

# JT3 Artist Awards FAQ 2010

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## The Jesse Thompkins III Foundation for Young People in the Arts FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

### **What is a JT3 Artist Award?**

JT3 Artist Awards are unrestricted cash grants given to those aspiring director/screenwriters who best embody tenacity in the pursuit of their artistic passion as exhibited by our namesake, Jesse Thompkins III.

### **How are award winners selected?**

A review panel of film/TV professionals and other professionals who support our mission will evaluate your entire application package. At the end of the judging cycle, the review panel will make their recommendations for awardees to the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors will then vote to approve the recommendations of the review panel. Review panel members will be kept anonymous until after the award winners are announced. All decisions by the review panel and the Board are final, and are not subject to appeal.

### **How is my work evaluated?**

Films and screenplays will be evaluated under the following criteria:

- Applicant's film will be reviewed for its concept, directing, acting, cinematography, editing, and overall ability to tell a story effectively.
- Applicant's screenplay will be reviewed for its originality, story, characterizations, dialogue, format and style, and structure.

### **How do I choose which of my work(s) to submit?**

The film and script you select to submit should best reflect who you are as an artist. We are looking for works that show not only your potential as a screenwriter/director, but also your passion and originality.

### **How important is my personal statement?**

Your personal statement is another way to learn who you are as an artist, and as a person, and what it means and has meant for you to be an artist. It will also serve as a sample of your writing skills.

### **How important is my resume?**

Your resume will provide insight into your work ethic, educational background, and work experience.

### **What length is acceptable for scripts?**

Short scripts of 10-20 pages, and feature length scripts up to 120 pages will be accepted.

### **Does my script have to be in any particular format?**

Yes, scripts must be typed and in the standard, industry-accepted format. Scripts must be submitted as a PDF document. Should you have any questions about formatting, there are publications like "Formatting Your Screenplay" by Rick Reichman or "The Screenwriting Bible" by Dave Trottier. Some basic tips on formatting can be found here: <http://www.brassbrad.com/format.htm>.

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## **Where can I register my script?**

You can register your script at the Writer's Guild of America East. Follow this link:

<https://www.wgaeast.org/index.php?id=238>

Or you can register your script with the US Copyright office. Follow this link:

<http://www.copyright.gov/register/>

## **Does my script have to be registered before I send it in?**

If you decide not to register your script before submitting it with your application, you will not be disqualified; however, you will be required to register your script and provide proof of registration if you become an award winner before we would be able to disburse the cash award and showcase your work online and at our gala.

## **What if I produced my script into a movie?**

Scripts produced by the applicant are acceptable. However, the script you submit should not have been used to film your submitted movie.

## **What length is acceptable for my film?**

Short films must be of no less than 20 seconds but no more than 30 minutes.

## **Does my film submission have to be in any particular format?**

Accepted film formats are:

- FLV - Flash Video
- AVI - Audio Video Interleave
- Mov – QuickTime
- MPEG 1/2/4 (.mpg, .mpeg)

Films with a file size that is less than 1 Gigabyte (1G) should be submitted online.

Films with a file size that is 1G or larger must be sent by mail to The Jesse Thompkins III Foundation, PO Box 1037, Tenafly, NJ 07670. CD's are acceptable for film files 1G or larger. CD's for films 1G or larger must be clearly labeled with: title of work; name and phone number of applicant. DVD's will not be accepted.

If your film is viewable online, please provide the URL.

## **Can I submit a movie that is more than three years old?**

You can only submit a movie that is more than three years old if you have additional completed works or works in progress that are newer. Please contact us at [jt3awardinfo@jt3art.org](mailto:jt3awardinfo@jt3art.org) if you have any additional questions about older movies.

## **I directed my movie, but co-wrote my script. Is this okay?**

Yes, we will accept a film you directed even if you are not the sole writer of the script. However, we would need the full contact details for your co-author, and an email from them stating they are aware you are submitting a film that you directed but with a script you both co-wrote for this awards program. We will also need your co-author to sign an authorization form if you were to win to allow for your movie to be shown at the Gala, and displayed on our website.

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### **How long can the synopsis for my feature film be?**

Your synopsis should be 500 words or less and no more than one page.

### **Who owns the rights to the materials I submit with my application?**

You retain all rights. Award winners are required to show their work on our website, and at the “JT3 Art Celebrates Young Filmmakers” event in October. In addition, the release form that allows JT3 Art to show your film will also indemnify the Foundation against infringement for any non-cleared item(s) within your film.

### **If I work with another artist, how do I apply?**

Collaborating artists should apply together. An acceptable collaboration is no more than two artists who can clearly demonstrate an ongoing collaborative process. Each collaborator should submit their own personal statement and resume; however, the film and script submitted should be joint projects. Any additional completed works or works in progress should also be joint projects.

### **Does this award pertain only to narrative filmmakers, or are documentarians also eligible?**

The award is intended for those who are aspiring to be dual screenwriter/directors. If you are a screenwriter, but mainly direct documentaries you may apply.

### **Do you accept adaptations of existing material (i.e., novels, short stories, plays, etc)?**

No. We currently do not allow adaptations of the material of others.

### **I don't have a movie to submit, but I do have two feature length scripts. Can I apply?**

Applicants are required to submit both a screenplay, and a short film. If you do not have a film, we would not be able to process your application.

### **Can I apply if I live outside of Brooklyn, NY or Washington, DC?**

No. Applicants must be current residents of the Brooklyn, NY or Washington, DC. You must also provide proof of residency.

### **How do I send my proof of residency?**

Please photocopy and mail it in. Please note, other than the release form, this is the only item for which we will accept a hard copy.

### **What forms of proof of residency are acceptable?**

Your proof of residency should be current. Acceptable items include a utility bill, a lease, a rent receipt, a dated piece of mail, or similar items.

### **Is the residency requirement that I: 1) live in Brooklyn or DC for one year after I receive the grant or 2) that I have already lived in Brooklyn or DC for one year.**

The requirement is that you have already lived in Brooklyn or DC for a year by the time of the application deadline, May 7th.

### **I am subletting my apartment and all the bills go to my roommate's name only. Can I scan a piece of mail that went to my address instead?**

Yes. Sending a piece of mail that is postmarked and at least one year old as of May 7<sup>th</sup> is acceptable as proof of residency.

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### **Can I send my application in by mail?**

Only films with a file size of 1G or more, the Proof of Residency and Release Form will be accepted by mail. All other materials must be submitted online at: [www.jt3artapp.org](http://www.jt3artapp.org).

### **Can you tell me the address I should send my film to?**

Digital files that are less than 1G must be submitted online at: [www.jt3artapp.org](http://www.jt3artapp.org).

Films of 1G or more must be sent on CD to: The Jesse Thompkins III Foundation, PO Box 1037, Tenafly, NJ 07670. DVD's will not be accepted.

### **How do I convert my materials PDF format?**

A PDF is an Adobe Acrobat file. If you are using Final Draft to write your script, and want to convert it to a PDF document, please follow these steps:

- Open your script.
- Go to File then click Save as PDF.

Alternately, you can go to File, Print, and you may have an option that says Save as PDF in the Print Box. Most programs on an Apple computer can convert documents to PDF under the print menu. If you have a PC or are having trouble converting to PDF on your Apple, you can send a Word document. You can send your script as a Final Draft file.

Finally, there are online and free software products available that convert Word documents to PDF files at no cost.

### **Must my application be postmarked or received by May 7, 2010?**

Your electronic application files must be uploaded from [www.jt3artapp.org](http://www.jt3artapp.org) on or before May 7, 2010. Envelopes transmitting CD's for films 1G or larger, proof of residency and release form must be POSTMARKED no later than May 7, 2010.

### **Can I hand write my application and send it in?**

No. Your application must be completed and uploaded online at: [www.jt3artapp.org](http://www.jt3artapp.org).

### **Is \$2,000 the maximum amount one can request?**

Award amounts cannot be requested. The review panel will judge all applicants and recommend to the Board of Directors those who should receive awards and the amount(s) of those awards.

### **How are my materials returned?**

Please provide a self-addressed stamped envelope (SASE) for the return of your CD. If you do not enclose a SASE, your CD will not be returned.

### **When will I be informed of the status of my application?**

Applicants will be informed no later than September 20, 2010. A personal phone call, followed by a formal letter will notify winners. Others will be notified by letter.

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### **If I receive an award, what must I do?**

JT3 Artist Award winners will agree to showcase their work at the Foundation's website, [www.jt3art.org](http://www.jt3art.org). Award winners will agree to attend the New York City Awards Gala in October. Award winners will also agree to show their work at the Gala for the year in which they win and at other promotional events for the Foundation during the approximate one year period ending the day after the subsequent Awards gala.

### **How is the award money disbursed?**

Checks will be presented to the award winners at the New York City Gala in October.

### **Will my award be taxed?**

Please check with your tax preparers for details. In compliance with Federal law, winners of \$600 or more will receive a 1099 and the income will be reported to the IRS.

### **If I win one year, can I apply again the next?**

You cannot apply the next year but you may apply three years after you win.

### **Can I bring a guest to the gala?**

Yes. You will be provided with two tickets to attend the event in October.

### **I live in DC. If I win, will JT3 Art provide compensation to allow me to travel to NYC for the awards ceremony?**

Yes. The Gala will pay for round trip train fare and provide a hotel room for the New York gala.