JOYSAUCE.TV · INAUGURAL · 2027

JoySauce Film Festival 2027

Film Submission FAQ

The inaugural JoySauce Film Festival celebrates AAPI filmmakers and storytellers through a digital festival and an in-person Los Angeles showcase. JoySauce charges no entry fee. FilmFreeway submissions are free; Festhome may charge its own platform service fee. Filmmakers may be considered for the in-person festival without opting in to VOD or FAST streaming.

This FAQ covers eligibility, submission dates, exhibition options, awards, and delivery requirements.

AT A GLANCE

SUBMISSIONS OPEN **Oct 27, 2026**	DEADLINE **Dec 20, 2026 · 11:59 p.m. Pacific**	ENTRY FEE **JoySauce $0**
SELECTIONS ANNOUNCED **Jan 20, 2027**	DIGITAL FESTIVAL **Feb 6–27, 2027**	LA SHOWCASE & AWARDS **Feb 20, 2027**

SUBMITTING

01 WHEN CAN I SUBMIT

Submissions open October 27, 2026, and close December 20, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. Pacific. Your film must be completed and submitted by that deadline.

02 WHAT ARE THE ENTRY FEES

JoySauce charges no festival entry fee. FilmFreeway submissions are free. Festhome may add its own platform service fee, shown before checkout.

03 WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO SUBMIT

Films must have an Asian or AAPI director, writer, or producer, or an Asian or AAPI lead or majority cast. Filmmakers from any country may enter. Non-English films must include English subtitles.

04 WHAT CATEGORIES CAN I ENTER

FilmFreeway: shorts up to 40 minutes and features 41 minutes or more. Festhome: shorts 2–40 minutes and features 41–300 minutes. Series/Pilot Episodes: 20–60 minutes. Durations include credits. Films are evaluated on storytelling, originality, and creative merit.

05 HOW DO I SUBMIT

Submit online through FilmFreeway or Festhome. Both are accepted submission methods for the 2027 JoySauce Film Festival. Enter each film once, through one platform; you may enter more than one film as separate entries.

SUBMIT ON FILMFREEWAY SUBMIT ON FESTHOME

EXHIBITION OPTIONS

06 CAN I SUBMIT FOR THE IN-PERSON FESTIVAL ONLY

Yes. You do not have to opt in to VOD or FAST streaming to be considered for the Los Angeles showcase. Digital selection does not guarantee an in-person screening; the winning films screen in Los Angeles.

07 WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VOD AND FAST

Festival VOD offers on-demand viewing on JoySauce behind a sign-in, exclusively for the festival exhibition window of February 6–27, 2027.

FAST offers curated showcase blocks on free streaming channels from February 6–20, 2027. Eligible films may reach audiences through JoySauce's mobile app and channels on Roku, Prime Video, Plex, YouTube, and more. FAST placement is an additional opportunity, not a requirement for festival consideration.

08 STREAMING OPT-IN

In order for any submission to be eligible for VOD and/or FAST streaming display, the submitter must indicate their wish and permission to do so by explicitly opting in at the time of their submission or by sending an email to filmfestival@joysauce.com explicitly stating their wish and permission for their submission to be displayed on VOD and/or FAST. "Opting in" does not guarantee that a submission will be displayed in this fashion, the final decision will be made by JoySauce.

09 ARE THERE CONTENT RESTRICTIONS

There is no rating restriction for submission. Films the JoySauce Jury deems R-rated or above cannot run on FAST, and each platform's content standards also apply. Films that do not meet FAST standards may be offered VOD exhibition only.

Filmmakers are not required to create an alternate cut, but may submit an alternative version if they wish to meet streaming eligibility.

10 WHO DECIDES WHERE SELECTED FILMS ARE SHOWN

JoySauce makes the final programming decisions. Exhibition opportunities depend on available rights, platform standards, and programming considerations. Opting in does not guarantee VOD or FAST exhibition.

AWARDS AND FESTIVAL DATES

11 WHAT AWARDS ARE OFFERED

Best Feature, Best Short, and Best Series/Pilot Episode are determined by the JoySauce Jury. All selected films can win these awards, including films that do not stream or appear on the app.

Fan Favorite is determined by an online audience poll during February 6–13, 2027. Only films that stream are eligible. Winners are celebrated at the Los Angeles showcase, where the winning films screen.

12 HOW ARE FILMS SELECTED AND HOW DOES VOTING WORK

A screening committee reviews every eligible submission, with shorts, features, and Series/Pilot Episodes scored separately. The JoySauce Jury determines Best Feature, Best Short, and Best Series/Pilot Episode. Selections are announced January 20, 2027.

Full Fan Favorite poll rules are published when voting opens. Votes or entries may be disqualified for vote manipulation. JoySauce's programming decisions and the JoySauce Jury's decisions are final.

13 WHEN AND WHERE DOES THE FESTIVAL TAKE PLACE

The digital festival runs February 6–27, 2027. FAST showcase blocks run February 6–20, and festival VOD ends February 27.

The studio filmmakers dinner is February 19, 2027. The Los Angeles showcase and awards are February 20, 2027, subject to change. JoySauce may change festival dates or format if necessary and will notify entrants.

14 WHAT IS THE IN-PERSON FESTIVAL EXPERIENCE

Experience standout AAPI cinema on the big screen, from award-winning entries to a curated selection of independent films. Hear the stories behind the work in conversations with the filmmakers, then connect with fellow film lovers and industry voices in an intimate Los Angeles setting.

15 WHEN WILL I FIND OUT IF MY FILM WAS SELECTED

Selections are announced January 20, 2027. Keep the contact information in your submission current so JoySauce can reach you about your film.

RIGHTS AND OTHER FESTIVALS

16 DOES MY FILM NEED TO BE A PREMIERE

We especially welcome films nearing the end of, or that have completed, their festival run. Prior screenings do not by themselves prevent submission. Check any commitments or rights restrictions before agreeing to an exhibition option.

17 WILL STREAMING AFFECT ELIGIBILITY AT OTHER FESTIVALS

It can. Online exhibition may affect eligibility or premiere status at other festivals, including when viewing is behind sign-in. Check each festival's rules before opting in to VOD or FAST streaming. You can still be considered for the Los Angeles showcase without streaming.

18 DO I NEED RIGHTS TO EVERYTHING IN MY FILM

For FAST streaming, filmmakers must hold rights to all film elements, including music, footage, and images. For VOD exhibition, filmmakers must hold festival licenses to all elements, including music, footage, and images.

19 DOES MY MUSIC NEED TO BE CLEARED

Yes. Your music permissions must cover the exhibition option you choose. Festival-only permissions should not be assumed to cover FAST streaming. Check with your rights holders or music supervisor if you are unsure what your existing permissions allow.

20 CAN I SUBMIT A ROUGH CUT

Films must be completed by December 20, 2026. Films selected to stream must then deliver a final digital master meeting JoySauce's streaming specifications, closed captions, and a signed agreement by January 25, 2027.

DELIVERY AND SUBMISSION SUPPORT

21 WHAT DO SELECTED FILMS NEED TO DELIVER

Films that stream must deliver a final digital master meeting JoySauce's streaming specifications, closed captions, and a signed agreement by January 25, 2027. Contact JoySauce for the applicable technical specifications and delivery instructions.

22 DO I NEED A DCP FOR LOS ANGELES

No DCP is required. If a film invited to screen in Los Angeles is not already theater-ready, JoySauce prepares the screening version from the streaming master.

23 CAN I SEND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

Filmmakers may submit promotional materials such as key art, trailers, and stills. JoySauce may use some, all, or none of these materials to promote the festival.

24 ARE FILMMAKERS PAID IF THEIR FILM STREAMS

No. JoySauce does not pay a screening fee for films shown during the festival. Streaming is optional and is not required for consideration for the in-person festival or for Best Feature, Best Short, and Best Series/Pilot Episode.

25 IF MY FILM IS NOT SELECTED CAN I GET FEEDBACK

We are unable to provide individual feedback or screening notes on submissions.

26 WILL I RECEIVE CONFIRMATION OF MY SUBMISSION

Yes. Check your submission platform for confirmation, and make sure your entry includes a screener link. FilmFreeway is free; Festhome may charge its own platform service fee, shown before checkout.

27 WHO CAN HELP WITH MY SUBMISSION

Email filmfestival@joysauce.com with questions about eligibility, streaming opt-in, rights, delivery, or your submission.

FESTIVAL LINKS

Festival information and submission rules

Submit on FilmFreeway

Submit on Festhome

filmfestival@joysauce.com