63rd Annual CAS Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Sound Mixing

Entry and Voting Rules, Regulations & Procedures

These are the official Rules, Regulations and Procedures for the CAS Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Sound Mixing in 2026. Although published in both print and on the CAS Website (www.CinemaAudioSociety.org) the definitive version will always be the one on the website as it can be updated and amended as necessary.

In addition to complying with the following Rules and Regulations for the 63rd Annual Cinema Audio Society Awards, all participants are also bound by the **CAS Regulations for Promotion**, which are also posted on the CAS Website, www.CinemaAudioSociety.org.
All dates and times for qualification are Pacific Time.

ENTRY DEADLINE:

- **Entry Submissions period ends at 5:00 p.m. PT Monday, December 7, 2026.**
- **Entry Submission Forms** for each of the 9 CAS Award categories will be available beginning Tuesday, October 27, 2026 at www.CinemaAudioSociety.org under the awards tab.
- For awards questions or information, email CASAwards@CinemaAudioSociety.org or contact the CAS Awards line at (818) 752-8624.

ENTRY SUBMISSIONS AND PROCEDURES:

1. Entries will be accepted beginning Tuesday, October 27, 2026.
2. Entry Submission Forms will be available on the CAS website at www.CinemaAudioSociety.org under the awards tab. Once online, fill out the entry form for your selected category. Submit the form to receive an email confirmation receipt, which will have instructions for printing your submission.
3. Anyone may submit entries; however, only CAS Active Members in good standing (all current and past dues have been paid) as of October 1, 2026 are permitted to vote.
4. Entries are only accepted through the CAS Website. Entry forms must be filled out completely.
5. Correct and complete entry information is the responsibility of the entrant. The CAS is not liable for incorrect ballot or crew listings that are the result of incorrect or incomplete information on the entry forms. Each submission must include at least one Production Mixer and one Re-recording mixer to be eligible. If your show does not have a Production Mixer, please contact CASAwardsEntries@CinemaAudioSociety.org.
6. If an entry is submitted in the wrong category or with erroneous information supplied by the entrant, and the error is not discovered until the ballot reaches the voters, it will be disqualified. If the CAS makes an error in the categorization of an entry or provides erroneous information on a ballot, a correction notification will be issued.
7. Final approval of category placement and eligibility will be determined by the CAS Awards Review Committee.
8. Ineligible entries may be disqualified at any stage of the competition.
9. Entrants will receive confirmation of their entries via e-mail.
10. Entry Submissions must be received by 5:00 p.m. PT Monday, December 7, 2026.

ENTRY FEES

1. Entry fees are per submission.
2. CAS Awards entries have a total submission fee of $110.00 per entry inclusive of processing fees.
3. Each CAS member in good standing* will receive two complimentary entry submissions and a 25% discount on any additional entries. Personal codes for their complimentary and discounted entry fees will be emailed to all CAS members in good standing.* These codes are for personal use by members only. Should third parties submit using members free discount codes these submissions will be voided on review.
4. All paid submission fees are non-refundable and used discount codes will not be re-issued. Before submitting an entry, please consult with your team, studios and consultants to verify that the film or program has not already been submitted.
5. By entering a submission, you are agreeing that your name as the entrant is available to anyone who inquires.

*Members will be considered in "good standing" if they have paid all current and past dues as of October 1, 2026.

CATEGORY DEFINITIONS

1. **Motion Pictures - Live Action** – for a theatrically released fictional feature-length live action motion picture.
2. **Motion Pictures - Animated** – for a theatrically released feature-length animated motion picture in which no less than 75 percent of the picture's running time is animated.
3. **Motion Pictures - Documentary** – for a theatrically released non-fiction feature-length motion picture.
4. **Non-Theatrical Motion Pictures or Limited Series** – for a Non-Theatrical Motion Picture or a single episode of a Limited Series.
5. **Television Series - One Hour** – for a single episode of a regular Series. Hour-long Series have an average episode running time of **41 minutes to 75 minutes.**
6. **Television Series - Half Hour** – for a single episode of a regular Series. Half-hour Series episodes have an average episode running time of **21 minutes to 40 minutes 59 seconds**.
7. **Television Non-Fiction, Variety or Music – Series or Specials** – for a single episode of a non-fiction, variety or music Series or for a non-fiction, variety or music Special with a total run time in excess of 21 minutes.
8. **Non-Theatrical Animated** – for a single episode animation that has not been theatrically released.
9. **Short Form –** for a single episode under 20 minutes 59 seconds.

ELIGIBILITY

MOTION PICTURES – LIVE ACTION: for a theatrically released fictional feature-length live action motion picture.

To be eligible:

- must have had their initial release between **January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026.**
- must be over 40 minutes in length.
- must have had a run of at least seven consecutive days for paid admission in a commercial theater in any major U.S. city beginning between January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026.
- must have their first public exhibition or distribution as a theatrical motion picture release.

A same day theatrical and streaming release does not disqualify a film from this category.
However, titles are only eligible to appear on the ballot in one category and cannot be considered both theatrical and non-theatrical. Titles with a streaming release prior to theatrical exhibition will be considered non-theatrical.

Motion pictures from all countries are eligible as long as they satisfy the requirements of all the other applicable rules.

Ineligible are:

- Multi-part or Limited Series.
- Episodes extracted from a larger Series.
- Segments taken from a "composite" program.
- Alternate versions of ineligible works.
- Mixes derived from commercially available versions of a production.

MOTION PICTURES – ANIMATED: for a theatrically released feature-length animated motion picture in which no less than 75 percent of the picture's running time is animated. An animated film is defined as a motion picture in which movement and characters' performances are created using a frame-by-frame technique. Animating techniques include but are not limited to hand-drawn animation, computer animation, stop-motion, clay animation, pixilation, cutout animation, pinscreen, camera multiple pass imagery, kaleidoscopic effects created frame-by-frame, and drawing on the film frame itself. A narrative animated film must have a significant number of the major characters animated.

To be eligible:

- must have had their initial release between **January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026.**
- must be over 40 minutes in length.
- must have had a run of at least seven consecutive days for paid admission in a commercial theater in any major U.S. city beginning between January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026.
- must have their first public exhibition or distribution as a theatrical motion picture release.

A same day theatrical and streaming release does not disqualify a film from this category.

However, titles are only eligible to appear on the ballot in one category and cannot be considered both theatrical and non-theatrical. Titles with a streaming release prior to theatrical exhibition will be considered non-theatrical.

Motion pictures from all countries are eligible as long as they satisfy the requirements of all the other applicable rules.

Ineligible are:

- Multi-part or Limited Series.
- Episodes extracted from a larger Series.
- Segments taken from a "composite" program.
- Alternate versions of ineligible works.
- Mixes derived from commercially available versions of a production.

MOTION PICTURES – DOCUMENTARY: for a theatrically released non-fiction feature-length motion picture. A Documentary film may include reenactments, stock footage, stills or other techniques as long as the emphasis is on fact and not fiction.

To be eligible:

- must have had their initial release between **January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026.**
- must be over 40 minutes in length.
- must have had a run of at least seven consecutive days for paid admission in a commercial theater in any major U.S. city beginning between January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026.
- must have their first public exhibition or distribution as a theatrical motion picture release.

A same day theatrical and streaming release does not disqualify a film from this category.

However, titles are only eligible to appear on the ballot in one category and cannot be considered both theatrical and non-theatrical. Titles with a streaming release prior to theatrical exhibition will be considered non-theatrical.

Motion pictures from all countries are eligible as long as they satisfy the requirements of all the other applicable rules.

Ineligible are:

- Multi-part or Limited Series.
- Episodes extracted from a larger Series.
- Segments taken from a "composite" program.
- Alternate versions of ineligible works.
- Mixes derived from commercially available versions of a production.

NON-THEATRICAL MOTION PICTURES OR LIMITED SERIES: for a Non-Theatrical Motion Picture or a single episode of a Limited Series.

A **Non-Theatrical Motion Picture** shall be defined as an original program, which tells a story with a beginning, middle and end and is broadcast or streamed in one part.

A **Limited Series** shall be defined as a program that tells a complete, non-recurring story with no ongoing storyline or continuing main characters in previous or subsequent seasons. Limited Series entries must indicate which part is being entered, as each part of the Limited Series will count as a separate entry.

To be eligible:

- must have had their initial broadcast or streaming release in the USA between **January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026.**
- a **Non-Theatrical Motion Picture** must be over 40 minutes in length.
- a **Limited Series** must have 2 or more episodes and a total running time of at least 4 broadcast hours or 150 program minutes.
- must have their first public exhibition or distribution via a broadcast or streamed release.

A same day theatrical and streaming release does not disqualify a film from this category.

However, titles are only eligible to appear on the ballot in one category and cannot be considered both theatrical and non-theatrical. Titles with a theatrical release prior to broadcast/streaming exhibition will be considered theatrical.

Non-Theatrical Motion pictures from all countries are eligible as long as they satisfy the requirements of all the other applicable rules.

Ineligible are:

- Titles with a prior theatrical release.
- Segments taken from a "composite" program.
- Alternate versions of ineligible works.
- Mixes derived from commercially available versions of a production.

TELEVISION SERIES – ONE HOUR: for a single episode of a regular Series.

A **Series** shall be defined as multiple episodes with an ongoing theme, storyline and characters presented under the same title. Series entries must indicate the episode name (and part number if applicable) as each Series episode will count as a separate entry.

A Series must have 6 or more episodes. Shortened seasons for Series: Once a show is established as a Series, if additional shortened seasons are added (fewer than six episodes), it would still be considered a Series, unless it was limited to one or two episodes (which would categorize it as a Limited Series).

To be eligible:

- must have had their initial broadcast or streaming release in the USA between **January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026.**
- the series must not have been submitted for the previous years consideration.
- a series must have an average episode running time of **41 minutes to 75 minutes.**
- a series must have their first public exhibition or distribution via a broadcast or streamed release.

Ineligible are:

- Titles with a prior theatrical release.

- Segments taken from a “composite” program.
- Alternate versions of ineligible works.
- Mixes derived from commercially available versions of a production.

TELEVISION SERIES – HALF HOUR: for a single episode of a regular Series.

A **Series** shall be defined as multiple episodes with an ongoing theme, storyline and characters presented under the same title. Series entries must indicate the episode name (and part number if applicable) as each Series episode will count as a separate entry.

A Series must have 6 or more episodes. Shortened seasons for Series: Once a show is established as a Series, if additional shortened seasons are added (fewer than six episodes), it would still be considered a Series, unless it was limited to one or two episodes (which would categorize it as a Limited Series).

To be eligible:

- must have had their initial broadcast or streaming release in the USA between **January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026.**
- the series must not have been submitted for the previous years consideration.
- a series must have an average episode running time of **21 minutes to 40 minutes 59 Seconds.**
- a series must have their first public exhibition or distribution via a broadcast or streamed release.

Ineligible are:

- Titles with a prior theatrical release.
- Segments taken from a “composite” program.
- Alternate versions of ineligible works.
- Mixes derived from commercially available versions of a production.

TELEVISION NON-FICTION, VARIETY OR MUSIC – SERIES OR SPECIALS: for a single episode of a non-fiction, variety or music Series or for a non-fiction, variety or music Special with a total run time in excess of 21 minutes. This category includes Clip Shows, Year-Enders, Best-Ofs and Anniversary Specials unless animated or short form as detailed below.

To be eligible:

- must have had their initial broadcast or streaming release in the USA between **January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026.**
- If submitting an episode, the series must not have been submitted for the previous years consideration.
- a series must have their first public exhibition or distribution via a broadcast or streamed release.

Ineligible are:

- Telethons aired for the purpose of raising money for political parties.
- Titles with a prior theatrical release.
- Segments taken from a “composite” program.
- Alternate versions of ineligible works.
- Mixes derived from commercially available versions of a production.

NON-THEATRICAL ANIMATED: for a single animation that has not been theatrically released in which no less than 75 percent of the show’s running time is animated. Animated, is defined as movement and characters’ performances are created using a frame-by-frame technique. Animating techniques include but are not limited to hand-drawn animation, computer animation, stop-motion, clay animation, pixilation, cutout animation, pinscreen, camera multiple pass imagery, kaleidoscopic effects created frame-by-frame, and drawing on the film frame itself. To be considered narrative animated project it must have a significant number of the major characters animated. There are no run time restrictions.

To be eligible:

- must have had their initial broadcast or streaming release in the USA between **January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026.**
- must have their first public exhibition or distribution via a broadcast or streamed release.
- titles from all countries are eligible as long as they satisfy the requirements of all the other applicable rules.

Ineligible are:

- Titles with a prior theatrical release.
- Segments taken from a "composite" program.
- Alternate versions of ineligible works.
- Mixes derived from commercially available versions of a production.

SHORT FORM: for a single stand-alone show or series episode. Fiction and non-fiction. Non-Animated.

To be eligible:

- must have had their initial release in the USA between **January 1, 2026 and December 31, 2026.**
- entrant must have an average running time under **21 minutes and 59 Seconds.**
- titles from all countries are eligible as long as they satisfy the requirements of all the other applicable rules.

Ineligible are:

- Titles with a prior theatrical release.
- Segments taken from a "composite" program.
- Alternate versions of ineligible works.
- Mixes derived from commercially available versions of a production.

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR NON-THEATRICAL CATEGORIES

1. Each entry is eligible in only 1 category. Final approval of category placement and eligibility shall be determined by the CAS Awards Review Committee.
2. A film or program that had eligibility in a prior awards year cannot be re-introduced into eligibility in the current awards year, even though it may have been modified with new footage, soundtrack, score or other material.
3. Episodes airing between January 1, 2026, and December 31, 2026, are eligible for this year's awards, provided that the series was not submitted for the previous years consideration.
3. If the run of a Series crosses December 31 (with an equal number of episodes airing prior to and after December 31) the Series may be entered into the current year's awards or the following year's awards but not both.
4. Extended length series episodes, including but not limited to Pilots and Special Episodes, may only be entered in a Series category and may not be entered as Non-Theatrical Motion Pictures, Limited Series or Specials. If the Pilot or Special Episode airs in multiple parts, not in succession, each part must be entered as an individual submission. If the parts air consecutively, on the same night, the episode may be entered in its entirety as one entry (as long as it does not cumulatively exceed twice the standard running time of the Series episodes), or each part may be entered separately. If a multi-part or extended length episode is submitted as one entry, it is still subject to the limitation of a maximum of 7 mixers as outlined below.
5. If a program consists of more than one segment, the entrant must submit the entire program. Only the mixers who contributed significantly to the majority of the entire program shall be eligible for nomination.

6. Hanging episodes: To qualify for eligibility in the current eligibility year, the Series/Limited Series must have premiered by the end of the eligibility period (Thursday, December 31, 2026). If the Series/Limited Series has one or more episodes that fall into the subsequent eligibility year, those episodes must be broadcast or posted on an accessible platform for CAS membership viewing by Monday, December 21, 2026 (the last day before Nominations voting begins) to gain eligibility for the current eligibility year. If those episodes are not able to be broadcast/posted by 5:00 p.m. PT Monday, December 21, 2026, then the complete Series/Limited Series will be eligible in the subsequent eligibility year.
7. Multiple episodes from the same Series may only be submitted if the crews are different for each episode.

MIXER QUALIFICATIONS & ELIGIBILITY

A maximum of 7 mixers are eligible for each nominated film or program in **ALL** categories. These 7 mixers may consist of one Production Mixer, a maximum of three Re-recording Mixers, one Scoring Mixer, one ADR Mixer, and one Foley Mixer. For the Motion Pictures - Animated category, the 7 mixers may consist of two Original Dialogue/ADR Mixers, a maximum of three Re-recording Mixers, one Scoring Mixer, and one Foley Mixer.

- An eligible **Production Mixer** on a film or program must have recorded the majority of the production sound for that film or program, regardless of the percentage of that recording remaining in the final sound mix.
- An eligible **Original Dialogue Mixer** on an animated film or program must have recorded the majority of the dialogue for that film or program.
- An eligible **Re-recording Mixer** on a film or program must have been on the mixing console on the final sound mix and must have contributed substantially to the final mix.
- An eligible **Scoring Mixer** must have mixed the majority of the musical score for that film or program.
- An eligible **ADR Mixer** must have mixed the majority of the ADR for that film or program.
- An eligible **Foley Mixer** must have mixed the majority of the Foley for that film or program.

Entrants may petition for alternative mixer titles for an entry, provided it does not exceed the maximum 7 mixers allowed. **Any such petition must be submitted in writing via e-mail to CASAwards@CinemaAudioSociety.org before Entry Submissions close at 5:00 pm PT Monday, December 7, 2026**. Additional mixers must have contributed significantly to the film or program, and an explanation stating the case for the inclusion of the additional mixer(s) must be included as part of the petition. The petition must also contain contact information, phone numbers and email addresses for the entrant and any other individuals who will be able to supply additional information as may be needed by the CAS Awards Review Committee. Decisions regarding petitions will be made by the CAS Awards Review Committee whose decisions will be final.

Eligibility for all nominations and awards shall be determined by screen credits or as certified to the CAS by the producing companies, but final credit determination and nomination eligibility shall be made by the CAS. Producers or others may not alter an individual's screen credit in order to qualify the individual for Award eligibility. The CAS reserves the right to make its own determination of credit for purposes of award consideration. In the event of any credit dispute, the nomination eligibility for the CAS Awards shall be determined by the CAS Awards Review Committee, whose decision will be final. Additionally, the CAS reserves the right to declare any film or program in dispute as ineligible or alternatively to list credits as being in controversy and withhold any award until the dispute is resolved.

NOMINATION – VOTING & PROCEDURES

1. **Nomination Ballots will be available for online voting on Tuesday, December 22, 2026.**
2. Voting on all CAS Awards Ballots will be restricted to CAS Active Members in good standing (all current and past dues have been paid) as of October 1, 2026.
3. Voting instructions, links and unique personal codes for online voting will be emailed on the morning of Tuesday, December 22, 2026.
4. All eligible films or programs submitted in each category will be listed online in the Entry Submissions list along with the Nominations Ballot. The Entry Submissions lists shall include a film or program's title, a brief synopsis of the story to help identify it for the voters (if provided by the entrant), and the airdate for television programs (and the episode or part number if applicable). This list will not include the names of the mixers for any film or program.
5. From the compiled list of entries, CAS Active Members will be allowed to vote for five entries in each category, which they will list in order of preference. This is a weighted ballot. A numerical value will be assigned to each of the chosen entries, according to their order of preference as listed on the ballot, and the five entries with the highest numerical values will become the final nominees. In the event of a tie for 5th place in any category, there may be more than five nominees in that category. No one entry may be listed on the ballot more than once. If an entry is listed more than once, the entire ballot will be disqualified.
6. No write-in votes on the Nominations Ballot will be permitted.
7. **Nomination Ballot Voting will end at 5:00 p.m. PT Wednesday, January 6, 2027.** Ballots will be received and tabulated by an independent online voting company.
8. **Final Nominees in each category will be announced Tuesday, January 12, 2027.**
9. Nomination Certificates will be given to all nominated mixing crews in each category.
10. In the event that the CAS declares a nominated film or show ineligible, it shall not be replaced, and the category will remain with one fewer nominee.
11. Nominated achievements may be withdrawn from nomination only by the entrant with the agreement of all members of the nominated crew. Individual nominees on a crew may withdraw themselves, but the film or program's nomination will stand as long as one crew member remains. If all members of the nominated crew agree to withdraw the nominated achievement, the entry will be declared ineligible.
12. A petition for additional mixers to be included as part of a nominated crew shall be allowed if submitted to the CAS office in writing within **10 calendar days** of the announcement of the nominations. After this time, no appeals or petitions for additional mixers may be made. No petition for additional mixers will be considered if the maximum 7 mixers have already been designated. Additional mixers must have contributed significantly to the film or program, and an explanation stating the case for the inclusion of the additional mixer(s) must be included as part of the petition. The petition must also contain contact information, phone numbers and email addresses for the entrant and any other individuals who will be able to supply additional information as may be needed by the CAS Awards Review Committee. **The deadline for submitting petitions is Friday, January 22, 2027.** Decisions regarding appeals and petitions will be made by the CAS Awards Review Committee whose decisions will be final.
13. Each of the final 5 nominees in each category must submit a clip, as well as audio of the film or program's theme music **no later than 15 days** following the announcement of the nominations. Contact information **MUST** be supplied on the Entry Submission Form. Forms without this information will be considered incomplete. Technical specifications for material to be submitted will be supplied to Nominees via the contact information supplied on their Entry Submission Form and will also be available from the CAS Office at CASAwards@CinemaAudioSociety.org or the CAS Awards line at (818) 752-8624.
14. Each nominee agrees that any film, tape, recording, screenshot, photography, or supplemental printed material that is furnished to the CAS by or on behalf of the nominee in connection with an entry may be retained by the CAS for historical reference purposes. In submitting a film or program for CAS Awards consideration, the entrants are deemed to have conveyed to the CAS the right to choose excerpts from the film or program, at the CAS's discretion, for incorporation into the CAS Awards presentation. Clips from any

such recording or supplemental printed material may be used on or in connection with the presentation or exhibition of the CAS Awards, including but not limited to internet exhibition in connection with promotional activities; use of such clips and material shall be subject to the clearance of any other parties that may be required.

FINAL BALLOT – VOTING & PROCEDURES

1. **Final Ballots will be available for online voting on Thursday, February 4, 2027.**
2. Voting on all CAS Awards Ballots will be restricted to CAS Active Members in good standing (all current and past dues have been paid) on October 1, 2026.
3. Voting instructions, links and unique personal codes for online voting will be emailed on Thursday, February 4, 2027.
4. All nominated films or programs in each category will be posted online in the Nominations list along with the Final Ballot. The Nominations lists shall include a film or program's title, a brief synopsis of the story to help identify it for the voters (if provided by the entrant), and the airdate for television programs (and the episode or part number if applicable). This list will not include the names of the mixers on any film or program.
5. The Final Ballot will list all the Films or Programs nominated in each category. The nominated Films or Programs in each category will be listed alphabetically.
6. CAS Active Members will be allowed to vote for one entry in each category. The nominee in each category with the highest total number of votes shall be the winner. In the event of a tie for first place in the final balloting, awards will be given to more than one film or program.
7. No write-in votes on the Final Ballot are permitted.
8. **Final Ballot Voting will end at 5:00 p.m. PT Thursday, February 18, 2027.** Ballots will be received and tabulated by an independent online voting company.

AWARDS

The 63rd Annual CAS Awards for Outstanding Achievement in Sound Mixing will be presented in a sealed-envelope ceremony to be held on **Saturday, March 06, 2027** at the Beverly Hilton, Los Angeles, CA. Individual Awards will be given to the mixers of the winning titles with a maximum of 7 awards per category.

In the event of a tie in the Final Balloting, awards will be given to the mixers of more than one film or program.

The Winner's press release should be used as the final and definitive source of CAS Award Winner information.