



ENTRY GUIDELINES

2020 SIMON "MABHUNU" SABELA FILM AND TELEVISION AWARDS



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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 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 will look at the life time achievements of great icons in the industry.
- **Keeping the fire burning** looked at individuals from the province who are currently 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 to date 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.

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

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.

- In the event that 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.
- None 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 into the Simon “Mabhunu” Sabela Film and Television Awards in previous sessions, specifically:
 - Television – 3 February 2019 – 3 February 2020
 - Film – 24 February 2018 – 24 February 2020, with the following exceptions:
 - Best Film – 24 February 2018 to 31 January 2020
 - Best isiZulu Film – 24 February 2018 – 31 January 2020
 - Best Use of KZN as a location – 24 February 2018 – 31 January 2020
- Entry date: 24 February 2020 – 4 May 2020 for all content.

5 AWARDS

A total of 26 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 MEC of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs and the Chairperson of the Board 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

Best Television Categories:

- Best actor
- Best actress
- Best supporting actor
- Best supporting actress
- Best newcomer actor
- Best newcomer actress
- Best Use of KwaZulu-Natal as a location in a music video

Best Film Categories:

- Best actor
- Best actress
- Best supporting actor
- Best supporting actress
- Best newcomer actor
- Best newcomer actress
- Best director
- Best screenplay
- Best micro-budget feature film
- Best use of KZN as filming location – **NATIONAL AWARD**
- Best feature film – **NATIONAL AWARD**
- Best Short Film
- Best isiZulu film – **NATIONAL AWARD**
- Best documentary short
- Best documentary length
- Best environmental conservation / wildlife short
- Best environmental conservation / Wildlife length
- Best student film
- Lifetime achievement
- Persons living with a disability

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 Made for TV feature film

The entries of the best made for TV feature film will be the best of the province from the last held African Emerging Filmmakers Awards ceremony. This is a provincial award, only entrants from KZN province will be considered.

6.6 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.

6.7 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.

6.8 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.

6.9 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.

6.10 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.

6.11 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.

6.12 Best Screenplay

A screenplay or script is a written work by screenwriters for a 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.

6.13 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.

6.14 Best environmental conservation / Wildlife length

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.

6.15 Lifetime Achievement Award (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.

6.16 Persons living 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.

6.17 Best Use of KwaZulu-Natal as a location in a music video

Awarded to the producer(s) for outstanding achievement in the use of KwaZulu-Natal province as a filming location in a music video with a running time of no less than 3 minutes. This award recognises all South African content with the use of the province, limited to a minimum of 60% (4 minutes) of the film

6.18 Best Short 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 KwaZulu-Natal short films.

7 SUBMISSIONS

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.

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, please contact the KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission: simonsabela@kwazulunatafilm.co.za

7.1 How to enter

- Download and complete the form from www.kwazulunatafilm.co.za or collect the application form from the KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission offices: Reception desk.
- 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 DVD or hard drive or USB 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 electronic entries will be accepted.
- No fax entries will be accepted.
- Only hand delivered or couriered entries are eligible for entry and hand delivered entrants are advised to sign on the Simon “Mabhunu” Sabela Film and Television Awards entries book at Reception desk.

NB: Five (5) copies of entry materials (DVD, hard drive or USB) 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 26 February 2020
- Closes on 4 May 2020 at 16:30

7.3 Delivery address:

All submissions are to be submitted to the following address:
KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission, Musgrave Office Towers, 10th floor, 115 Musgrave Road, Durban, 4001. The sealed envelope is to be clearly marked:

- Simon “Mabhunu” Sabela Film and Television Award Entry 2020
- All entries are to be placed into a sealed box which will be placed at the offices of the KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission. All couriered entries will be placed in the box by the KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission Receptionist. The box will be opened on 4 May 2020.

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

9 THE PROCESS OF DISTILLING THE ULTIMATE WINNER FROM THE TOP 3 NOMINEES.THE JUDGING PANEL

The judging panel is to be chaired by the Chairperson of the Board of KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission. 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 **18 June 2020**,

2020 Awarding Ceremony

The awards ceremony will take place on Saturday **18 July 2020** in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal.

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

They will be allocated up to **two persons** to accompany them to the award ceremony.