

2026 Yuba Sutter 48-Hour Film Festival Rules & Information

The **Yuba Sutter 48-Hour Film Festival** brings together filmmakers/directors who will create a script, and produce a four to six-minute film, based on a subject chosen at random at the Kickoff Event on September 11th.

Important Dates & Times

- A **48-Hour Film Festival information session**, for those wishing to participate, will be held on **Thursday, September 3rd at 6pm at the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts, 754 Plumas Street, Yuba City**. This meeting will present guidelines for the Yuba Sutter 48 Hour Film Festival, and there will be a question-and-answer session for all interested filmmakers in attendance.
- Registration to be a filmmaker for the 48 Hour Film Festival is **Friday, September 4th at 5pm**. Participation is free; however, you must register in advance.
- All filmmakers/directors will need to attend a meeting on **Friday, September 11th**, at 6pm at the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts, 754 Plumas Street, Yuba City, CA 95991 to receive their randomly drawn subject, object and line for their film.
- Film creation for the Yuba Sutter Film Festival will occur between **Friday, September 11th at 6pm and Sunday, September 13th at 6pm**. This is the Official Time Period.
- Each participating group/team must complete its film/video work and submit it on **Sunday, September 13th no later than 6pm** via the Google Drive link that will be provided 48 hours prior to the beginning of the competition. All submissions must be submitted in Mp4 format. No exceptions.
- All films received on Sunday will be screened at a **48-Hour Film Festival** event on **Friday, September 26, 2025 at 4pm** at the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts, 754 Plumas Street, Yuba City.

Creative Process

Film making must take place during the Official Time Period. Any creative work in advance of the competition weekend is prohibited and will result in disqualification. Creative work includes, but is not limited to:

- Writing the script
 - **The audience for the final viewing will be a cross-section of the community. We are not rating the movies. Please keep this in mind when it comes to your content.**
- Rehearsing
- Costume/Set Design
- Shooting
- Editing
- Sound Design
- Rendering
- Creation of opening and ending credits
- **Note: Use of AI during this process is prohibited**
- **Uploading Mp4 formatted film to Google Drive folder**
- **Fill out the form you receive at the meeting on Friday, September 11th and return it in your Google Drive with your film.**

Preparation

The only work allowed to begin prior to the Official Time Period is:

- Organizing cast and crew
- Securing equipment
- Scouting/Securing locations

Visuals

- Animation and special effects are permitted but must be created during the Official Time Period.

- No stock footage or footage shot or created at another time may be used.
- Still photographs are permitted, provided that the team has the right to them. The photos do not need to be created during the Official Time Period.
- Permissible stock footage within effects and still photographs must all be accompanied by a Materials Release demonstrating that the team has rights to use them.

Kickoff Event

- Each participating team must have a representative at the official Kickoff Event of the 48-Hour Film Project at **6pm on Friday, September 11th**. Each group will receive the subject of its film at that time along with the other required elements in a random drawing.

Required Elements

In a random drawing, each participating group will be assigned required elements that must appear in its film including 1) subject, 2) prop, 3) line of dialogue in addition to 4) two actors minimum.

- The film must be about the subject that is selected in the random drawing.
- The required prop must be seen on-screen. A picture of the required prop is also allowed.
- The required line of dialogue must be verbatim. It may be spoken, sung, and/or written. It may be in any language, though if it is unclear that it is the required line, there must be a translation.
- The film must have two actors as part of the required elements.
- To qualify as an Official Entry, the film must contain all required elements within the official time limit and prior to the credits.

Volunteers

All cast and crew must be volunteers.

Cameras

Any type of video or film camera may be used. There is no limit to the number of cameras.

Music Rights

Participating groups are encouraged to work with a composer and/or musicians to write and record music for the films. It is permissible for a participating group to use pre-recorded music; however, the participating group must have the rights to any music used in its film and must provide releases for all music used. As with music, pre-recorded sound effects are allowed, but you must have the right to use them. **If needed, you can find a release online.**

Total Running Time

The finished film must be a minimum of 4-minutes in duration, and a maximum of 6-minutes in duration, not including beginning and ending credits.

Credits

- Beginning Credits:
 - 5 seconds of black
 - An opening title card with: This film was made for the Yuba Sutter 48-Hour Flash Film Festival 2026.
 - A title card with the team's name, title, subject, city, and date.
 - 2-seconds of black
- Your film follows this pre-film opening.
- Ending Credits:

- Credits at the end of each film are limited to a maximum of 60-seconds.
- The 60-seconds is considered additional to the length of the film, as stated above. (That is, a film may be 6-minutes long, with an additional 60-seconds of credits, for a total running time of 7-minutes.)

Judging Criteria

- Script
- Inclusion of the required line of dialogue
- Camera technique
- Inclusion of the required prop
- Understandable audio
- Lighting and editing transitions
- Use of music to create mood
- Overall creativity

Prizes

All films will be judged within two categories Professional and Amateur; prizes will be given to first, second, and third places for each category. First Place will receive \$500, Second Place will receive \$250, and Third Place will receive \$100. One member of each filmmaking team must be present at the screening on September 26th to receive prize. Checks will be made out to the Director of the film.

Screening

A film festival style screening of all entries will be scheduled for September 26th at 4pm the Sutter Theater Center for the Arts, 754 Plumas Street, Yuba City. The film festival screening will be a ticketed event for ALL patrons; the ticket is \$15 for each person if purchased in advance (\$20 at the door). Winners will be chosen by a panel of judges at the screening and prizes awarded.

Timeline Recap

- September 3rd, 6pm Information Session Meeting.
- September 4th, Deadline to register as a filmmaker
- September 11th, **6pm** Meeting with pre-registered filmmakers to randomly choose subjects, prop, line of dialogue, and actors.
- September 11th, 6pm through September 13th, 6pm - Film Festival 48-Hour weekend of filmmaking.
- September 26th, Flash Film Festival Screening Event, 4pm