

# Fourth Annual Gotham Film Festival – Announcement and Call for Entries, Sponsorships, Screeners and Judges

The Fourth Annual Gotham Film Festival® (GOTHAM FILM FESTIVAL®) will be held on Monday, November 10, 2014 at The Friar's Club, 57 East 55<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY.

We have a lot of information to convey, so the rest of this message is split into 3 parts:

1. Submission Guidelines
2. Sponsorships
3. Screeners
4. Judging and Prizes

## 1. Submission Guidelines: October 1, 2014

### ▪ Content and length

- There will be two categories based on length. Each category will have both documentary and original subcategories:
  - Express: Under 5 minutes in length, exclusive of titles and credits.
  - Local: Up to 20 minutes in length, exclusive of titles and credits.

### ▪ Ownership

- All films must be original.
- Entrants must have some legal and artistic ownership of the film (e.g., as writer, director or primary actor).
- By submitting a film, entrants give Gotham Film Festival® and Gotham City Networking, Inc. ("Gotham") the right to show publicly, publish on the Internet and promote said film.
  - This right is nonexclusive and the entrant retains all further rights to the film.
  - Proper credit of authorship will be given any time GOTHAM shows, publishes or promotes the film.

### ▪ Submission

- Entrants will pay a \$35 submission fee to help cover our costs. This fee is non-refundable; however, this fee shall be waived for any currently matriculating film student.
- Films must be submitted in acceptable electronic format or on DVD.
- All entries must be accompanied by:
  - A check for \$35 made out to Gotham Film Festival® or a photocopy of a current student ID.

- Release form authorizing Gotham to show the film and providing the following identifying information:
      - Submitter
      - Role in film's creation.
      - Approximate length
      - Contact information (email, phone, mailing address)
    - Physical submission:
      - DVDs and release forms shall be delivered to the offices of Klein Zelman Rothermel (485 Madison Avenue, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10022) no later than 4:30 pm on October 1, 2014.
    - Entrants will receive an email acknowledgement, along with a projected process and timeline by October 10, 2014.
    - The Steering Committee reserves the right to change any date related to the festival. In that event, as much advance notice as possible will be provided.
  - **Entrants**
    - Individuals who previously entered the Gotham Film Festival® are welcome to submit new material.
    - Films previously submitted to the Gotham Film Festival® may not be resubmitted, whether or not they were actually shown during the Festival.

## 2. Sponsorships

To help the Gotham Film Festival® grow and to attract greater quality film submissions, we are initiating sponsorship opportunities as follows:

- The Transportation Commissioner: \$1,000 (lead sponsorship for the Festival; only one available) *\*down from 2500*
- The Chauffeured: \$750 *\*down from 1000*
- The Fares: \$500
- The Straphangers: \$250
- The Cyclists: \$100
- The Pedestrians: In Kind Contributions

Sponsors will be listed in the official program. For information on sponsoring the Festival please contact Gideon Schein at [gideon@eddyandschein.com](mailto:gideon@eddyandschein.com) or 212.316.2214.

Any amount raised over the actual expenses of The Gotham Film Festival® will be donated to the Gotham Foundation.

### 3. Screeners

The Gotham Film Festival® Steering Committee requests the assistance of Gotham members in screening the films. Each screener will be assigned a number of films and asked to rank them using an impartial scale The Steering Committee will provide. Screener rankings will help determine which films make it to the final judging process. Gotham members interested in being a screener should contact Steering Committee Chair Steven Skyles-Mulligan by email ([steven@evokestrategies.com](mailto:steven@evokestrategies.com)).

### 4. Prizes and Judging

#### ▪ Judges and Judging

The Steering Committee will appoint a panel of three to five judges to review and judge films selected for inclusion in The Gotham Film Festival®.

- Judges will be individuals with a demonstrated expertise or significant amateur interest in the art of film.
- Judges must certify that they are impartial and not related to – or doing business with – any filmmaker.
- In the selection of judges, the Steering Committee may give preference to members of Gotham Networking; however, membership in Gotham Networking is not an absolute pre-requisite.
- Members of the Steering Committee may serve as judges; however, screeners may not also serve as judges.
- The identify of judges will remain secret until the evening of The Gotham Film Festival®.

A separate call for judges will be issued in the early summer. Any Gotham member who wishes to recommend someone to serve as a judge should contact Steering Committee Chair Steven Skyles-Mulligan by email ([steven@evokestrategies.com](mailto:steven@evokestrategies.com)).

#### ▪ Prizes

By majority vote, the judges shall award four Merit Prizes of \$500, one in each of the following categories:

- Express Documentary
- Express Narrative
- Local Documentary
- Local Narrative

The decision of the judges is final and may not be appealed.

In addition, a single Audience Choice Award of \$250 will be awarded to the film selected by majority vote as the audience favorite. All films – including those selected by the judges for Merit Prizes – will be eligible for the Audience Choice Award.