

# **MOVIE BLOGGER AWARDS**

**RULES & ELIGIBILITY 2017-2018**

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## Introduction / Awards Definitions

### Overview

The Movie Blogger Awards are presented annually to recognise achievements in motion picture production for films released in the UK during the eligible awards year.

The rules and guidelines apply to the 20 competitive feature film categories. Additional honorary awards may be awarded at the discretion of the governing body.

### Award Definitions

Awards will be conferred annually for achievements in the following fields:

PRODUCING	Best Film Popular Film Best Studio
DIRECTING	Best Director
ACTING	Best Leading Performance Best Supporting Performance Best Motion Capture Performance
ANIMATION	Best Animated Feature
DOCUMENTARY	Best Documentary Feature
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	Best Foreign Language Feature
COSTUME DESIGN	Best Costume Design
PRODUCTION DESIGN	Best Production Design
HAIR & MAKEUP	Best Hair & Makeup
EDITING	Best Editing
SOUND	Best Sound
VISUAL EFFECTS	Best Visual Effects
MUSIC	Best Original Song Best Original Score
WRITING	Best Original Screenplay Best Adapted Screenplay
HONORARY AWARD	Honorary Award for Achievements in Digital and On Demand Production

## Eligibility

All films eligible for consideration at the Movie Blogger Awards should have been made available to UK press during the eligibility period. All films must satisfy the eligibility to be considered, but it is not guaranteed that every film that meets minimum requirements will be long-listed.

To be eligible for consideration, a film must:

- have been theatrically released in the UK for at least 1 week between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 inclusive, or
- have premiered on a UK streaming service, or
- have been made reasonably available to members of the UK press. This can include:
  - press screenings
  - festival screenings
  - DVD screeners
  - Online screeners
- have a running time of at least 60 minutes

Films remain eligible if they received a UK premiere at a festival in a previous year, providing they satisfy the above criteria in the awarding year and were not previously long-listed for consideration.

Films that premiered publicly online to a non-paying audience are not eligible for consideration.

Feature films from all countries are eligible for consideration in all categories, providing they meet the UK release requirements.

Films eligible for documentary feature consideration (see below special rules for Best Documentary Feature) may also be nominated in any other category.

Films eligible for animated feature consideration (see below special rules for Best Animated Feature) may also be nominated in any other category.

Where multiple versions of a film are released, such as multiple languages or different edits, only one version will be considered. Final determination is at the discretion of the governing body.

Additional rules apply to some categories, which outlined in Special Rules.

In the event of any disputes or uncertainty, final determination of a film's eligibility will be made by the governing body.

## Award Timelines & Deadlines

07 October 2017	Membership registration opens
31 December 2017	Membership registration closes
02 January 2018	Nomination voting opens
16 January 2018	Nomination voting closes
18 January 2018	Nominations announced. Final ballot opens
05 February 2018	Final ballot closes
February 2018 (TBC)	1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Movie Blogger Awards

## Balloting and Nominations

### Voting Guidelines

Voting is restricted to registered Movie Blogger Award voters. Registration is available via [moviebloggerawards.com](http://moviebloggerawards.com) only and all approved voters will be contacted prior to the first ballot.

All voters will be sent a full list of eligible feature films and a reminder of the balloting rules and procedures as outlined below.

All voting is conducted online.

Results will be tabulated and independently verified by nominated individuals, to be determined by the governing body. A full breakdown of voting results will be communicated following the annual award ceremony, though individual voting anonymity will be preserved.

### Nominations Process

All voters vote for the nominations in all 20 feature film categories. Voters are allowed to choose up to 10 nominees per category.

Voters are not obliged to cast all 10 votes in each category, and reserve the right to abstain or withhold any votes.

Voters will be asked to rank their choices by preference. Points will be applied to each nomination based on ranking preference, i.e. choice one = 10 points, choice two = 9 points and so on. The films/individuals/studios with the most points in the ballot will be nominated.

Up to six nominees will be chosen in each category.

In the event of a tie, the film/individual/studio with the most votes, and therefore the highest percentage of the total votes cast, will be nominated. In the event where two nominees are still tied, both will be eligible for nomination.

For the following categories

- Best Director
- Leading Performance
- Supporting Performance
- Motion Capture Performance

the nominees will be comprised of three males and three females with the highest number of points.

If the same actor or actress receives enough votes for more than one performance to be nominated, every role will be eligible for nomination. However, the same performance is only eligible to be nominated once.

Where the same performance is eligible for nomination across multiple categories, the category in which the performance earned the most points shall be nominated. All other categories discarded and the next highest scoring performance will be nominated in its place.

In all other categories, votes will be cast for a film or distributor (in the case of Best Studio) and up to four individual recipients of the nomination determined by the governing body.

## Final Ballot

Following the nominations, all voters will be invited to participate in the final ballot to determine the winners. Votes gained during the initial nominations ballot will not be counted.

All voters are eligible to vote in each of the 20 feature film categories.

Voters will be asked to rank their choices by preference. Points will be applied to each nominee based on ranking preference, i.e. choice one = 6 points, choice two = 5 points and so on. The films/individuals/studios with the most points in the ballot will be announced the winner.

Voters are not obliged to rank every nominee, and reserve the right to abstain from any category.

In the event of a tie, the nominee who received the most first choice votes will win or, if this also is a tie, the nominee who received the most second choice votes will win and so on until a clear winner is determined from the tied nominees.

## Special Rules

### Special Rules for the Producing Awards

#### Best Picture and Popular Film

All feature-length films of any genre including foreign language, animation and documentary are eligible for consideration in both the Best Picture and Popular Film categories.

Only individuals listed as a producer in the official credits shall be recognised as a nominee. Any individual with a 'Executive Producer', 'Line Producer', 'Associate Producer', 'Co-Producer' or similar credit will not be eligible for nomination.

Up to four producers will be nominated for each feature film. Additional producers may be added where justified, at the discretion of the governing body.

Nominees and winners are decided by all voters.

#### Best Studio

Distributors of eligible feature films will be considered in the Best Studio category. However, only feature films that qualify for consideration should be considered when casting ballots.

A studio qualifies if they have distributed at least five qualifying feature films between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017, based on the eligibility criteria above.

A reminder list of all eligible studios will be circulated to all voters prior to the nomination ballot opening. This long-list will be determined by the governing body, though exceptions may be considered if a considerable number of nominations are received.

A list of eligible feature films for each nominated studio will be circulated to all voters following the nomination announcement.

Nominees and winners are decided by all voters.

## Special Rules for the Directing Award

Any director of an eligible feature film can be considered for the Best Director award. A reminder list of all eligible films will be circulated to voters prior to nominations ballots.

Nominees and winners are decided by all voters.

Voters can nominate up to 10 feature films and directors of any gender. However, only a maximum of three male nominees and three female nominees with the most points will receive a nomination.

A director can be nominated multiple times for different feature films, providing all achievements are eligible for consideration.

## Special Rules for the Acting Awards

### Best Leading Performance and Best Supporting Performance

Any credited performance in any eligible feature film can be considered for either Best Leading Performance or Best Supporting Performance.

Nominees and winners are decided by all voters.

Voters can nominate up to 10 performances in each category. Voters may nominate the same performer multiple times for different roles, but the same individual performance only once.

There is no restriction on the number of different performances eligible for nomination by the same individual.

In each category, a maximum of three male performances and three female performances with the most points will receive a nomination.

If the same actor or actress receives enough votes for more than one performance to be nominated, every role will be eligible for nomination. However, the same performance is only eligible to be nominated once.

Where the same performance is eligible for nomination across multiple categories, the category in which the performance earned the most points shall be nominated. All nominations in other categories will be discarded and the next highest scoring performance will be nominated in its place.

### Best Motion Capture Performance

In order for a performance to be eligible for nomination in the Best Motion Capture Performance category, a substantial portion of the performance must have been undertaken using motion capture technology. Substantial is considered at least 50% of the performance.

Any credited performance for an eligible feature film can be considered for nomination.

A performance can be nominated for both Best Motion Capture Performance AND either Best Leading Performance or Best Supporting Performance, but may not be nominated in all three categories.

Nominees and winners are decided by all voters.

Voters can nominate up to 10 performances in each category.

There is no restriction on the number of different performances eligible for nomination by the same individual. Only the three male performances and three female performances with the most votes will receive a nomination.

Where a performance does not meet the minimum 50% motion capture requirement, but receives enough votes to be nominated, the performance will be reviewed on merit and may, at the discretion of the governing body, be deemed eligible for nomination.

### Special Rules for the Animation Awards

Only eligible feature films which classify as animation will be eligible for nomination in the Best Animated Feature award.

An animated feature film is defined by the Movie Blogger Awards as a feature film employing substantial use of animation techniques including illustration, stop-motion or computer-generated imagery. A predominantly live-action feature film with animated characters and/or sequences will only be eligible for the Best Animated Feature award at the discretion of the governing body, where enough points are received to warrant a nomination.

Nominees and winners are decided by all voters.

There may be up to four nominated individuals, consisting of the director(s) and lead producers. Any associated producer credits (including Co-Producer, Executive Producer, Assistant Producer etc) are not eligible to be nominated.

### Special Rules for the Documentary Award

Only eligible feature films which classify as documentary will be eligible for nomination in the Best Documentary Feature award.

A documentary feature film is defined by the Movie Blogger Awards as a feature film which is predominantly factual. This includes live-action and animation, but does not include dramatizations of true stories or historical events. Dramatized re-enactments within a predominantly factual narrative is accepted.

Nominees and winners are decided by all voters.

There may be two nominated individuals for each nominated documentary feature, consisting of the director and lead producer. Where there are multiple directors or lead producers, additional nominees can be named at the discretion of the governing body.

### Special Rules for the Foreign Language Award

Only eligible feature films which classify as foreign language will be eligible for nomination in the Best Foreign Language Film award.

A foreign language film is defined by the Movie Blogger Awards as a feature film made substantially (over 50%) in a language other than English, regardless of country of production.

Nominees and winners are decided by all voters.

There may be two nominated individuals for each nominated foreign language feature, consisting of the director and lead producer. Where there are multiple directors or lead producers, additional nominees can be named at the discretion of the governing body.

### Special Rules for the Costume Design Award

Any eligible feature film can be nominated for the best costume design award, under standard balloting procedures outlined above.

Nominees and winners are decided by all voters.

Nominated individuals is restricted to the credited costume designers. There is no limitation on the number of nominated individuals for each motion picture.

### Special Rules for the Production Design Award

Any eligible feature film can be nominated for the best production design award, under standard balloting procedures outlined above.

Nominees and winners are decided by all voters.

Nominated individuals is restricted to the credited art directors and set designers. There is no limitation on the number of nominated individuals for each motion picture.

### Special Rules for the Hair and Makeup Award

Any eligible feature film can be nominated for the best hair and makeup award, under standard balloting procedures outlined above.

Nominees and winners are decided by all voters.

Nominated individuals is restricted to the credited lead makeup artists and hair stylists. There is no limitation on the number of nominated individuals for each motion picture.

### Special Rules for the Editing Award

Any eligible feature film can be nominated for the best film editing award, under standard balloting procedures outlined above.

Nominees and winners are decided by all voters.

The award for best film editing should only consider film editing. As such only the credited film editor will be recognised for each nominated motion picture. Assistants and any other members of the post-production team cannot be nominated.

### Special Rules for the Sound Award

Any eligible feature film can be nominated for the best sound award, under standard balloting procedures outlined above.

The best sound award recognises achievements across the sound design and post-production process. As such up to four nominees will be recognised including:

- Sound editor
- Sound mixer
- Sound recordist

Nominees and winners are decided by all voters.

### Special Rules for the Visual Effects Award

Any eligible feature film can be nominated for the best visual effects award, under standard balloting procedures outlined above.

Nominees and winners are decided by all voters.

Up to four nominees can be recognised for each nominated motion picture, based on prominence of credit and known contribution. Additional nominees can be added at the discretion of the governing body.

### Special Rules for the Music Awards

#### Best Original Song

Any eligible feature film can be nominated for the best original song award, under standard balloting procedures outlined above.

Only songs which have been written and produced for the motion picture in which it features shall be eligible for nomination. This includes any chart release prior to the awards period, but does not include those songs produced and released independently and used within the official soundtrack during the awards period.

Nominees and winners are decided by all voters.

Nominees for best original song are restricted to:

- The composer
- The lyricist

Where numerous individuals have contributed to the composition or lyrics in an original song, additional nominees can be accepted.

#### Best Original Score

Any eligible feature film can be nominated for the best original score award, under standard balloting procedures outlined above.

Only films whose score is substantially (70% or more) original will be considered for nomination. Any motion picture score which receives enough votes for nomination may be disqualified at the discretion of the governing body if it is not deemed to sufficiently meet the criteria.

Nominees and winners are decided by all voters.

Nominees for best original score are restricted to the credited composer. Where numerous individuals have contributed to the score, additional nominees may be considered.

## Special Rules for the Writing Awards

### Best Original Screenplay

Only eligible feature films which classify as having an original screenplay will be eligible for nomination in the Best Original Screenplay award.

An original screenplay is deemed to be that not based on any previous material. An original screenplay must satisfy the following criteria:

- Be an original story – this may be based on historical events using historical characters, but must be an original narrative not previously produced or published.
- Original screenplays can be a sequel or prequel.
- Original screenplays can use previously created fictional characters, providing the narrative is original.

Nominees and winners are decided by all voters.

Up to four credited screenwriters will be nominated for each motion picture.

Up to six motion pictures can be nominated in this category.

### Best Adapted Screenplay

Only eligible feature films which classify as having an adapted screenplay will be eligible for nomination in the Best Adapted Screenplay award.

An adapted screenplay is deemed to be that based on previously published or produced materials including but not limited to:

- Previous short or feature films from which the screenplay is directly adapting or remaking
- Biographies and non-fiction texts
- Fiction – including short stories and novels
- Music
- Games – including board games, video games and online/mobile apps

Final determination of a film's eligibility is at the discretion of the governing body.

Nominees and winners are decided by all voters.

Up to four credited screenwriters will be nominated for each motion picture.

Up to six motion pictures can be nominated in this category.

## Special Rules for the Honorary Award

The honorary award for achievements in digital and on demand production are awarded at the discretion of the governing body.

The award recognises a feature film's use of modern forms and technology, and its contribution to the advancement of the motion picture industry.

The award will be given to those films which have made a substantial contribution to either online or VOD motion picture production. This can be either through technical or creative innovation through its production and distribution, or retrospective recognition of the impact a particular production has made on audiences and industry.

The recipient motion picture is not required to be released within the awards year.

Recipients of the award will be announced prior to the annual awards ceremony.

There is no maximum or minimum number of nominees per year.