



AM-FM FILMMAKERS

MASTERCLASS 2026

Program Outline and Structure

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- The AM-FM Masterclass 2026 is a selective filmmaking development program designed to nurture emerging and mid-career filmmakers connected to the African film community in Manitoba and beyond.
- The program aims to provide practical training, mentorship, and collaborative production experience while building a long-term community of filmmakers **who remain engaged with the African Movie Festival Manitoba (AM-FM) beyond completion of the masterclass.**
- Participants will enter the program with a short film project they intend to produce and will receive support throughout the masterclass and beyond its completion to help develop these projects.
- The program will run from June to late July 2026, combining virtual and in-person sessions.
- We will develop a dedicated track and timeline for each filmmaker entering the program to support the execution of their short film project.
- At the end of the program, all participants will collaborate to produce one short film.

PROGRAM GOALS

The AM-FM Masterclass is designed to:

- Support filmmakers developing future production projects
- Provide hands-on industry knowledge and mentorship through an intensive 8-week workshop
- Produce a festival-ready short film created collectively by participants
- Develop an active alumni network that continues working with AM-FM after the program
- Support alumni of the masterclass beyond completion of the program with services such as grant-writing for further development of workshopped projects, assistantships on local productions, professional screenwriting services, and many other services.

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

Participants will take comprehensive courses in **Directing, Screenwriting, Editing, Producing, and Business Development/Grant Writing** over the 8-week program. Most sessions will take place over the weekends (Saturday and Sunday). Depending on our facilitators' availability and program needs, some courses may be offered on weekday evenings. All sessions will be held in person, with a few held virtually if needed. AM-FM reserves the right to modify the program structure based on its needs. Participants would be informed well in advance of any material changes to their schedules.

Learning Format

The program combines masterclass sessions with collaborative work.

- Sessions will run between June and July 2026
- Classes will be held virtually and in person
- Each program track will run over two to three weekend sessions
- Attendance is mandatory; repeated failure to attend will result in the participant's expulsion from the program.

Scheduling of class sessions and activities may follow a staggered format, enabling cross-course communication.

Collaborative Film Production

At the conclusion of the program, participants will work together to produce a festival-ready short film. This final production (separate from the short film each participant wants to develop independently) will allow participants to apply the skills learned during the masterclass while collaborating across the program tracks.

The film will be largely produced in-house by the participants, with professional support for specialized roles, including:

- Cinematography
- Sound recording

- Color grading
- Sound design

The completed film will serve as:

- A portfolio piece for participants aimed towards use for a grant application for their desired short film project.
- A showcase project for AM-FM
- A tool for building the festival's creative reputation

Application Process and Eligibility

Applicants must submit:

- Letter Of Intent [Max 750 Words]
- Resumé / Curriculum Vitae [Max Two (2) Pages] And Filmography [Max One (1) Page]
- City/Province of Residence
- Primary Project:
 - A description of the short narrative project you are most keen to develop/workshop during the Lab.
 - Title:
 - Your Role(s):
 - Other Key Creatives (writer, co-director, producer, editor, if applicable)
 - Genre:
 - Synopsis [MAX 100 WORDS]:
 - Artist Statement [MAX 250 WORDS]
 - Why are you passionate about telling this story, and why now?
Please share your creative vision for this project.
- Filmography: Your Filmography is a rundown of all your produced onscreen work, listing any applicable credits you have as an editor, assistant editor, or other roles in post-production, etc. Your Filmography should include:

- The title of the project
- Your role(s) on the project
- The year the project was produced
- The format of the project (feature, short, series, commercial, web, etc.)
- Other key creatives you worked with (writer, director, producer, editor, etc.)

Deadline: May 1, 2026

Submit all application materials as a single PDF document to info@am-fm.ca

Selection Process

Ten (10) filmmakers will be accepted into the program to ensure that facilitators and program staff can provide focused mentorship and tailored support to each participant.

A pre-selection committee comprised of industry professionals and key program staff will review your application and then create a shortlist of applicants selected for a final interview.

- Shortlisted applicants will be notified in advance of the interview
- AM-FM will set up virtual/remote interviews with all shortlisted applicants. Interviews are structured as a conversation with each artist/applicant; it's a way to get to know more about your work, your process, and your goals, and is a key step in helping the committee determine their final decisions.
- Applicants selected for the program will be contacted within 2 weeks of their interviews or notified if additional time is needed.

COST

There is a \$100 CAD application fee for the AM-FM Masterclass program. This fee will be fully refunded upon successful completion of the program, **provided the participant attends all sessions.**

Post-Program Support

AM-FM is committed to supporting participants beyond the masterclass. Alumni may receive access to:

- Hands-on experience with local productions
- Grant writing support for the continued development of their project
- Professional screenplay review
- Portfolio and career development services
- Industry networking opportunities

These services are intended to help participants develop and produce their submitted projects while keeping them engaged with AM-FM beyond completion of the masterclass. Continued access to these opportunities will depend on active participation in the AM-FM alumni community.