



THE 55th ANNUAL AWGIE AWARDS – CATEGORIES AND CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

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CATEGORIES

FEATURE FILM

- [Feature Film – Original](#)
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SHORT FILM

- [Short Film](#)

DOCUMENTARY

- [Documentary – Public Broadcast \(including VOD\) or Exhibition](#)
- [Documentary – Community, Educational and Training \(or otherwise commissioned to a specific brief\)](#)

TELEVISION DRAMA (including VOD Works, 22 minutes or longer)

- [Television – Serial](#)
- [Television – Series, including original and adapted works](#)
- [Television – Limited Series or Telemovie, including original and adapted works](#)

CHILDREN’S TELEVISION (including VOD Works, 22 minutes or longer)

- [P Classification \(Preschool – under 5 years\) original or adapted, animated or performed](#)
- [C Classification \(Children’s – 5–14 years\) original or adapted, animated or performed](#)

COMEDY (any medium)

- [Comedy – Situation or Narrative](#)
- [Comedy – Sketch or Light Entertainment](#)

AUDIO

- [Audio – Fiction, including original and adapted works](#)
- [Audio – Non-Fiction, including original and adapted works](#)

All scripted radio and podcast works including drama, non-fiction, original, adaptation, broadcast or otherwise.

THEATRE

- [Stage – Original](#)
- [Stage – Adapted](#)
- [Community and Youth Theatre](#)
- [Theatre for Young Audiences](#)
- [Music Theatre](#)

INTERACTIVE MEDIA & GAMING

- [Interactive Media & Gaming](#)

All forms of writing in a digitally based, interactive and/or gaming medium, where the writer is a central creative contributor. Must be a narrative-based project/production.

ANIMATION

- [Animation](#)

Open to all forms of scripted animation work, other than Children's P Classification, with a maximum duration of 30 minutes.

WEB SERIES

- [Web Series, and other Non-Broadcast/Non-'Subscription Video On Demand' TV short works.](#)

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Please read all Conditions of Entry carefully before entering your script as entry criteria and conditions across a number of categories have changed.

Writers must not under any circumstances resubmit any work in later years that has already been entered and judged in previous years.

COVID-19 CANCELLED OR DEFUNDED WORKS

In consideration of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, for the second year, the AWGIES will, *in strictly limited circumstances*, consider the entry of cancelled or defunded works.

Performance or production of those works must have had the commitment of a recognised professional theatre company, production company, funding body and/or broadcaster or SVOD. Those works must be accompanied by a letter of support from the theatre company, production company, funding body and/or broadcaster or SVOD confirming their commitment and brief details of the cancellation.

This clause is not intended to serve those productions that have been suspended or postponed or have a likelihood of being produced at a later date. Should a work submitted under these conditions then be professionally performed or produced at a later date, it will be ineligible to be re-entered for an award.

This clause is also not intended to serve the function of a 'best unproduced work'.

The AWG expects that the majority of the few works that may meet these criteria will be theatre works announced as part of a professional theatre company's season that did not go ahead owing to the closures of live venues across Australia that continued to be in effect.

- It is strongly advised that writers consult with the AWG at awgies@awg.com.au in advance of entering a work under these conditions to assess eligibility before proceeding with an entry.

The AWG reserves the right to reject the entry of works submitted under these special COVID-19 guidelines for any reason deemed appropriate by the National Judging Coordinator.

CULTURAL CONSIDERATIONS

The Australian Writers' Guild is committed to responsible, ethical, and inclusive storytelling, and we are dedicated to excellence in both art and practice.

If your entry for the 55th AWGIE Awards significantly depicts the lived experiences of minority cultures or communities, and it falls outside your own lived experience, the AWG welcomes and encourages you to accompany your entry with a short statement (maximum half a page) outlining the processes and practices that allowed you to confidently complete the submitted work.

The statement may detail processes involving co-writers, producers, consultants and/or actors, or anything else you deem helpful in assisting and informing the judging panel in understanding your methodology (any

collaborators mentioned by name will be redacted for the judges). This statement is optional but will help the AWG and AWGIE judges maintain standards of excellence, quality, and integrity in the judging process.

FEATURE FILM

Works must have completed principal photography (or principal production in the case of animation and/or work requiring significant visual effects) between **1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021**. Collaborative AWGIE Award entry rules apply.

Feature Film is divided into two categories:

Feature Film – Original

Entries should be a feature-length work from an original idea, concept, or lived experience, premiering for a theatrical cinema audience.

Feature Film – Adapted

Entries should be a feature-length work based on existing Intellectual Property or previously established material. Including, but not limited to, novels, short stories, memoirs, plays, poetic works, movies, television works, comics, web series, websites, podcasts, newspapers, or magazine articles, premiering for a theatrical cinema audience.

- Please see below for further guidelines on Adaptation.

SHORT FILM

Works must have completed principal photography (or principal production in the case of animation and/or work requiring significant visual effects) between **1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021**. Collaborative AWGIE Award entry rules apply.

This category is open to all short films (either drama or comedy), up to and including a maximum of 30 minutes duration. Both Full Members and Associates may enter the **Short Film** category. Comedy works may alternatively enter a **Comedy** category, if so eligible.

- Where stand-alone drama or comedy works exceed 30 minutes in duration, but are not feature-length works, it is strongly advised that writers consult with the AWG at awgies@awg.com.au for advice on the correct category to enter before proceeding with an entry.

DOCUMENTARY

Works must have completed principal photography (or principal production where animation or significant visual effects were required) between **1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021**. Collaborative AWGIE Award entry rules apply.

Documentary is divided into two categories:

Documentary – Public Broadcast

Works should be professionally produced for distribution and/or broadcast or streaming and intended to be publicly available to a broad audience. Scripts should best represent the writer's intention and contribution to the project and can include notes of up to one page clarifying those aspects, uploaded as an additional document. Please note that post-production scripts should be limited to Observational Documentaries, and that any post-production script featuring extraneous details (e.g. time-codes, shot numbers etc.) will not be accepted.

Documentary – Community, Educational and Training

This category also includes works otherwise commissioned to a specific brief and should include information on the original community and/or educational brief and target audience (of no more than one page).

TELEVISION DRAMA

Entries must have completed principal photography (or principal production where animation or significant visual effects were required) between **1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021** and may have been commissioned for either TV broadcast or VOD dissemination.

Television Drama is divided into three categories:

Television – Serial

Only single episodes that have completed principal photography during the nominated period may be entered (subject to current rules for jointly credited episodes, see below).

Television – Series (including original and adapted works)

Only single episodes may be entered (subject to current rules for jointly credited episodes, see below).

Series Television is defined as episodic storytelling: storytelling that demonstrably introduces and concludes a major story at the completion of an individual episode. Episodes in the Television Series category can, and often do, include heavily serialised elements and stories. Episodes in this category are typically also part of a series that is intended to be returnable, and/or are episodes taken from later seasons in a series.

Television – Limited Series or Telemovie (including original and adapted works)

A Limited Series is defined as a complete story told across a single series of episodes. Often (but not

exclusively) 4 – 6 episodes. One in which the writer'(s) intent is to tell one major story across a defined number of episodes. Or to create an anthology. Typically, Limited Series are intended as stand-alone series that likely will not return for subsequent seasons.

The sole writer of a Limited Series may submit the miniseries in its entirety for judging as a single piece of work. Where more than one writer has written the Limited Series, whether represented by joint credits or sole credits for individual episodes, all the writers may submit the work in its entirety for judging as a single piece of work.

AWGIE Nominations/Awards will apply to all the writers as collaborators. Collaborative AWGIE Award entry rules apply. All AWG-member writers must agree to the joint entry. That consent should not be unreasonably withheld. However, if a joint entry is invalid through the dissent of one or more writers, the entry of a duly-credited single episode by the respective AWG-member writer (one per writer) for individual judging is allowed. In such cases, the entry must include a brief synopsis of previous and subsequent episodes to provide a context for judging.

Telemovie is a feature-length work premiering for a television or VOD audience.

- Understandably, there may be questions about whether a work is eligible for the Television Series or Television Limited Series category. Where doubt exists, it is strongly advised that writers consult with the AWG at awgies@awg.com.au to assess eligibility before proceeding with an entry.

CHILDREN'S TELEVISION

Entries must have completed principal photography (or principal production where animation or significant visual effects were required) between **1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021** and may have been commissioned for either TV broadcast or VOD dissemination.

Children's Television is divided into two categories:

P Classification

(Including original or adapted works)

Entries should be written for a children's television program suitable for pre-school children under the age of 5 years. The program can involve either animation or live-action, or a combination of both. However, all television works written for pre-school children must be entered in this category.

C Classification

(Including original or adapted works)

Entries should be written for a children's television program suitable for children aged 5 to 14 years. The program can involve either animation or live-action, or a combination of both.

COMEDY

Includes any medium. Entries must have completed principal photography (or principal production where animation or significant visual effects were required) between **1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021**. Collaborative AWGIE Award entry rules apply.

Comedy is divided into two categories:

Comedy – Situation or Narrative

Open to all comedic works driven by a clear narrative.

- Where stand-alone Comedy – Narrative works are less than 30 minutes, they should be entered in **Short Film**. Where they are greater than 30 minutes, it is strongly advised that writers consult with the AWG at awgies@awg.com.au for advice on the correct category to enter before proceeding with an entry.

Comedy – Sketch or Light Entertainment

Revue/Sketch entries must be of at least 8 minutes running time and may be comprised of one or more sketches from one or more programs or performances. Broadcast comedy specials (including VOD) are eligible for entry in this category.

ANIMATION

Open to all forms of scripted animation work, with a maximum duration of 30 minutes, the **Animation** category may include film and television (either Adult or Children's C Classification), non-broadcast works, or animated short works.

Alternatively, any such animation work (i.e. of 30 minutes or less duration) may be instead entered in the appropriate general film or television or non-broadcast category, where applicable. However, animation works of longer duration (i.e. greater than 30 minutes) can only be entered in the appropriate general film or television (Adult or Children's C Classification) category.

Principal photography or principal production (including when the producer received the animatic OR animated 'rough cut' of the project) must have been completed between **1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021**.

AUDIO

Entries must have been recorded for broadcast on radio or podcast streaming via a widely available platform and have completed principal recording between **1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021**.

Audio is divided into two categories:

Audio – Fiction (including original and adapted works)

Entries are open to all scripted works of drama and comedy.

Audio – Non-Fiction (including original and adapted works)

Entries are open to all scripted documentary, true-crime, personal interest and/or historical works.

- Non-fiction works should not be journalistic or current affairs in nature.

THEATRE – STAGE

Entries must have had their first professional production (as distinct from reading) or been produced or curated by any recognised theatre management or institution between **1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021**. Additional information, including technical information, staging and production notes, should not be included in the script, but can be uploaded as an additional document (up to one page).

Anthologies are eligible, although the AWG reserves the right to reject such entries and invite separate entries if deemed appropriate, with the writer(s) of the entry to be advised in writing.

Theatre – Stage is divided into two categories:

Theatre – Stage Original

Entries should be work from an original idea, concept, or lived experience, premiering in a recognised and accepted theatre space.

Theatre – Stage Adapted

Entries should be work based on existing Intellectual Property or previously established material. Including, but not limited to, novels, short stories, memoirs, plays, poetic works, movies, television works, comics, web series, websites, podcasts, newspapers, or magazine articles, premiering in a recognised and accepted theatre space.

- Please see below for further guidelines on Adaptation.

COMMUNITY AND YOUTH THEATRE

Entries must have had their first formal production (as distinct from reading) between **1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021**.

Community and Youth Theatre is created with input from a particular community, school, or youth group (locality or interest-based) and may have been performed by a professional, non-professional or student cast. The writer will have been commissioned to work in consultation with the youth group, school, or community, involving such processes as workshops, oral research and/or community contributions to some or all aspects of the work. Work that has no input from a school or community, nor comes about through engagement with a school or community, is ineligible for this category. If the work is performed in a school, the writer must have been duly commissioned, employed, or contracted by the school or a relevant authority.

NB: School productions eligible under this category do not alone qualify as professional credits towards an entrant's Full Membership status.

Entrants will need to submit the following information (two pages or less), clearly stating:

1. What was the brief given to the writer by the host organisation, school and/or community?
2. What is the school or community to whom the play relates?
3. Was this play written for professional performers within a company, for performers from a school or community, or a combination of both?

Additional information, including technical information, staging and production notes, should not be included in the script, but can be uploaded as an additional document (up to one page).

Anthologies are eligible, although the AWG reserves the right to reject such entries and invite separate entries if deemed appropriate, with the writer(s) of the entry to be advised in writing.

THEATRE FOR YOUNG AUDIENCES

The entry must have had its first formal production (as distinct from reading) between **1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021**.

Theatre for Young Audiences is written for a target audience of children or young people of any age up to and including 18 years. It includes 'Children's Theatre' and 'Theatre in Education' and is usually performed by a professional cast. Entrants are asked to submit information on the age group for which the play was intended. Additional information, including technical information, staging and production notes, should not be included in the script, but can be uploaded as an additional document (up to one page).

Anthologies are eligible, although the AWG reserves the right to reject such entries and invite separate entries if deemed appropriate, with the writer(s) of the entry to be advised in writing.

MUSIC THEATRE

Entries must have had their first formal production (as distinct from reading) between **1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021**.

Music Theatre is a work written for the theatre, in which music plays an integral part. The work will be judged from the script/text, lyrics or book alone, however, entrants are asked to submit accompanying music (at least three songs, recorded) for context only. A brief synopsis can also be submitted with the work. Entries include forms such as opera libretti, musicals, revue (8 minutes minimum), musical theatre, theatre restaurant and original cabaret. Additional information, including technical information, staging and production notes, should not be included in the script, but can be uploaded as an additional document (up to one page).

Anthologies are eligible, although the AWG reserves the right to reject such entries and invite separate entries if deemed appropriate, with the writer(s) of the entry to be advised in writing.

INTERACTIVE MEDIA & GAMING

Entries must have been commercially available (released or available for purchase) or publicly available (accessible via the internet) between **1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021**.

Interactive Media & Gaming involves writing in a digitally based, interactive medium and must be a narrative-

based project/production, or where the work is a game, have strong narrative elements, with the writer a central creative contributor. **Interactive Media & Gaming** may include computer games, interactive web projects, interactive graphic novels, augmented reality experiences, smartphone and tablet-based apps, interactive fiction, and any other interactive digital medium where the script is an integral part of the work/experience potentially combining design/visuals/writing in order to bring the story to life.

For online and web-based works, active links and relevant access codes must be provided. For games, if a playable version of the game/app with the access code is not available, a ‘video of play’ is acceptable. Video games, interactive graphic novels and other self-contained forms may be submitted on CD, DVD, USB (four copies, each on a separate media) or uploaded via Dropbox. Video demonstrations, or teasers/trailers, of interaction and gameplay for off-line viewing, may also be submitted on DVD, USB or uploaded via Dropbox. For app-based projects distributed via online app-stores (e.g. iOS/iTunes, Steam, Android/Google Play, PlayStation network, Xbox Live etc.), links to the app plus promotional access codes must be provided.

Scripts must be supplied. All script formats are acceptable, provided the finished work accompanies the entry. Entrants must provide a one-page (maximum) summary including target audience, platforms, intent, and any other relevant information. Supporting material can also include a narrative bible and a dialogue spreadsheet.

All **Interactive Media & Gaming** entries must be accompanied by a signed declaration, from the producer of the project or production, that the writer has been an integral part of the creative team. The script, and its role in the production/game and any elements of performance, will form the essential basis of the judging process.

All entries must be void of the writer’s credits. There is no limit on the length of individual entries.

NB: Any work which features sufficient interactivity to qualify for the **Interactive Media & Gaming** category, subject to AWG confirmation, must be entered in the **Interactive Media & Gaming** category.

‘Instructional App’ works, produced for the internet and other platforms, featuring minimal interactivity are eligible for the **Documentary – Community, Educational and Training** category. However, if they feature sufficient interactivity (as described above), the work must be entered in the **Interactive Media** category.

WEB SERIES

(And other Non-Broadcast/Non-VOD TV short works)

Works must have completed principal photography (or principal production where animation or significant visual effects were required) between **1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021**. Collaborative AWGIE Award entry rules apply.

This category includes all non-broadcast and non-SVOD (‘Subscription Video On Demand’) TV Drama or TV Comedy short works, whether of an episodic nature (e.g. series/serial/sitcom, etc.) or single works. Entries can be up to a maximum duration of 22 minutes, for either an individual episode or a combined number of lesser-duration episodes, or for a single work.

MEMBERSHIP, CREDITS, AND ENTRY CRITERIA

All entrants must be financial Full Members or Associate Members of the Australian Writers' Guild by the closing date for entries, and for the duration of the judging process. If a work is nominated, all entrants must be financial Full Members or Associate Members of the Australian Writers' Guild at the time of the AWGIE Awards.

Associate Members may enter produced scripts in any category. However, if the entrant is eligible for Full Membership at the time of entry, a transfer to Full Membership will be required before the entry can be processed.

Student Members are required to upgrade to Associate Membership to enter the AWGIE Awards, or even to Full Membership if eligible (see above).

It is the entrant's responsibility to ensure that all submitted credits are correct and correspond to the credits on the production (including 'Lyrics by' and any other relevant credit where appropriate).

The AWG reserves the right to withdraw an entry at any time if it finds otherwise. Entries may be deemed ineligible if the entrant has not provided the required information before the closing date for entries. Once judging has begun, if the information provided by the entrant is determined – in the AWG's opinion – to be sufficiently subject to question or doubt, the AWG similarly reserves the right to withdraw the entry.

If the entry is part of a series or anthology, then both the title of the series or anthology – and the title(s) of the individual episode(s) – should be stated on the entry form.

All applicable forms of writing for Stage, Theatre, Radio, Film, Interactive Media, Television, Web Series or otherwise shall be deemed eligible for entry, whether specifically provided for by the published categories or not. However, the AWG's decision on the applicable category for any given work shall be final.

All works must be written in English (or include an English translation) and must be either written by an AWG member who is an Australian national (or an Australian resident) or produced/performed in Australia.

The AWG reserves the right to change, combine or re-name categories if it believes a fairer grouping of entries can result. While entries shall be judged in the category entered wherever possible, however:

The AWG reserves the right, subject to notifying the entrant in writing, to recategorise an entry that the AWG believes to be entered inappropriately, incorrectly, or not to its best advantage.

This includes strictly ensuring that different entries from the same series, show, or program are judged in the same category. If an entrant objects for any reason, the entrant may withdraw the entry.

- It is strongly advised that where episodes from a series are eligible for multiple categories, writers of that series confer in advance of entry to come to a collective decision about the best category to submit their work. If a decision cannot be agreed to by the writers, the AWG will choose the category deemed most appropriate.

Entries should be either the final draft (i.e. prior to the edited 'release', 'shooting' or 'production' script) or the draft 'as accepted for production', including any additional work performed by the writer during

production.

With all categories, if the high number of entries so warrants, the AWG reserves the right to employ a 'multi-panel' or similar form of judging.

- **All dates regarding eligibility shall be without exception unless so deemed by the AWG at its discretion.**

ADAPTATION

A work is an adaptation if it is based on existing Intellectual Property or previously established material. Including, but not limited to, novels, short stories, memoirs, plays, poetic works, movies, television works, comics, web series, websites, podcasts, newspapers, or magazine articles.

In determining whether a work is original or an adaptation, the AWG may also take into account the credit attributed to the entry or its resulting production.

- For clarity, for an underlying work to be considered existing intellectual property or previously established material, for the purposes of entry into the AWGIE Awards, the underlying work must have been made publicly available to a broad audience.
- Understandably, there may be questions about whether a work is an Adaptation or an Original. Where doubt exists, it is strongly advised that writers consult with the AWG at awgies@awg.com.au to assess eligibility before proceeding with an entry.

COLLABORATIVE AWGIE AWARD ENTRY RULES

AWGIE Awards, for the most outstanding work of high merit in a category, are presented to AWG members who are the writers or co-writers of the work.

All instances of collaborations and authorship (applicable under AWG rules) must be declared, and all joint writers who are members of the AWG must be party to the entry. Where an AWG member has co-written with a non-AWG member, the AWG member may enter the script provided that all non-member co-writers who would qualify for a writing credit are acknowledged in the entry in line with credit protocols. However, if the entry wins, the AWGIE Award trophy will only bear the AWG member's name.

To receive an AWGIE Award for winning a category, all nominees must have registered for AWG membership or ensured their membership is current at the time of entry and that their membership remains current at the time of the AWGIE Awards.

NUMBER OF ENTRIES

General

Works shall not be entered in more than one category.

Entrants may submit a maximum of three works in any one category, except for **Interactive Media & Gaming**, and certain other categories of Television (see below).

No member may enter more than one episode, regardless of duration, of the same **Serial** or **Series** program, with a limit of three entries per Television category.

- Television Serial writers may enter one episode per show per calendar eligibility period (except where the co-writing provisions outlined below apply).
- Where a Television Series' production falls across two eligibility periods – i.e. production commences late one year and finishes early the following year – the writer is only entitled to submit one episodic work from that season of the series. The writer will choose which episode represents their best work and submit only to that AWGIE Awards (except where the co-writing provisions outlined above apply).

A member may enter one of their own individually credited episodes even if another episode of the same program – written by the member in collaboration with another member writer or writers – has already been entered by one of the other collaborators.

Similarly, up to ONE episode of a program with the same collaborative credit (subject to the above conditions) may be entered by a member, even if one of the other collaborators has already entered another episode with a different (either individual or collaborative) credit.

As stated, if a **Limited Series** is to be judged in its entirety, the collective scripts for the Limited Series are considered as one entry, whether from a single writer or multiple writers in collaboration (even if some or all episodes feature only one individual credit).

- As all episodes are deemed to be one entry, a Limited Series' period of eligibility is at the completion of principal photography (or principal production where animation or significant visual effects were required) of the whole series.

Children's Television, Animation, Comedy, and Documentary categories

The rules governing the number of entries in the Television Serial and Series categories will apply to the above-mentioned categories in all cases.

Interactive Media

Entrants may submit a total of two works. Where entries are under five minutes in length, entrants may enter a total of three examples of the same project as one entry where applicable. All entries must include a script.

AWGIE AWARDS AND NOMINATIONS

The best or only entry in a category will not necessarily win the AWGIE Award for the year.

1. Only a work or works of high merit shall be nominated, with the most outstanding work receiving the AWGIE Award.
2. If there is only one nomination, it must receive the AWGIE Award.
3. If there are no works entered that warrant nomination, there will be no AWGIE Award in that category.
4. If there is only one nomination, the name of the nominee will not be made public until the AWGIE Award is presented at the 55th Annual AWGIE Awards.

In all categories, if required, an entrant must be able to confirm that the work was commissioned, contracted, or curated – and that its production/performance was of sufficient professional standard – to the satisfaction of the National Judging Coordinator.

As previously stated: Any work which has been entered and formally judged in previous years will be subject to disqualification.

The name of the writer(s) must appear on the title page only, the name of the writer(s) must not appear in the body of the script (e.g., header and footer) or the synopsis page.

Entries that do not comply with the entry criteria may be rejected.

The AWG reserves the right to print and/or photocopy scripts for judging purposes, if necessary.

Scripts will not be returned under any circumstances and any hard copies will be destroyed once judging is complete.

Queries should be directed in the first instance via email to awgies@awg.com.au.

All queries regarding the 55th Annual AWGIE Awards remain subject to the discretion and ultimate ruling of the National Judging Coordinator and the Australian Writers' Guild.

Any decision relating to the AWGIE Awards made by the AWG is final, and no subsequent correspondence may be entered into.