

TROP JR

PRESENTED BY

**THE AUSTRALIAN CHILDREN'S
TELEVISION FOUNDATION**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHEN DOES ENTRIES CLOSE?

Thursday 5 January 2012 at 6pm (Australian Eastern Daylight Time).

WHEN IS THE FESTIVAL HELD?

Sunday 19 February 2012.

WHAT IS THE TROP JR SIGNATURE ITEM (TSI) FOR 2012?

JUICE. (You can interpret this any way you want – be creative!)

WHY DOES MY FILM HAVE TO FEATURE THE TSI & HOW CAN I USE IT?

The TSI shows us that your film was made for Trop Jr. It is not a theme however – it's more like a little symbol or 'proof' that you made your film for Trop Jr. Try to make a film that stands on its own feet and include the TSI as part of the background somewhere. This means your film will continue to have a life after the Festival. Very occasionally, a film inspired by the TSI is brilliant so don't let us stop you if yours is one of those!

WHAT IS THE MAXIMUM LENGTH FOR TROP JR FILMS?

7 minutes including titles and credits.

IS THERE A MINIMUM LENGTH?

No.

CAN I SUBMIT MORE THAN ONE FILM FOR ENTRY?

Yes - there is no restriction on the number of entries.

DOES TROP JR ACCEPT INTERNATIONAL ENTRIES?

Yes.

DOES TROP JR ACCEPT ANIMATIONS?

Yes.

DOES TROP JR ACCEPT DOCUMENTARIES?

Yes.

ARE THERE OTHER IMPORTANT RESTRICTIONS?

Trop Jr must be your film's first public screening. This means that the film must not have been screened at any other film festival, or made available on free-to-air or pay TV, in cinemas, on the Internet or any other public arena. This restriction does not include cast and crew screenings.

CAN I RE-EDIT A FILM THAT HAS ALREADY SCREENED SO IT FITS THE TROP JR GUIDELINES?

No! We consider this a different version of the same film, therefore if it has screened previously or otherwise made publicly available, it is not eligible for Trop Jr.

WHAT FORMAT DO I HAVE TO SHOOT ON?

You can shoot on any digital format you like. For example, HD, DVD, Mini DV - whatever format is available to you.

WHAT FORMAT DO YOU ACCEPT FOR ENTRY?

You must submit x2 DVD viewing copies of your film, each in a separate case. Submissions are to be formatted according to the Entry Materials listed in the Entry Guidelines. Short listed filmmakers will also have to supply a digital file of their film by Thursday 19 January 2012.

DOES TROP JR PLACE RESTRICTIONS ON SWEARING OR SEXUAL/VIOLENT CONTENT?

YES! All Finalist films will be classified by the Australian Federal Government's Classification Board. All films must adhere to a G or PG rating. For a complete rundown on the classification guidelines please visit classification.gov.au.

DOES IT COST ANYTHING TO ENTER?

No. Entry is free.

DO I HAVE TO OBTAIN COPYRIGHT CLEARANCE FOR THE MUSIC?

YES! It is the obligation of your nominated parent or guardian to ensure that you and/or your nominated parent or guardian own all copyright for or have written permission to use all underlying works included in the film including music, performance and script. Arts Law has a great website artslaw.com.au with lots of information and advice about copyright. We suggest you a read through their articles on copyright as well as their short film guide for producers. Otherwise, If you would like further advice on copyright and clearances consult our Filmmaker Representative on + 61 2 8011 0290 or email mail@tropjr.com.au.

CAN I USE ANY PIECE OF MUSIC AS LONG AS I HAVE PERMISSION?

You can use most pieces of music provided you and your nominated parent or legal guardian have received the necessary permissions from the copyright owner(s). Well known/published music can become very expensive to use. You and your nominated parent or legal guardian will need to have cleared rights to use the piece of music in "all media" and in "all territories" (please see Trop Jr Entry Form Terms and Conditions). Trop Jr has a network broadcast of the event and acts as a distributor for finalist and short listed films following the Festival. Your nominated parent or legal guardian must have cleared all music on your behalf in order to participate in such activities and, indeed, such clearance is a condition of entering your film in the Festival. It is important to note that you are not just asking for a "festival clearance" of the music. AMCOS administers the rights for production music libraries and it does have a special festival rate for production music. However, this does not apply to Trop Jr Short Film Festival films because the films may be screened after the festival via our many distribution channels which means you would need additional rights and clearances. Try to use copyright or royalty-free music in

your film. Don't limit the life of your film by making rushed music choices or leaving this until the last minute. Music should be one of the first things you and your nominated parent or legal guardian consider when planning your production.

CAN I USE MUSIC THAT I DOWNLOAD FROM A WEBSITE?

Just because you are able to download music from a website does not mean you can use it in your film. In most cases, music made available to download is for "private use" only (i.e. not a festival screening in front of thousands of people!). If you plan on using downloaded music, please make sure you and your nominated parent or legal guardian ensure that it clearly states it is "copyright or royalty free" – i.e. there is no copyright owner or royalties that need to be paid, or that it clearly states you are able to do so. Having said this, there still may be limitations on how you use the music so we strongly suggest you and your nominated parent or legal guardian read the fine print and contact the owner/s of the website just to be sure. Remember, you will need clearance in "all media" and "all territories" to be eligible for Trop Jr.

WHAT IS A MUSIC CUE SHEET?

If you are short listed, we will email you a music cue sheet to fill out. It is basically a form detailing all the music used in your film (title of composition, copyright owner, duration used). We will also email you a completed example to help you with this process.

DO I NEED WRITTEN PERMISSION FROM CAST ETC?

Yes, your nominated parent or legal guardian must request, on your behalf, that all actors, writers and composers of your film sign a Release Form, which can be downloaded from our website. You will need to supply these to us if you are short listed. If you are having difficulty in filling the form out, please contact us on +61 2 8011 0290 or mail@tropjr.com.au.

WHAT WILL THE PRODUCTION STILLS BE USED FOR?

If your film makes it to the finals, the stills you provide will be used in publicity materials produced by Trop Jr and in our Festival Program.

AT WHAT ASPECT RATIO WITH MY FILM SCREEN?

Tropfest will screen all films at 16:9 (widescreen). We strongly suggest that you shoot your film at this ratio to avoid transferring your film's ratio aspect from 4:3 (full screen) to 16:9 (widescreen) in post-production (which can be quite difficult!). Please be aware that not all digital cameras (particularly older cameras) have the option to shoot 16:9 (widescreen) so if you are planning on shooting at this ratio (and we recommend that you do!), make sure you check your camera's features well before shooting. NB: If you are short listed you are required to submit a digital file of your film to us by Thursday 19 January 2012 so we can create a screening tape (Digi Beta) master of your film. If you are experiencing extreme difficulty shooting or converting your film to 16:9 (widescreen) please email mail@tropfest.com.au or call us on +61 2 8011 0290. Be sure to check out our 16:9 Shooting Guide (PDF) on our website.

WHAT IF MY FILM CONTAINS SUBTITLES?

This is OK, however please consider that the film is screened in a very large environment, with many audience members a great distance away from the screen. You should double

the size of subtitling and avoid yellow shades. White on black is best in terms of visibility.

CAN SOMEONE OVER THE AGE LIMIT (15 YEARS OLD) HELP ME SHOOT MY SHORT FILM?

All crew members and active participants in an entry, including a group entry (i.e. those working on your production) must be 15 years or younger on Thursday 5 January 2012. We encourage you to seek help from those older and more experienced than you however, in a supervision capacity only. For example, they can act as your Legal Guardian and/or help you choose a camera or give you lighting advice but they cannot be the cinematographer for your short film.

Actors in your film can be any age.

WHY DO I NEED TO A PARENT OR GUARDIAN TO ACT ON MY BEHALF?

We ask you to nominate a parent, legal guardian, teacher or group supervisor (**Legal Guardian**) over 18 years of age to sign the legal documents (i.e. the Terms and Conditions Form) upon entry into the competition and to act as the first point of contact for all matters relating to your short film. The Legal Guardian will also be responsible for ensuring your film satisfies the entry criteria, so it is important they understand and agree to the terms and conditions of entry too. Also, if you are short listed or selected as a finalist, we go on to look for other screening opportunities for your film that may pay you money. If your film does attract revenue, we will get in touch with your nominated parent or legal guardian to handle this.

CAN I COLLET MY DVD AFTER THE FESTIVAL?

Unfortunately Trop Jr is unable to return you entry DVDs after the festival. Please keep a copy of your film before you enter.

DO YOU HAVE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS?

Email us at mail@tropjr.com.au or call +61 2 8011 0290.