



ENTRY GUIDELINES

2023 SIMON “MABHUNU” SABELA, KZN FILM AND TELEVISION AWARDS

A decade of excellence



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Simon “Mabhunu” Sabela KZN Film and Television Awards - Entry Guidelines 2023/24

All entries should be sent to the following address:

KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission, Musgrave Office Towers, 10th floor, 115 Musgrave Road, Durban, 4001.

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1. SIMON “MABHUNU” SABELA

Mr Simon “Mabhunu” Sabela, in whose honour the Film and Television Awards are named, was a legend in both big screen and television. Not only was he South Africa’s first Black film director, he also had a long and successful career which saw him feature in over 34 movies, nationally and internationally. He was mostly known for *Zulu* (1964), *Zulu Dawn* (1979) and *Der Rivonia-Prozess* (1966).

2 BACKGROUND ON THE AWARDS

The Simon “Mabhunu” Sabela Film and Television Awards recognise outstanding achievement and excellence within the South African Film and Television industry, with a special focus on KwaZulu-Natal. Among those who will be honoured at the awards ceremony are actors, actresses, producers, directors and various film and television technicians. The awards are an initiative of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs and are implemented by the KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission.

The inaugural Simon “Mabhunu” Sabela Film and Television Awards of **2013**, celebrated heroes, legends and veterans. There was no formal call for entries and no judging process as the awards were in their first year and sought to reward icons of the film and television industry in KwaZulu-Natal. The accolades were given to celebrate the lives and careers of individuals who have made their mark in the film industry.

The awards of **2014** were a transitional phase, taking the awards to the next level to transform them into becoming traditional industry awards celebrating great talent in the industry of the province. The 2014 awards recognised 3 categories:

- **Heroes and legends**, which are celebratory in nature and look at the lifetime achievements of great icons in the industry.
- **Keeping the fire burning** looked at individuals from the province who were working in the industry. This area of the awards was adjudicated, however due to the time constraints, there was a dual entry process; (i) researching and identifying potential nominees and (ii) a formal call for entries for potential nominees to come forward. Entrants were judged on the body of work they had produced as well as on clips of their work, or show reels entered for judging, at least 10 minutes in duration.
- **Passing the baton**, judging based on the entrant’s best piece of work.

In 2020 the awards were bestowed a new name; they were to be known as The Simon “Mabhunu” Sabela KZN Film and Television Awards. The new name is the next step towards the award brand vision, which is to recognise KwaZulu-Natal’s talent, in the film and television space both Nationally and Internationally.

Celebrating a 10th year milestone, the awards will recognise KwaZulu Natal talent in the film and television space both nationally and internationally.

3 CUSTODIANSHIP OF THE AWARDS

The awards were conceptualised by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development Tourism and Environmental Affairs and are a project of the KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission, supported by the Provincial Government of KwaZulu-Natal with the added support and endorsement of the Sabela family.

The KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission appointed a committee of industry representatives who are the custodians of the awards, overseeing and guiding the process of judging for the awards from the call for entries, the judging categories rules and guidelines, composition of the judging panels ensuring that the award judging process is free, fair and transparent and that the awards are judged by industry peers and experts.

This committee is further supported by an independent auditing company who preside over the adjudication process.

4 ELIGIBILITY

The genres eligible to enter the awards are:

- Feature films
- Non-fiction: Documentaries
- Student films
- Short Films
- Soapies
- Telenovelas
- Drama

The acceptable screening formats are:

- Theatrical
- DVD
- VOD
- Television
- On-line
- Links

The following conditions also apply:

- The awards are open to persons who are citizens and permanent residents of the Republic of South Africa and those who originate from the province of KwaZulu-Natal.

- The said persons can be residing in other parts of the country and the world but must originate from the province of KwaZulu-Natal.
- Co-productions with foreign partners shall only be eligible, wherein a significant proportion of the key creative decision team are from KwaZulu-Natal.
- Official co-productions with foreign partners shall only be eligible provided that the production has been certified as an official co-production and a South African film and television production by the Competent Certification Authority in South Africa.
- If the majority and key components of a co-produced programme or film are foreign, the production will not be eligible for the overall 'Best Production' category award.
- Non-KwaZulu-Natal talent and crew as defined, featured in or participating in the production of an eligible entry, will not be eligible. The exception to this is as indicated under the list of awards, as national award.
- Programs and individuals previously entered in any other national competition are eligible.
- Commercials will not be considered for these awards.
- All South African television productions should have been produced and publicly exhibited or broadcasted in the Republic of South Africa.
- Programmes cancelled or discontinued during their transmission runs will not be eligible for entry.
- Eligibility period is content that has not entered the Simon "Mabhunu" Sabela KZN Film and Television Awards in previous sessions, specifically:
Television – July 2021 and July 2022.
Film Applicants: July 2021 and July 2022.
- Entry date: **27 March 2023 – 30 May 2023** for all content.

5 AWARDS

A total of 30 trophies will be awarded. Special Awards will also be granted at the discretion of the Awards committee.

Each award recipient will receive a trophy and an award certificate, signed by the Chairperson of the Board and the CEO of KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission.

5.1 The Trophy

The award trophy embodies the essence of Simon "Mabhunu" Sabela, the historical significance of KwaZulu-Natal and brand values of the KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission. It is symbolic of the provincial film industry and is a unique work of art.

5.2 List of Awards

Television Categories:

- Best actor
- Best actress
- Best supporting actor
- Best supporting actress
- Best newcomer actor
- Best newcomer actress

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Film Categories:

- Best actor
- Best actress
- Best supporting actor
- Best supporting actress
- Best newcomer actor
- Best newcomer actress
- Best director
- Best screenplay - Feature film
- Best screenplay - Short
- Best Micro-budget
- Best TV film (Made for TV Film)
- Best use of KZN as filming location – **NATIONAL AWARD**
- Best use of KZN in a music video – **NATIONAL AWARD**
- Best feature film – **NATIONAL AWARD**
- Best isiZulu film
- Best Short Film
- Best documentary short
- Best documentary length
- Best environmental conservation / wildlife short
- Best environmental conservation / Wildlife feature
- Best student film
- Lifetime achievement x 1
- Persons living with a disability
- Best Africa Film

6 DEFINITION OF AWARDS

6.1 Best use of KwaZulu-Natal as location in a Feature Film and Television production

Awarded to the producer(s) for outstanding achievement in the use of KwaZulu-Natal province as a filming location in a full-length film with a running time of no less than 70 minutes. This award recognises all South African content with the use of the province, limited to a minimum of 60% (42 minutes) of the film.

6.2 Best Documentary Short Subject Award

Awarded to the producer(s) for outstanding achievement in the realisation, production and overall success of a Documentary Short Subject Film with 48 minutes or less running time. (including all credits).

6.3 Best Documentary Long Subject Award

Awarded to the producer(s) for outstanding achievement in the realisation, production and overall success of a Documentary Short Subject Film with 60 minutes or more running time. (including all credits).

6.4 Best Student Film Award

Awarded to the producer(s) or training institution for outstanding achievement in the production of a film by a student. Student entrants must be registered with a recognised education facility during the eligible time of entry.

Professionals who produced material as students during the eligible entry period may only submit student projects under student categories. Any project produced, as a professional, must be entered into the professional categories.

6.5 Best Micro-budget

This category is awarded to the emerging filmmakers who have but not limited to a low budget to a maximum of R600 000.00. This is a provincial award, only entrants from KZN province will be considered. The entrants of this category are required to submit a detailed budget utilised.

6.6 Best TV Film (Made 4 TV Film)

This is a provincial award, only entrants from KZN province will be considered. This category is awarded the emerging filmmakers who have made films aimed at a television platform.

6.7 Best Actor Award

Awarded to an individual with the best performance- interpretation and realisation of a scripted character excluding supporting actors and other production crew members. This award is open to performances for any production in South Africa recognising only KwaZulu-Natal talent. This award does not include student film.

6.8 Best Actress Award

Awarded to an individual with the best performance- interpretation and realisation of a scripted character excluding supporting actors and other production crew members. This award is open to performances for any production in South Africa recognises only KwaZulu-Natal talent.

6.9 Best Supporting Actor Award

Awarded to an individual with the best performance- interpretation and realisation of a scripted character. A secondary character in the narrative of the story prominently linked to the main actor. This award is open to performances for any production in South Africa recognises only KwaZulu-Natal talent.

6.10 Best Supporting Actress Award

Awarded to an individual with the best performance- interpretation and realisation of a scripted character. A secondary character in the narrative of the story prominently linked to the main actress. This award is open to performances for any production in South Africa recognises only KwaZulu-Natal talent.

6.11 Best Achievement in Directing Award

Awarded to an individual for outstanding interpretation and realisation of a production. This includes guidance of performances (including voiceover), visual expression, guidance of script

use of sound and music and the final impact of the production. This is a provincial award, only entrants from the KwaZulu-Natal province will be considered.

6.12 Best Film Award

Awarded to an individual or team for the best film- this includes concept, dialogue, and use of language, characters, narrative, structure, and emotional engagement. This award is open to all South African feature films. This is a provincial award, only entrants from KZN province will be considered.

6.13 Best Isizulu Film Award

Awarded to an individual or team for the best Isizulu language film- this includes concept, dialogue, and use of Isizulu language, characters, narrative, structure, and emotional engagement. This award is open to all South African feature films.

6.14 Best Screenplay – Feature Film

A screenplay or script is a written work by screenwriters for a Feature Film. These screenplays can be original works or adaptations from existing pieces of writing. In them, the movement, actions, expression, and dialogues of the characters are also narrated. Entrant must include copies of the script of the body of work entered, entries without copies of script of body of work will not be considered.

6.15 Best Screenplay – Short Film

A screenplay or script is a written work by screenwriters for a Short Film. These screenplays can be original works or adaptations from existing pieces of writing. In them, the movement, actions, expression, and dialogues of the characters are also narrated. Entrant must include copies of the script of the body of work entered, entries without copies of script of body of work will not be considered.

6.16 Best environmental conservation / wildlife short

Awarded to the best short documentary exploring the natural world, conservation and / or wildlife and / or the relationship between people and nature. This award is open to documentaries produced by a KwaZulu-Natal Filmmaker. Maximum duration 40 minutes.

6.17 Best environmental conservation / Wildlife Feature

Awarded to the best television length or feature documentary exploring the natural world, conservation and / or wildlife and / or the relationship between people and nature. This award is open to documentaries produced by a KwaZulu-Natal Filmmaker. Minimum duration 41 minutes.

6.18 Lifetime Achievement Awards

(DISCRETIONARY)

The Lifetime Achievement Award shall be presented to an individual with an extensive and outstanding contribution to South African film and television, locally and internationally.

Other special awards may be awarded at the discretion of the Simon “Mabhunu” Sabela Film and Television Awards Committee and the final judging committee.

6.19 Best African Film

Awarded to an individual or team for the best film- this includes concept, dialogue, and use of language, characters, narrative, structure, and emotional engagement. This award is open to all African feature films. This is a continental award, only entrants from Africa continent will be considered

6.20 Persons with a disability Award

Awarded to an individual who is living with a disability (physically challenged) and has shown the best performance- interpretation and realisation of a scripted character.

6.21 Best use of KwaZulu-Natal as location in a Music Video

Awarded to the producer(s) for outstanding achievement in the use of KwaZulu-Natal province in a music video. This award recognises all South African content with the use of the province.

7 SUBMISSIONS

Hand-delivered applications are not permitted, all entries must be emailed to a provided email address. Each entry will be acknowledged on receipt. The KZN Film Commission will not be held liable for entries that have not been recorded and acknowledged upon submission.

Only one copy per entry is to be submitted, all entries are to have individual application forms.

Applicants are not allowed to submit the previous year's entries.

Submission can be made by individuals as self-entry-nominated applicants or as peer- entry-nominations. Peer nominations are to be submitted with a declaration of acceptance of entry by the individual identified by the nominator.

All products entered must be accompanied by a signed declaration from the intellectual property copyright owner.

An authorised entrant or representative is defined as a person appointed by the eligible copyright owner to make an entry on their behalf.

In the case where an authorised representative, agent; manager; studio; production company or broadcast entity facilitates the entry by completing an entry form on behalf of an individual, the listed entrant will be considered as the eligible entrant.

The entry is to be signed off by the producer, where applicable, and not an administrator in the production team or it will be a disqualified entry.

Student entrants must be registered with a recognised education facility during the eligible time of entry. Professionals who produced material as students during the eligible entry period may only submit student projects under student categories.

Applicants are to submit scripts for the best screenplay category, any other material will not be considered.

Next of kin may make an entry on behalf of a deceased relative, provided that the deceased relative is the copyright owner of the submitted programme. Proof of relation is to accompany submission including a death certificate.

For any queries with regards to the Awards, and to submit entry please contact the KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission: simonsabela@kznfilm.co.za.

7.1 How to enter

- Download and complete the form from www.kznfilm.co.za
- Print and sign:
 - i) Signature A if you are self-nominating for entry.
 - ii) Signature B if you are a production company nominating individual for entry.
 - iii) Signature C if you accept nomination.
 - iv) Signature D as the producer of the production.
 - v) Every entry form is to have Part D signed. Part D indicates acknowledgement of entry by the Producer therefore giving consent to entry.
- **Submit form and/or send a link and/or zip folder and stipulate submission date.**
- **Submit a certified copy of the South African identity document.**
- **Submit proof of residence in the KwaZulu-Natal province or proof of origination from the province.**
- **No fax entries will be accepted. All entries must be emailed.**

NB: One (1) copy of entry material are to be submitted per entry. Each is to be labelled in the following manner:

- Name of production
- Award category
- Name of entrant or nominated entrant (both on screen and real name)
- Broadcast date
- Duration of production
- Contact details

7.2 Entry period

- Opens on 27 March 2023
- **Closes on 30 May 2023 at 23:59**

7.3 Delivery address:

Submissions of entries is to be through the emailed address simonsabela@kznfilm.co.za.

8 ADJUDICATION

8.1 Award Nomination

The process of establishing the top 3, 4 or 5 from the entries.
(Top 4 indicates a tie in 3rd position; top 5 indicates a tie in 2nd and 3rd position)

8.2 Winner judgement

The process of distilling the ultimate winner from the top 3 nominees.

9 THE JUDGING PANEL

The judging panel is to be chaired by the Overall Chairperson of the Judges. The members of the judging panel are to be distinguished members of the film and television industry. Some will be past winners of the awards. The judging panel will sit and judge all categories of the awards to determine the award recipients.

Any extension of the judging process can only be granted by the audit firm should they declare a need for a re-vote or a reasonable delay.

10 ADDITIONAL DATES

Announcement of Nominees:

Nominees will be announced at a press event on a date to be communicated via our social media platforms.

2022/3 Awarding Ceremony

The awards ceremony will take place on Saturday **22 July 2023** in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal.

All nominated persons as per the adjudication process will be invited to attend the Award ceremony.