

SDSA SET DECORATORS SOCIETY OF AMERICA
AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

AWARDS

SDSA AWARDS FOR FILM 2025

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ONE. Awards Definitions

The **SDSA Awards for Film** are annual awards presented to Set Decorators and Production Designers to honor outstanding achievement in the art of Set Decoration in Feature Film.

TWO. Awards Calendar

Sept. 22, 2025	Submissions Open / Call for Submission
Dec. 12, 2025	Submissions Close
Dec. 13, 2025	Eligible Films List Released
Dec. 13, 2025	Late Submissions Open
Dec. 13, 2025	Errors & Omissions Period Opens
Dec. 19, 2025	Errors & Omissions Period Closes
Dec. 21, 2025	Late Submissions Close
Dec. 27, 2025	Nominations Voting Opens
Jan. 03, 2026	Nominations Voting Closes
Jan. 05, 2026	Nominations Announced
Jan. 19, 2026	Final Voting Opens
Jan. 26, 2026	Final Voting Closes
Feb. 21, 2026	SDSA Awards for Film 2025 Announced

THREE. Eligibility Rules

The SDSA will consider Submissions, SDSA Awards guidelines and the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (AMPAS) guidelines to determine eligibility.

- i. Productions must have a credited Set Decorator to be eligible for SDSA Awards consideration.
- ii. The qualifying films are those intended for theatrical release as recognized by AMPAS from the period of January 1, 2025 – December 31, 2025.
- iii. To be eligible for the SDSA Awards for Film, a feature-length motion picture must be a minimum of 40 minutes and release through public motion picture theater exhibition, as determined by the AMPAS requirements.
- iv. The SDSA list of eligible feature films is based on submissions with verification with the AMPAS reminder list. The SDSA list of qualifying films will be posted December 13, 2025 on SDSAAwards.com.
- v. Voting is open to all SDSA Membership in good standing at the following levels:
 - Set Decorator
 - Retired Set Decorator
 - Associate
 - Business Member

All eligible voters receive one vote per member in the Nominations round of voting and in the Final round of voting. Business Members have one vote per business.

Voting will commence over the online voting portal, with instructions sent via members' email.

FOUR. Category Definitions

In the Best Achievement in Decor/Design categories (see below), only productions that have been pre-sorted into genre categories by the committee are eligible for awards in their respective categories. The Decor/Design Categories will exclude from consideration Documentary and Animated productions, or any production without a credited Set Decorator.

In the Best Picture Category, all feature-length films on the AMPAS list will qualify -- including International, Documentary and Animated Features. Voting for Best Picture

should reflect overall quality of all aspects of the film, as well as the Décor and Design of the film. The Best Picture is selected in the final round of voting.

The SDSA Awards for Film will be awarded annually in the following categories:

**BEST ACHIEVEMENT IN DECOR/DESIGN:
CONTEMPORARY FEATURE FILM**

To qualify for the category of Contemporary feature film, the primary setting is situated in the approximate current day and within the last 20 years. These films may include brief flashes back or forward in time, but the bulk of the story must be a contemporary setting. Must have a credited Set Decorator.

**BEST ACHIEVEMENT IN DECOR/DESIGN:
PERIOD FEATURE FILM**

To qualify for the category of a Period feature film, settings are primarily in historical eras that precede our current day by 20 years or more. These films may have time spans that include current day, but the bulk of the story must be situated in a bygone era. Must have a credited Set Decorator.

**BEST ACHIEVEMENT IN DECOR/DESIGN:
FANTASY or SCIENCE FICTION FEATURE FILM**

To qualify for the category of a Fantasy or Science Fiction feature film, stories are situated in realms of the imagination. These stories may be extra-terrestrial, futuristic depictions of earthly civilizations, or dramatically heightened fanciful versions of a known or unknown universe. The Science Fiction genre will typically feature advanced or dramatically enhanced technologies. Must have a credited Set Decorator.

**BEST ACHIEVEMENT IN DECOR/DESIGN:
MUSICAL or COMEDY FEATURE FILM**

To qualify for the category of a Musical or Comedy feature film: The Musical genre will include films whose stories are interspersed and advanced with production numbers which include singing and dancing. The Comedy genre consists of films whose stories are designed primarily to make an audience laugh. Must have a credited Set Decorator.

FIVE. Submissions

Submission period: September 22, 2025 – December 12, 2025

Late Submission period: December 13, 2025 – December 21, 2025

Submission requirements:

- Each submission requires a Set Decorator to have received screen credit as Set Decorator.

- The SDSA Awards for Film consideration is based on AMPAS qualified list to verify.
- Include a link to streaming platforms or screening for viewing consideration, when possible.
- Each submission must have a completed submission form, with payment.
- There may be more than one Set Decorator eligible for Awards consideration. If so, each Set Decorator's name must be submitted, and if determined eligible, will share the Award, along with the Production Designer(s).
- Fees Schedule:
 - **Studio / Network / Production Company:** \$325 per production
 - **Non-SDSA Member:** \$250 per production
\$150 of the Non-SDSA Member submission fee of \$250 can be applied towards the SDSA membership application fee on a one-time basis.
 - **SDSA Member:** \$25 processing fee
The submission fee for an SDSA Member is waived for Film Awards 2025. However, there is a \$25 processing fee per production submitted to cover administration costs.
- LATE Submission Fees Schedule:
 - **Studio / Network / Production Company:** \$400 per production
 - **Non-SDSA Member:** \$300 per production
\$150 of the Non-SDSA Member submission fee of \$250 can be applied towards the SDSA membership application fee on a one-time basis.
 - **SDSA Member:** \$50 processing fee
This is a processing fee to help pay for administration costs.

The SDSA Awards Committee reserves the right to approve submissions.

SIX.

Preliminary Round Procedures

On December 13, 2025 the SDSA Awards Committee will post on SDSAAwards.com, the list of qualified films for consideration as submitted and verified with the AMPAS list. (This list is historically comprehensive and consists of virtually all films theatrically released during the qualifying period and in accordance with AMPAS rules and eligibility.) All films deemed eligible for SDSA Awards must have a credited Set Decorator.

Nomination voting begins on December 27, 2025 and concludes on January 3, 2026.

Voting members are to nominate up to five (5) candidates in each film category. Each Voter will be asked to rank their selections in order of preference from first to fifth. Voting will occur online via voting portal — links and instructions will be emailed to voting members on the morning of December 27th, 2025.

SEVEN.

Preliminary Round Nominations

At the conclusion of the preliminary voting period, the SDSA Awards Ballot Accreditation Panel will tabulate the votes and announce the top five (5) Nominees for each Décor/Design Categories on January 5, 2026.

Each nominated Set Decorator will be notified and congratulated of their nomination via e-mail once the nominations have been announced.

Certificates of Recognition will be issued to each nominated Set Decorator and Production Designer*. Crew certificates may be issued for the cost of \$50.00 per certificate at the discretion of the Set Decorator of each nominated Film.

*Note if the nominated Set Decorator and Production Designer are awarded the category they are nominated in, they will receive the Award certificate, not the Nomination certificate. See Award Announcement section for details.

EIGHT.

Final Round Procedures

Final Round voting opens on January 19, 2026 and concludes on January 26, 2026 for voting members to make their final selection in each category from the top five (5) Nominees in each category; and to vote for one (1) Film as their choice for BEST PICTURE of the Year.

NINE. Awards Announcement

At the conclusion of the Final Round voting period, the SDSA Awards Ballot Accreditation Panel will tabulate the votes and certify the Awards.

The SDSA Awards for BEST ACHIEVEMENT IN DECOR/DESIGN in each category will be announced on February 21, 2026 via SDSAAwards.com.

The awarded Set Decorators will be contacted and congratulated via e-mail after the Awards are announced. The awarded Set Decorators and Production Designers will be issued SDSA Award Certificates. Up to three (3) crew members chosen by the Set Decorator will be awarded Crew Recognition Certificates. Additional certificates may be issued for cost of \$50.00 each at the discretion of the Set Decorator.

The Best Picture Certificate will be presented to the Director of the Best Picture award. The certificate will include the Set Decorator's and Director's names.

These rules and regulations are approved by the SDSA Awards Committee.