

SHINE SHOOTOUT 2026

COMPETITION GUIDE

A Regional Short Film Challenge | Presented during Queensland Fringe
Supported by The Empire Theatre, Shine Lawyers, KOFI Foundation and Queensland Fringe

WELCOME

The Shine Shootout is a new regional short film challenge designed to encourage storytelling, creativity and filmmaking throughout regional Queensland.

Participants will have six days to create a short film and compete for prizes and the opportunity to have their work screened before a live audience at the Empire Theatre in Toowoomba.

No previous filmmaking experience is required. Smartphones are encouraged.

WHO CAN ENTER?

The competition is open to:

- Secondary school students
- University students
- TAFE students
- Community groups
- Film clubs
- Theatre groups
- Emerging filmmakers
- Individual creators

Primary school entries are not included in the 2026 competition.

TEAM SIZE

Teams may consist of up to eight (8) participants. Individuals may enter.

ENTRY FEE

FREE

KEY DATES

Tuesday 17 June 2026

Official Media Launch — 10.00am, Empire Theatre Foyer

Friday 18 July 2026

Shootout Bootcamp — 1.00pm – 4.00pm

Saturday 1 August 2026

Challenge Launch — challenge requirements released

Sat 1 – Thu 6 August 2026

Production Period

Thursday 6 August 2026

Entries Close — 12.00 noon sharp

Friday 7 August 2026

Top 10 Screening & Awards Night — 7.00pm, Armitage Centre, Empire Theatre, Toowoomba

THE CHALLENGE

On Saturday 1 August 2026 participants will receive:

- The official theme
- A compulsory line of dialogue
- One or more challenge elements
- Additional instructions if required

All films must incorporate the challenge requirements.

FILM REQUIREMENTS

Maximum running time: 7 minutes (including titles and credits).

Films must:

- Be substantially created during the challenge period
- Incorporate the challenge requirements
- Be suitable for public screening
- Be submitted by the deadline
- Comply with copyright requirements

SMARTPHONES ENCOURAGED

Participants may use smartphones, tablets, DSLR cameras, video cameras, or any suitable recording equipment. No special equipment is required.

AI POLICY

The Shine Shootout encourages innovation and responsible use of technology. Artificial Intelligence may be used for brainstorming, research, story development, script assistance, planning and production preparation.

However, the final film should primarily represent the original creative work of participants. Films that substantially rely upon AI-generated video footage, actors, performances or visual sequences may be deemed ineligible. The judges reserve the right to request clarification regarding AI use.

COPYRIGHT

Participants are responsible for obtaining permission for any third-party content used within their films, including music, images, video footage and graphics.

Participants are encouraged to use original works, licensed works, royalty-free works, or works used with permission. Failure to comply with copyright requirements may result in disqualification.

SUBMISSION

Films must be uploaded through www.shineshootout.com.au.

Submission deadline: 12.00 noon, Thursday 6 August 2026. Late entries may not be accepted.

JUDGING PROCESS

Round One — A judging panel will review all submitted films.

Round Two — The highest-ranked films will progress for further judging if required.

Finalists — The judges will select the Top 10 films.

SCREENING NIGHT

The Top 10 films will be screened publicly at the Armitage Centre on Friday 7 August 2026.

Teams will not be advised beforehand whether they have made the Top 10. Finalists will be revealed on the night.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Judges may consider:

- Storytelling
- Originality
- Creativity
- Use of challenge elements
- Cinematography
- Sound
- Editing
- Audience engagement
- Overall impact

AWARDS

Awards are currently being finalised and may include:

- Best Film
- Best School Film
- Best Regional Story
- Audience Choice Award
- Emerging Filmmaker Prize
- Sponsor Awards

Prize details will be announced separately.

BOOTCAMP

A practical filmmaking workshop will be held on Friday 18 July 2026, 1.00pm – 4.00pm. Topics may include storytelling fundamentals, smartphone filmmaking, sound recording, editing techniques,

competition tips and submission requirements. The workshop will also be available online.

MEDIA CONSENT

By entering the Shine Shootout, participants agree that their film may be screened publicly and used for promotional purposes, that still images and excerpts may be used in future marketing, and that their names may be used in event publicity.

QUESTIONS

Visit www.shineshootout.com.au or contact info@shineshootout.com.au.

Create a story. Make a film. Share it with the world.

Stories come from everywhere. This is where they shine.