The 52 Hour Raven Film Contest Rules

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The Goal: Write, shoot and edit a short film in a weekend. With teamwork and complete focus, you can make a cohesive and entertaining movie in an exceptionally short time frame.

The following rules apply to each Participating Team:

1. Contest Duration:

   The 52 Hour Raven Film Contest will always occur between a Friday and the following Sunday. The prompt for the contest will be given out between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. on the Friday of the contest weekend at San Jacinto College Central. The Group Leader or their proxy (other team member) must be present for the draw.

   Participants may not make any creative changes to their films after 10 p.m. on the Sunday of the contest. Film drop off at San Jacinto College Central will take place between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

   Registration: The Registration form is open until the final Sunday of the contest weekend. It is suggested that you register your team before the weekend of the event.

   The registration fee is $50 per film if received by the date of Early Registration, $75 per film if received between dates of Regular Registration, or $100 per film for On-Site Registration. Payment should accompany the registration forms (checks made out to SJC). This fee covers the cost of trophies, the costs for running the contest and any remaining funds will be placed in the form of scholarships for students to attend SJCC Department of Theatre and Film. This fee is non-refundable.

2. Content Creation

   All footage must be shot within the weekend time period of the project- Friday at 6 p.m. and ending 10 p.m. on Sunday. No stock footage or footage shot or created at another time may be used. Stock animated special effects are permitted (action essentials, flames, fog, etc.). Animated or still Film Team Logos are exempt from this rule and can be created at any time.

   All Creativity must take place during the official contest time. Creativity includes, but not limited to:
   * Writing the script
   * Rehearsing
   * Costume/Set Design
   * Shooting
   * Editing
   * Sound/Lighting design
   * Rendering
   * Outputting to DVD or other media
• **The following may be done prior to the official contest time:**
  * Organizing crew
  * Organizing cast
  * Securing equipment
  * Scouting/Securing locations
  * Securing music and/or rights from artists or creating your own music compositions for use.
  * Designing a Film Team Logo

Participating Team must have the rights to any music used in its film.

Teams are encouraged to work with local composer and/or musicians to write and record music for the films. It is permissible for a Participating Team to use pre-recorded music (e.g., royalty-free music, a friend’s band) but the group must have a signed release or email permitting music use. **Films will be disqualified from judging and not displayed on the website** for using copyrighted music without permission of the owners. Please include the source of the music in the final credits.

Content of the movie/film/video has to be appropriate for public viewing. Excessive graphic violence, racism and/or multiple obscenities will disqualify your film. If your film is ruled to be obscene or indecent it will not be shown on awards night. Use what would be appropriate for broadcast TV as your guide.

3. **Formatting**

   **Intro slate**
   Your film must start with 5 seconds of black. An intro slate is required and must include the following:
   - This film made as part of the San Jacinto College Central Department of Theatre and Film’s 52 Hour Raven Film Contest. [http://arts.sanjac.edu/52-hour](http://arts.sanjac.edu/52-hour)
   - Name of Team (pre made Team Logo is encouraged)
   - Date of Completion
   - Prompt
     - Required Prop
     - Required Lines of Dialogue
     - Required Genre

   Intro Slate will be considered part of the film, and is included as part of the overall time. Intro Slate requires a length of time that all info is readable at a comfortable speed.

   **Running Time**
   The finished film must be a minimum of three (3) minutes in duration, and a maximum of six (6) minutes in duration. This does not include ending credits (1 minute max). If the entire film and ending credits are longer than 7 minutes you should tighten your edit before submitting.

   **Exit Slate**
   Films must include the following credit: “This film made as part of the San Jacinto College Central Department of Theatre and Film’s 52 Hour Raven Film Contest. [http://arts.sanjac.edu/52-hour](http://arts.sanjac.edu/52-hour)” as the last title slate of the film.
**Format and Compression**

You are encouraged to use the highest quality and largest format available to you. Our theater's projection system is digital and we prefer files to be of the highest quality in HD 1080p Quicktime.MOV codecs of either H.264, or Apple Pro Res.

4. Submission Details

Your film must be submitted ONLY in HD 16x9 Quicktime files (.MOV) in either

- H.264,
- or Apple Pro Res codec ONLY.

Your film must be supplied ONLY as

- a data DVD,
- or on a USB flash drive.

**SJCC reserves the right to disqualify entries that do not meet the aforementioned specifications. ALL submissions will be combined onto a single playable DVD by SJCC for the viewing night. Non-data DVD submissions will be disqualified. If your Entry cannot be viewed on SJCC equipment, it will be disqualified.**

Note: All submission materials and hardware (DVDs or USB drives) become the property of SJCC and will not be returned.

It is recommend that each team submit two (DVDs or USB drives) copies of the final film, each on their own media to avoid any type of digital drop out that may occur.

Sound levels should be relatively even throughout the film and are not to peek above -3db. It is recommended that you use the following settings:

- Dialogue at –3db,
- SFX sound at –12db and
- Music set at –18db

Ducking of levels is recommended but overall sound should not exceed -3db. (If your film has uneven sound or sound that peaks above 0db, it may be disqualified or modified to protect the playback equipment.)

Note: Projection specs vary from theater to theater and are beyond the control of SJCC. If your film is very dark, it may be difficult to see in our theater and result in a poor audience viewing experience or negative experience.

On the Sunday of submission, each Team must submit the following:

- Two copies of the film on separate data DVDs or USB drives.
- Required Release Forms for ALL participants, cast and crew, music and locations.

Note: Not submitting ALL Required Release Forms at the time of submission will result in the disqualification of the submitted film.
5. Participants

The 52 Hour Raven Film Contest is open to filmmakers enrolled in any Public or Private Greater Houston Area High School. Actors and musicians can be of any age. But the primaries responsible for writing, editing and the cinematography of the film must be enrolled in grades 9-12.

Make Up of Teams
Teams may be made up of two different groups:
- Teams participants are all from the same school (school may have multiple teams)
- Team participants are from multiple schools

Using Adults
All cast and crew must be volunteers. Adults can be used in the films but not be hired actors or actresses.

An Adult Supervisor/Teacher May:
- Supply equipment (cameras, lights, editing stations, tripods, etc.)
- Help with equipment based problems (capturing issues, exporting problems, computer crashes)
- Act in the film
- Provide access to school facilities for editing/filming
- Act as a grip if they are under complete direction of a high school age member of the production team and offer no creative or technical input to the team (i.e. running electrical cables, driving a car that is being shot from etc.)

An Adult Supervisor/Teacher MAY NOT:
- Edit/suggest editing strategies
- Suggest filming strategies/shots
- Suggest screenplay ideas or help write a screenplay
- Suggest lighting for scenes
- Operate a camera or work in the production crew in any way
- Help with the implementation of the prompt besides the aforementioned roles

This is a contest that judges the film making ability of high school students, not for their teachers, mentors or parents. If your team is found to have been unfairly helped your film may be disqualified from judging/viewing.

6. Judging

To qualify as an official “52 Hour Raven Film” each group’s film must be completed within the genre listed in the prompt and must contain all required elements listed in the prompt. If your film poorly integrates the lines or prop from the prompt into the film points may be deducted from your screenplay score. If you fail to include a required element (ex. the prop, genre or not using ANY of the lines of dialogue) your film will be disqualified from judging.

To be certified as a “52 Hour Raven Film”, each participating Team’s film/video production must follow all rules posted above. The 52 Hour Raven Film Contest Organizers reserve the right to judge only films that adhere to the rules and are therefore certified “52 Hour Raven Films.”

All certified “52 Hour Raven Films” are eligible for judging. A panel of independent judges will rate the films based on their merits in acting, screenplay, cinematography, sound, art design and editing.
7. Film Showcase/Awards Ceremony

The Film Showcase will show all entries into the **52 Hour Raven Film Contest**. An Awards Ceremony will take place immediately following the last film showing. The Showcase and Awards Ceremony will take place on the San Jacinto College Central campus. We would like to encourage as many participants’ family and friends to attend the showcase as possible. Representation of each Team must be present to win. Attendance costs $10 admission per person.

**Awards:**
- **52 Hour Raven Film Contest Top Film!!**
- **52 Hour Raven Film Contest Participant Favorite**
- Crowd Favorite (based on votes from the audience)**
- Best High School Team Film**
- Best Individual Team Film (Members made up from multiple schools)**
- Best Actress
- Best Actor

**Note:** The top film is not eligible to win multiple awards but will have received the highest overall score.

**Certificates:**
- Best Screenplay
- Best Cinematography
- Best Sound/Lighting
- Best Editing
- Best Use of the Prompt
- Best Ensemble Cast
- Other Notable Areas

8. Disclaimers

The Organizers reserve the right to amend the rules of the contest up until the Friday of the contest weekend.

All submissions may not be shown to the public until after the **52 Hour Raven Film Contest**’s Showcase/Awards Ceremony. Some films may be subject to additional restraints on public viewing until after an additional showing at San Jacinto College in May.

**COPYRIGHT:**
The Team and SJCC will jointly own, as co-authors, the copyright in and to the Film, and hereby agree to the following division of rights:
- From the date the Team submits their film to the **52 Hour Raven Film Contest** and continuing until the end of May (during the year of the contest), SJCC retains exclusive rights to the film. During this time, the Team shall
  - Not enter the film in any other festival and/or competition
  - Not screen the Film at local film events
  - Not stream the Film or any portion thereof on and personal or public website
  - Not distribute the film for free or profit via DVD or any type of media
• After the May date, the Team May
  o Show, stream, or distribute the film privately or publicly, provided that the Film or portion thereof as so used contains an initial full screen title card stating “This film made as part of the San Jacinto College Central Department of Theatre and Film’s 52 Hour Raven Film Contest. http://arts.sanjac.edu/52-hour”
• SJCC shall have the following rights, which, except for the limited rights of the Team as set forth above, shall be exclusive to SJCC: to copy, screen, show, exhibit, telecast, broadcast, advertise, market, exploit, and disseminate the Film and/or any portion thereof throughout the universe in perpetuity, via any medium and in any manner whether now known or hereafter invented, including but not limited to theatrical, television (including without limitation all forms of broadcast, cable, Video On Demand (VOD) and digital television), DVD/home video/videogram (including any videogram successor), Internet distribution and any means of digital download, and to sell, license and/or assign any or all of the foregoing rights to any third party. In no manner limiting the foregoing, SJCC shall have the right to use the Film and any portion thereof to advertise, promote and publicize the 52 Hour Raven Film Contest and/or any sponsor thereof in any manner and via any medium at SJCC’s sole discretion.

OFFICIAL 52 HOUR RAVEN DVD:
If the entire Film is included in a 52 Hour Raven Film Contest compilation DVD, the Team will receive a pro rata share of 50% of net proceeds received by SJCC for the sale of said DVD when more than 5000 DVDs are sold. Pro ration will be dependent upon number of films included on said compilation.