



**KZN
FILM**

ENTRY GUIDELINES

2024/25 SIMON “MABHUNU” SABELA, KZN FILM AND TELEVISION AWARDS



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SIMON “MABHUNU” SABELA

Mr Simon “Mabhunu” Sabela, in whose honour the KZN 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, but 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).

1 BACKGROUND ON THE AWARDS

The Simon “Mabhunu” Sabela KZN 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 renamed 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 industry Nationally and Internationally.

The awards ceremony did not take place in 2021 as the entertainment industry had not fully recovered from the effects of the Covid 19 pandemic.

The 10th anniversary of the Simon Mabhunu Sabela KZN Film and Television Awards celebrated a decade of excellence which saw the launch of the Inaugural Simon Mabhunu Sabela Lecture. The Inaugural lecture was presented by the late Dr Mbongeni Ngema.

2 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 presides over the adjudication process.

3 ELIGIBILITY

The genres eligible to enter the awards are:

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

Please ensure that the acceptable screening formats are clearly labelled and working:

- Hard Drive
- Memory Sticks
- Links attached to applications forms or to the body of the email submitted.

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 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 or international 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 applications that have been broadcast between 27 April 2023 - 28 March 2024
 - Film Applications that are completed and screened publicly, distributed through digital platforms between 27 April 2023 – 28 March 2024. (Links or any proof to be provided)
- Entry Opens for all content: 19 February 2024
- Entry Close for all content: 28 March 2024

4 AWARDS

A total of about 23 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.

4.1 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.

4.2 List of Awards

Best Television Categories:

1. Best actor
2. Best actress
3. Best supporting actor
4. Best supporting actress

Best Film Categories:

5. Best actor
6. Best actress
7. Best supporting actor
8. Best supporting actress
9. Best Director
10. Best Pan African Film **International Award**
11. Best isiZulu film
12. Best micro-budget
13. Best Feature Film
14. Best screenplay- Feature film
15. Best student film

Best Combined Categories for Television and Film

16. Best newcomer actor
17. Best newcomer actress
18. Best use of Cinematography
19. Best Production Design
20. Best use of KZN as filming location as film, television, and music video

Best Documentary Categories

21. Best documentary short film
22. Best documentary feature film

Special Award

23. Lifetime achievement

5 DEFINITION OF AWARDS

5.1 Best Actor (Film Category and Television Category)

There are 2 Awards. Best Actor in Film and Best Actor in Television. This will be 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 talent that are citizens and originate from KwaZulu-Natal. This application is also inclusive of people with disability.

5.2 Best Actress (Film Category and Television Category)

There are 2 Awards. Best Actress in Film and Best Actress in Television. This will be 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 talent that are citizens and originate from KwaZulu-Natal. This application is inclusive of people with disability.

5.3 Best Supporting Actor Award (Film Category and Television Category)

There are 2 Awards. Best Supporting Actor in Film and Best Supporting Actor in Television. This will be awarded to an individual with the best performance-interpretation and realisation of a scripted character. A support 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 recognising only talent that are citizens and originate from KwaZulu-Natal. This application is inclusive of people with disability.

5.4 Best Supporting Actress Award (Film Category and Television Category)

There are 2 Awards. Best Supporting Actress in Film and Best Supporting Actress in Television. This will be awarded to an individual with the best performance-interpretation and realisation of a scripted character. A support 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 recognising only talent that are citizens and originate from KwaZulu-Natal. This application is inclusive of people with disability.

5.5 Best Newcomer Actor (Combined Film and Television Category)

This is one Award for Best Newcomer Actor in Film Television. This will be awarded to an individual with the best performance-interpretation and realisation of a scripted character who is making a television debut. A new character and new face in the industry who is prominent in the story line. This award is open to performances for any production in South Africa recognising only talent that are citizens and originate from KwaZulu-Natal. This application is inclusive of people with disability.

5.6 **Best Newcomer Actress (Combined Film and Television Category)**

This is one Award for Best Newcomer Actress in Film or Television this will be awarded to an individual with the best performance-interpretation and realisation of a scripted character who is making a television debut. A new character and new face in the industry who is prominent in the story line. This award is open to performances for any production in South Africa recognising only talent that are citizens and originate from KwaZulu-Natal. This application is inclusive of people with disability.

5.7 **Best use of Cinematography (New Category for Film and Television)**

This is one Award that will honour the Art of Photography and Camera Work in filmmaking in a film and television production. This Award is open to all South African productions with a Department of Photography (DOP) who originates from KwaZulu Natal. This application is inclusive of people with disability.

5.8 **Best Production design (New Category for Film and Television)**

This is one Award. A new category that will look at the overall detail of the look and feel of the production. This application is inclusive of people with disability.

5.9 **Best Director (Film Category)**

Best Director in a Film is 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 who originate from KwaZulu-Natal province will be considered. This application is inclusive of people with disability.

5.10 **Best Documentary Short Film (Combined Category including Conservation and Wildlife Documentaries)**

Awarded to the producer(s) for outstanding achievement in the realisation, production, and overall success of a Documentary Short Film with 48 minutes or less running time (including all credits). This award is also open to conservation and wildlife documentaries and for entrants who are citizens and originate from KwaZulu-Natal. This application is inclusive of people with disability.

5.11 **Best Documentary Feature Film (Combined Category including Conservation and Wildlife Documentaries)**

Awarded to the producer(s) for outstanding achievement in the realisation, production, and overall success of a Documentary Feature Subject Film with 60 minutes or more running time (including all credits). This award is also open to conservation and wildlife documentaries and for entrants who are citizens and originate from KwaZulu-Natal. This application is inclusive of people with disability.

5.12 **Best Pan 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 Film feature films. This is a continental Award only entrants from the Africa continent will be considered. This application is inclusive of people with disability.

5.13 **Best isiZulu Film**

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. This application is inclusive of people with disability.

5.14 **Best use of KwaZulu-Natal as a filming location in film, television, and music video (Combined Category)**

Best use of KwaZulu Natal as a filming location in film, television, and music video. This Award is open to all South Africans and will be awarded to the producer(s) for outstanding achievement in the use of KwaZulu-Natal province as a filming location in a full-length for film, television, and music video. This application is inclusive of people with disability.

5.15 **Best Micro-budget**

The entries of the best micro budget film will be the winners from the last held African Emerging Filmmakers Awards ceremony. This is a provincial award, only entrants from KZN province will be considered. This category is awarded to the emerging filmmakers who have but not limited to a low budget. Budget must be attached that is less than R500 000.00 this application is inclusive of people with disability.

5.16 **Best Feature Film**

This is a provincial Award, only entrants from KZN province to be considered. This category is for emerging filmmakers who have made films aimed at Television platforms and platforms such as Netflix, Showmax, Amazon, Prime Video etc. The budget must be above R500 000.00. This application is inclusive of people with disability.

5.17 **Best Screenplay Film Category**

The Awards in this category screenplay or script is a written work by screenwriters for a film and for a television programme. 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. This application is inclusive of people with disability.

5.18 **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.

5.19 **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 SUBMISSIONS

Hand-delivered applications are permitted, it is crucial that the applicant signs the register at reception when dropping off an entry to ensure that the application can be accounted for. 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.

6.1 How to enter

- Download and complete the form from www.kznfilm.co.za or collect the application form from the KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission offices: Reception desk 10th floor.
- 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 non-expiring link and/or zip folder and stipulate submission date.**
- **Submit a certified copy of the South African identity document of nominee**
- **Submit Proof of KZN origin; Proof of Address and if KZN origin residing outside of KZN home Proof of Address with an affidavit**
- **No fax entries will be accepted.**

NB: One (1) copy or 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.

6.2 Entry and Closing period.

- Opens on 19 February 2024
- Closes on 28 March 2024

For physical drop off at 16:30 and no later applications will be accepted. Online submissions will close 23:59 and no later applications will be accepted.

6.3 Delivery address:

Submissions sent physically 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 KZN Film and Television Award Entry 2024
- All entries are to be placed into a sealed box which will be placed at the offices of the KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission or emailed to simonsabela@kznfilm.co.za. All couriered entries will be placed in the box by the KwaZulu-Natal Film Commission Receptionist.

7 ADJUDICATION

7.1 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)

7.2 Winner judgement

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

8 THE JUDGING PANEL

The judging process is audited. The overall Chairperson and members of the judging panel are distinguished members of the film and television industry, some were past winners of the Awards.

9 ADDITIONAL DATES

Announcement of Nominees:

Nominees will be announced at a press event on the first week of **June 2024**

2024/5 Awarding Ceremony

The awards ceremony will take place on Saturday **20 July 2024** in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal.

All nominated persons as per the adjudication process will be invited to attend the Award ceremony and if you cannot attend, we will request a family representative to be present on the night.