



## IFFY 26.2 Filmmaking Marathon Rules & Requirements

### April 11 – 12 & April 18, 2026

#### THE COMPETITION

- **Official Filmmaking Period**

The 26.2 Filmmaking Marathon will officially commence on Saturday, April 11th at 10:00 AM (when the Kickoff Event ends) and conclude on Sunday, April 12th at 12:12 PM (all noted times are eastern standard time).

- **Kickoff Event**

The team leader or a representative of the team (“Entrant”) must be present at the Kickoff Event held from 9:00 – 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 11th at the Riverside Arts Center in Ypsilanti Michigan (76 N Huron St, Ypsilanti, MI 48197).

- **Screening of Completed Films**

Each completed film (“Entry”) that meets the competition rules will be screened on Saturday, April 19th at 9:00 PM as part of Independent Film Festival Ypsilanti (iFFY) at the Riverside Arts Center.

- **Basic Requirements of Participating**

Entrants will receive several prompts (at the Kickoff Event) that they will be required to include in their film. These prompts may include elements such as a line of dialogue, a prop, a character, a location, a specific action, or a specific type of shot.

Each team will be given exactly 26 hours and 12 minutes to make their film (a video “Entry”) with a maximum run-time of 4 minutes (there is no minimum run-time). All Entrants must adhere to official iFFY 26.2 FM Rules to be eligible for the screening and awards competition.

- **Delivering Completed Film**

Teams are responsible for uploading the files of their final film in a timely manner by 12:12 PM on Sunday, April 12th. iFFY staff will provide a Dropbox link at the Kickoff Meeting. Films will be time stamped at upload; any late films will not qualify for awards or prizes.

- **Technical Specs**

Films will be screened at 1080p resolution (HD) and it's preferred that Entries are delivered as 1080p video files (not in 4K). Uploading time is a factor, and it's preferred Entries are rendered in a high bitrate H.264 .MP4 or .MOV format (not in ProRes or other format). Recommended technical specs:

- 1920x1080px Resolution
- H.264 at 50-200Mbs Bitrate (.MP4 or .MOV)
- 24fps recommended (higher frame rates acceptable)

- **Production Costs**

Any costs associated with the production of the Entry (e.g., props, rentals, fees, licensing, etc.) are solely the responsibility of the Entrant.

- **iFFY 26.2 Filmmaking Marathon Winner**

Each film that is completed on time and following the required prompts will be eligible to win the 26.2 Filmmaking Marathon top award: a \$250 cash prize for First Place, and a \$100 cash prize for Honorable Mention. Winner(s) will be announced at the iFFY 26.2 Filmmaking Marathon screening event Saturday, April 18th at 9:00 PM.

- **Selection of Winner**

Entries will be watched and judged by a qualified panel of three independent judges who will evaluate the eligible entries based on the following judging criteria:

50% Artistic Merit (e.g., Story, Creativity, Originality, Vision, etc.)

50% Technical Merit (e.g., Cinematography, Audio Quality, Editing, Acting, etc.)

- **To Enter**

To register for the marathon, follow the instructions found on

<https://www.iffypsi.com/marathon>. Registration is based on a first come, first serve basis. Space is limited. Registration fees are \$50 per team.

## THE RULES

- **Content & New Work**

Teams are required to create a new, original film for the iFFY 26.2 Filmmaking Marathon. Any Entry that includes prior footage or re-edits prior work made before April 11th, 2026, may be deemed ineligible for the competition. Any/all content (e.g., music, stock photos) must be fully owned and/or properly licensed by Entrant for inclusion in the Entry.

Entrants are responsible for securing & documenting any necessary permissions for performers/participants in their Entry.

- **Eligibility**

A team is not eligible if one or more of the participants, or their significant other, is employed by iFFY or serves as a board member.

- **Designated Team Leader**

For any individuals that collaborate as a team for an Entry, they are required to:

- a) designate one (1) person as the Leader of the group to enter the iFFY 26.2 FM;
- b) agree to these Official Rules;
- c) sign the Team Leader's Agreement and;
- d) accept any awarded prize on behalf of the group.

iFFY is not liable for any disputes between collaborators arising out of, or related to, their participation in iFFY 26.2 Filmmaking Marathon.

- **Team Leader's Agreement**

By registering a team for the iFFY 26.2 Filmmaking Marathon, participants agree to abide by the following agreements:

**1. Award funds:** filmmaking teams are solely responsible for deciding and communicating how any awarded money will be allocated to individual team members before the start of the Filmmaking Marathon.

**2. Kickoff Meeting:** filmmaking teams are responsible for sending at least one representative to attend the Kickoff Event at 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 11th and sign in with iFFY staff. At the kickoff meeting, team representatives will receive required prompts that must be included in the final film in order to be considered for the competition.

**3. Uploading files:** teams are responsible for uploading the files of their final film in a timely manner by 12:12 PM EST on April 12th to a Dropbox link that iFFY staff will provide at the kickoff meeting.

**4. Conduct:** teams agree to abide by any applicable state and federal laws during the creation of their film.

**5. Hold Harmless:** team participants agree to indemnify and hold independent Film Festival Ypsilanti (iFFY) and its staff, board, volunteers, and contractors harmless from any and all claims, lawsuits, demands, causes of action, liability, loss, damage and/or injury, of any kind whatsoever (including without limitation all claims for monetary loss, property damage, equitable relief, personal injury and/or wrongful death), whether brought by an individual or other entity, or imposed by a court of law or by administrative action of any federal, state, or local governmental body or agency, arising out of, in any way whatsoever, any acts, omissions, negligence, or willful misconduct on the part of the 26.2 Filmmaking Marathon Team Participants. This indemnification applies to and includes, without limitation, the payment of all penalties, fines, judgments, awards, decrees, attorneys' fees, and related costs or expense, and any reimbursements to the Independent Film Festival Ypsilanti for all legal fees, expenses, and costs incurred by it.

- **Terms of Entry**

If an Entrant is unable to deliver their Entry by the deadline (12:12 PM on Sunday, April 12th), there is no "grace period" or extension available, and no refunds will be issued.

Upon successful uploading of Entry, please document the time/confirmation (e.g.,

screenshot or photo). Additionally, if Entrant does not deliver an Entry with a run-time of 4 minutes or less, it will be disqualified, and there is no refund of entry fees.

- **Withdrawing**

In the unfortunate event that an Entrant must withdraw from the competition, the iFFY 26.2 FM team will attempt to return half of the entry fee (\$25), provided that the competition is not less than 24 hours from starting. Please email [26.2@iffypsi.org](mailto:26.2@iffypsi.org) to notify the team as soon as possible if you must withdraw from the competition.

- **Usage**

By participating in this competition, teams agree to allow iFFY to use clips or segments of completed entries in promotional materials for future competitions. Additionally, the iFFY will reserve the right to host completed entries on one or more streaming services (such as Youtube, Vimeo, etc) to make them available for viewing after the competition.

- **Limitations of Liability and Release**

No liability or responsibility is assumed by iFFY resulting from any user's participation in or attempt to participate in the iFFY 26.2 Filmmaking Marathon ("Project") or ability/inability to upload or download any information in connection with participating in the event. No responsibility or liability is assumed by iFFY 26.2 FM for any technical problems or technical malfunction arising in connection with Entrants participation in the Project (including any hardware or software errors; failure of any e-mail transmissions to be sent or received; inaccessibility of the web site in whole or in part for any reason; traffic congestion on the internet or the website). iFFY 26.2 FM is not responsible for any issues of copyright, licensing or permissions related to Entries, nor any typographical errors in the announcement of prizes or these official rules, or any inaccurate or incorrect data contained on the website or social media sites maintained by the iFFY 26.2 FM. Use of the website and the iFFY's social media sites is at user's own risk. iFFY 26.2 FM and the related parties are not responsible for any personal injury or property damage or losses of any kind resulting from participation. By participating in the Project, Entrant agrees to release, indemnify and hold iFFY and related parties harmless from any and all claims, damages or liabilities arising from or relating to such Entrant's participation in the Project.

- **General Conditions**

By participating, Entrants agree to these Official Rules which are final and binding in all respects. The iFFY 26.2 Filmmaking Marathon is governed by the laws of Michigan.

### **Project Organizer**

The iFFY 26.2 Filmmaking Marathon is dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming event for all people. Our community celebrates creativity and the shared passion for making movies.

### **Contact**

iFFY 26.2 Filmmaking Marathon email: [26.2@iffypsi.org](mailto:26.2@iffypsi.org)