



INTERNATIONAL
ACADEMY OF TELEVISION
ARTS & SCIENCES

THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY OF TELEVISION
ARTS & SCIENCES FOUNDATION

Sir Peter Ustinov Television Scriptwriting Award

2026 Rules & Regulations

Each year, the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences Foundation administers the Sir Peter Ustinov Television Scriptwriting Award. The competition is designed to motivate non-American novice writers under the age of 30, and to offer them the recognition and encouragement that might lead to a successful career in television scriptwriting. Entrants are asked to create a completed half-hour to one-hour (commercial length) television drama script. The script may be originally written in any language but must be submitted in English. The deadline for submissions is **Wednesday, July 1, 2026 at 12:00 Noon EST.**

The winner will be flown* to New York City to be presented with an award and a \$2,500 USD prize at the International Emmy® World Television Festival on November 21, 2026, and will be invited to take part in the red-carpet festivities at the 54th International Emmy® Awards Gala on November 23, 2026.

Sir Peter Ustinov, the quintessential writer, director, and performer, graciously gave his name to the Foundation's Television Scriptwriting Award. In addition to his acting career, Sir Peter Ustinov was an accomplished writer, as proven by the 23 plays he wrote.

Rules & Regulations

I. Eligibility

- The Applicant must be a non-U.S. citizen (non-U.S. citizens currently studying/residing in the U.S. are eligible.)
- The Applicant must be a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age upon completion of entry form.
- The Applicant must not have reached thirty (30) years of age as of December 31, 2026.
- The Applicant cannot be an Employee or a relative of a staff member of the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.
- The Applicant must deliver an original completed Drama or Comedy script for television (Drama Series: A dramatic production in which theme, storyline, and main characters are presented under the same title. Comedy: A program devoted primarily to humor with scripted dialogue.)
- The script must be submitted in English.
- The script must be a minimum of a half-hour and a maximum of one-hour commercial length.
- The script should be a stand-alone or pilot script, not a random episode that is part of a series.
- Entries must be the **original work** of the applicant(s), meaning the script must be conceived and written by the author(s) without the significant or primary use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and/or Generative AI tools, including but not limited to AI-driven writing assistance, content generation, or automated dialogue creation. The purpose of this competition is to celebrate human creativity and storytelling, and as such, all submissions must reflect the individual or collaborative effort of the writers involved.
- All Applicants must complete the entry and release forms to be eligible.
- Applicants must not have had a script, or contributed any written words, to any fiction material originally produced for and aired on television or distributed over-the-top (digitally) prior to date of entry. This includes but is not limited to any credit as story editor; script supervisor; or writer's assistant.
- Material that has previously been sold or is currently under option may not be submitted.
- Only one entry per applicant will be accepted.
- If part of a writing team, each scriptwriter must meet all of the eligibility requirements without exception.
 - In the event that the winning script has multiple writers, only one writer must be designated to receive the award, prize money, and trip* to New York.
- Previous winners of this award or any award/fellowship given by the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences or its Foundation are not eligible.
- There is no entry fee to submit a script to the competition.

II. Entry Submission

- The deadline for receipt of submissions is **Wednesday, July 1, 2026, 12:00 Noon EST.**
- You must register an account to <http://competition.iemmys.tv/Ustinov>. By submitting a script, you agree to the terms of the 2026 Rules & Regulations.
- You are required to upload the following documents (incomplete submissions will not be considered entries):
 1. An official proof of age (including but not limited to: Passport, Driver's License, Photo ID...)
 2. A one (1) page resume or biography of the writer(s).
 3. A version of your script including a cover page listing the title of the script, the author's name, address, telephone number and email as a PDF file.
 4. A version of your script including a cover page listing **only the title of the script and the author's initials** as a PDF file.
 5. A summary of the script, totaling no more than 200 words (approximately 1,500 characters), but no less than 100 words (approximately 550 characters).
- Upon receipt, all submissions are reviewed to ensure that all eligibility requirements are met.

III. Judging of Entries

- The judges' decisions will be based on the original story; characters and how they are developed; creativity; and knowledge of craft. The decision of the judges is final.
- The winner will be selected by a blue-ribbon panel of jurors, from among the finalists.

IV. Winning the Competition

- The winner will be presented with the Sir Peter Ustinov Award (not an Emmy) in November at the International Emmy® World Television Festival in New York City**.
- Should the winner attend the Festival, the winner is responsible for the following:
 - The winner must have a valid passport and is responsible for arranging any visa they might need to enter the U.S. The Academy can provide an invitation letter to facilitate the process if necessary.
 - The winner must bring an internationally valid credit card to complete check-in at the hotel. A hold will be placed on the card.
 - The winner will have to follow any vaccinations and testing requirements determined by the US government or the International Academy to attend events in New York.

*The Academy will provide transportation from your home country to New York on specific days. Any changes the winner might want to make on their tickets will be at their discretion.

**Provided the event takes place

Should you have any questions, please email ustinov@iemmys.tv

In support of Ukraine, the International Academy of Television Arts & Sciences has decided to bar all entries from Russia from this year's Sir Peter Ustinov Television Scriptwriting Award competition. Therefore, any entry submitted from Russia is ineligible and will not be considered.