

BIFA VOTER DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

Voter Briefing

Red = Important action point for BIFA voters

22 April	Deadline for registration for voting in order to be in the draw for 2015
17 May	Entries open
June	Sub-group meetings
July	Sub-group meetings
6 September	Entry deadline
September	Sub-group meetings
16 Sept to 3 Oct	Round 1 voting (Entries > Long List)
10/11 October	Long List announced
18 to 25 Oct	Round 2 voting (Long List > Nominations)
Early November	Nominations announced
Early December	Ceremony

Adjudication Process

Overview

BIFA's Nomination Committee and Screening Group (voters) decide the long list and nominations in most categories. After a rigorous discussion-based selection process the long list and nominations are decided by confidential vote.

Process

The voters are divided into Sub-Groups:

- Best British Independent Film (which covers directing, screenplay, performance and technical categories)
- The Douglas Hickox Award
- Producer of the Year
- Best British Short
- Best Documentary
- The Discovery Award
- Best International Feature Film

Films are allocated to voters so that every entered film is seen by a minimum number of voters:

- Voters will have between 14 and 17 films allocated to them throughout the voting process (around 35 short films)
- We will try to allocate films to those who are likely to enjoy them – we want to find the nuggets of quality or promise in each film entered

Voters are expected to commit to seeing all the films allocated to them. Aside from this they can watch as many or as few films as they want to.

The Sub-Groups meet throughout the process to:

- Discuss the films they have seen
- Decide which films should be seen by more voters
- Allocate films to voters
- Decide which films are removed from active consideration, having been seen by a minimum number of voters
- Voters will also be asked to log the films they've seen and whether they think more voters should see them

The Chairperson of each Sub-Group sits on the Nomination Committee. S/he will report back from the Sub-Group, passing information on to other Sub-Groups.

- For example, if a Debut film features an outstanding performance, the Debut Chairperson will share this with the Nomination Committee so that more of the British Sub-Group can see the film.
- There will also be a pool of general voters, who will be allocated recommended films or asked to give an alternative view on a film that is marked as 'not for active consideration', i.e. it won't be sent out for any more views after a minimum number of voters have said that it shouldn't be further considered.

Votes are then cast privately. Voters may vote for their own category/Sub-Group, but also in all other categories. In calculating the results, BIFA takes into account the number of people who have seen a film.

After the announcement of the long list, the voters watch as many of the long listed films as possible before voting for the nominations.

The winners in all categories (apart from the honorary awards) are decided by independent jury/ies, newly appointed each year. Juries discuss all nominations before voting confidentially for the winner using a preferential voting system.

Conflicts of interest

Conflicts of interest must be declared to BIFA and voters sit out any discussions of films which they have an interest in. Conflicted voters may still vote, but they may not vote for films which they have an interest in.

Access to entered films

BIFA will make voters' details available to entrants so that voters may be sent:

- DVD screeners
- Online screeners
- Invitations to screenings

Please note that some films may only be available to watch at screenings.

Questions? Please contact us: orestes@bifa.film / 07593781657