



## 2015 GUIDELINES

### Let's do this.

Welcome to the 2015 Dead North Film Festival!

If you're reading this then you are taking the surreal plunge into the Dead North Film Festival and we commend you. For 3 years in a row we've mesmerized the North with our haunting sub-zero visions and this year promises to be the biggest one yet! If you are one of our die hard participants from the very start, we thank you massively for your support over the years. If you are new to Dead North this year, we welcome you aboard and extend our sincere gratitude for helping us make this year awesome for everyone.

This should be a great experience for all of us and it is also one that is designed to not only leave you with a solid production in the can that you can then send out to the world to make you rich and famous but also hopefully, leaves a taste in your mouth to get out there and make more flicks in the future. Over the past two years, 12 films have been made, they all played to an over capacity audience at Yellowknife's famous Snowcastle, and several have gone on to play at other festivals internationally (NY Horror Festival for example). Rest assured, you are in very good company.

One of the biggest changes this year is the transition from strictly horror to our festival opening its doors up to fantasy and sci-fi genres. Dead North will always be rooted in horror primarily, but we know that the North is a strange, ethereal and magical place, full of legend and myth and those elements lend themselves perfectly to this festival as well. We can't wait to see what comes our way this year!

The second thing that we are really pumped about this year is the growing interest from the other two territories in our country. From the beginning, the vision for Dead North was always for it to be a pan-territorial genre film festival. In 2014 there was serious interest from both the Yukon and Nunavut and we really look forward to seeing final submissions this year from our two closest neighbours and other filmmakers internationally who choose to live the crazy adventure that is life in the circumpolar world.

So, without further ado, once more into the fray we go...

Jay Bulckaert  
Dead North, Festival Director

**2015 GUIDELINES**

**\*\*IMPORTANT\*\***

**Please read everything below very carefully, it's only 5 pages/15 minutes of your time. Please take that time. We are happy to answer questions but it would be nice not to have answer those that are already clearly explained down below.**

**Also, for those returning to the festival this year, there are new rules so please read this document as if this is your first year!**

**ELIGIBILITY:**

- Open to anyone who resides anywhere in the world that is north of the 60th parallel.
- You do not have to be a professional filmmaker by any means.
- No one is generally allowed to be paid to work on the films. Primarily this encourages collaboration based on merit, talent and perseverance and discourages some rich person just going out and hiring a film crew to make them a movie. You get the idea here, you can certainly pay for talent, its just not cool to pay someone to make a film for you cuz you got fat stacks (which i'm sure applies to none of us!)
- Films that promote a business/product in any way are not eligible.

**REGISTRATION:**

- Open now until **January 5, 2015**. If you miss the deadline, you're out.
- Fee is \$100 per team/crew. Fee is non-refundable. (In case you are wondering, the money goes towards the promotion of the festival, marketing, screening costs and supplies to make it happen. Please don't assume we are making money on this because it's actually the complete opposite of that)
- Payable through email bank transfer only. Send \$ to: **deadnorthnwt@gmail.com**
- We don't want people sending us \$20 each type deal so get one person on your team to collect all the cash and then send the whole amount at one time pretty please.
- Please contact **deadnorthnwt@gmail.com** if you wish to register with the subject heading: **Dead North 2015 Registration**. We need the name and email of the producer (basically the person in the crew who is willing to take charge throughout the entire project).

**\*Important\***

**You/your team will NOT be considered registered until the payment has been made on or before January 5th, 2015.**

**LENGTH OF FILM:**

- 1-10 minutes maximum.

**ACCEPTABLE GENRES: (HORROR / FANTASY / SCI-FI)**

Horror has been, and always will be, our bread and butter of Dead North BUT this year we are opening the gates to the *fantasy* and *sci-fi* genres of filmmaking as well. The North is a strange, mysterious and mythical place full of legends and strange tales told under the midnight sun, so use all of that to your advantage. Films without these genres as their overriding narrative will not be accepted into the festival.

### PROCESS:

Registered teams will be given 9 weeks to create the best possible film they can. You can shoot and edit it in one day if you want or you can take the full 9 weeks to finesse it. Its all up to you but the festival is attempting to make it possible for people to create the best film they can. We are generally organizing deadlines like this:

- 3 weeks to write.
- 3 weeks to shoot.
- 3 weeks to edit.

### WRITING:

Registered teams will be given the writing guidelines on **January 6th, 2015**. Teams will be given 2 Northern elements that they are required to include in their scripts. These will be created by one of the judges and will remain a secret until that day. Each team will have the same 2 Northern elements assigned to them on January 6th. They will then have 3 weeks to write the script and submit it for approval. Approval is not about Dead North editing or changing anything, it is there to encourage and respect the writing process and to allow jurors to vote on the best screenplay as well as to ensure that the 2 Northern elements are included.

- Approval of scripts by Dead North is required in order to move into production and to submit a film to the screening. No script = no film submission.

- **All final scripts are due on JANUARY 23rd 2015.** Judges will take 2-3 days after a script is submitted to greenlight it into production.

### PRODUCTION:

As soon as teams have the green-light on their scripts, they can move into production. The sooner you get us your scripts prior to that date, the more time you have to shoot and edit. Essentially teams have 3 weeks to organize and shoot their films. It is up to you how you spend that time. Again, the overall goal here is to create original, well written and well produced content more than it is about competing under crazy, reduced timelines. That said, the timeline is still reduced, 3 weeks is not a lot of time to shoot a short film so be efficient, be organized and do good work. Last year the bar was set very high!

### POST-PRODUCTION

Again, once production starts, you essentially have 6 weeks to shoot and edit a final film. How you use that time is up to you/your team entirely. Think about sound, think colouring, think scoring, think foley, think effects and build those into your 3 week post production schedule.

**\*\*This year, we are asking each team to make a 1 minute trailer for their film, (We've allowed for more post production time to accomodate this, a whole extra week). We want to build buzz for your films and also, it doesn't hurt to have a trailer cut for other festival submissions after Dead North. The trailers won't be shown until the screening at NACC on March 17th.**

### FINAL SUBMISSION:

- All final submissions are due on **TUESDAY MARCH 10th, 2015.**
- All submissions must be delivered on a USB stick or uploaded online . The file exporting formats and precise uploading details will be provided to you during the first week of production.
- The film must be fully uploaded online by 11:59 pm on March 10th, 2015.
- Late submissions and uploads will still screen as "notable submissions" but **will not be eligible** for jury selection.

**JUDGING:**

- All films will be judged based on the exact same criteria by 3 industry level professionals.
- Artless Collective is completely separated from this process and has nothing to do with this aspect of Dead North. We compete the same as everyone else.
- Films are being judged in all categories (writing to post-production) and judges are generally looking for bold, original and visionary filmmaking.
- Tentatively right now, the judges for 2015 are: Raf Katibak (Canadian Editor VICE Media), Mitch Davis (Festival director for FANTASIA Film Festival) and Matt Aebig (Professional SFX artist). Judges are subject to change.

**SCREENING and EVENTS:**

This year, we are going big! Dead North will now be a full 2 day festival. The following is the tentative schedule right now. Not everything below is written in stone yet. We reserve the right to change anything stated below, but we will notify everyone when something changes.

**March 17**

- Morning - Master Class with Mitch Davis from FANTASIA Film Festival
- Afternoon - Special Effects “The Basics of Gore” workshop with SFX artist, Matt Aebig.
- Evening - Screening of all past Dead North films and premiere of trailers for all 2015 submissions at the Northern Arts and Cultural Centre. Time TBD.

**March 18**

- Morning - Master Class with Raf Katibak from VICE Media.
- Afternoon - Special Effects “The Basics of Gore” workshop with SFX Artist, Matt Aebig.
- Evening - Screening of all 2015 festival submissions and awards ceremony at Yellowknife’s Snowking Winter Festival snow castle. Tickets to the castle are \$10/person and yes, we all have to pay it, even the organizers of Dead North. It goes to supporting the snow castle, not to us.

**FILM CONTENT and RELEASES**

- Censorship is not our thing at all but some things get the boot for obvious legal reasons. No pornography, libel, copyright infringement, or hate speech. There are lots of great ways to terrorize, wow and challenge an audience’s sensibilities while remaining a decent human being.
- All actors in your films must give written legal consent to appear on camera, if minors are appearing they must have the written consent of a legal guardian and your production must strictly follow child actor practices.
- All location, actor and content releases are the full responsibility of the filmmaker/production team. Dead North, its organizers and affiliates are not responsible in any way for any issues that arise from a crew’s failure to get releases of any kind.

**STOCK FOOTAGE:**

- Generally this is frowned upon unless its is deemed absolutely necessary for the story. The judges will be looking for creativity and originality above all, so the use of stock footage has the potential to hurt your films chances of winning. It is not forbidden but it is not overly encouraged and all stock footage releases are the full responsibility of the filmmaker/crew.

**GEAR/EQUIPMENT:**

Gear is the responsibility of each crew to obtain. Organizations like Western Arctic Moving Pictures in Yellowknife ([wamp.ca](http://wamp.ca)), the NFVIA in the Yukon ([nfvia.com](http://nfvia.com)) and Ajiit in Nunavut (<http://www.ajjiit.ca/i18n/english/contact.html>) are excellent resources for everything you might need. Also, keep in mind that iPhones shoot HD and iMovie is a solid editing program. Expensive gear or the latest gear doesn't make a good film. A good idea, hard work, commitment and perseverance does.

**FILM OWNERSHIP:**

- All films submitted are recognized by Dead North/Artless Collective to be fully owned by those submitting them.
- Dead North/Artless Collective does not own any of the content ever, although we reserve the right to use clips/trailers/portions of each film to promote the challenge afterwards and the Dead North web site.

**VOTING:**

- Like any film festival, the prizes are the trophies (our infamous 'Zombears') and the glorious bragging rights that go with them. This festival is a labour of love for all of us, not a money making thing.
- The judges may not be in town at the time of the festival though. If they are not, they will view the work online and send us their votes in all categories prior to the screening night.

**VOTING CATEGORIES:**

- Best Film
- Best Screenplay
- Best Editing
- Best Directing
- Best Cinematography
- Best Sound
- Best Actor
- Best Actress
- Best Death
- Best Special Effects
- Best use of the 2 Northern elements

**DEAD NORTH SCHEDULE SUMMARY**

**January 5:** Registration and payment deadline.

**January 6:** Writing guidelines are released.

**January 23:** Completed scripts submitted.

**March 10:** All final submission due in hand or online by 11:59pm.

**March 17/18:** DEAD NORTH FILM FESTIVAL

Last but not least, if you are looking for inspiration check out the submissions from the past years of the festival. There is some big talent brewing here and once again, we love each and every one of you who dare to take part in a filmmaking challenge that encourages you to make a film in such a beautiful yet brutal environment.

<https://vimeo.com/deadnorth>