting your work to HRAFF, you're doing so at your own risk – we can't be responsible for loss, delay of delivery or any damage to the material that is received. Where we find that there are technical issues with your film, and it's something we need to address in final consideration of the film for the festival, we'll get in touch with you to provide the opportunity to resubmit, pending available time and circumstance.

### **I still have questions! Who can I contact?**

If you have any questions, whether it be about our terms and conditions or submission process or selection criteria, please email us at: [submissions@hraff.org.au](mailto:submissions@hraff.org.au)