

## April 2020 Newsletter



Located on an organic farm in Aptos, CA—Thomas Farm Films is a nonprofit organization that educates children how to make movies. From script to screen, our hands-on curriculum promotes CREATIVITY, SELF-CONFIDENCE, & CRITICAL THINKING...resulting in short films that will be screened together at local theaters in Thomas Farm Film Festivals! All children ages 5 to 18 can learn the craft, as we offer partial & full scholarships for those in need.

Hello TF Films Summer Camp Families,

It is with deep regret that we have been forced to make the decision to cancel our Summer 2020 Filmmaking Camps. We have ALL been looking forward to camp and film production this summer. This is a sad letter to write...but, we do have some exciting news that I will get to in the second piece of this letter. Stay tuned!

Our decision to cancel may seem a little premature to some, which is why the point is being made here—that there is an immense amount of planning that goes into what we do. We do not simply hold a fantastic camp on a farm for kids to run a play (which they certainly do and love). We make films. With kids. And then screen their films at a real movie theater at our own film festival. It is quite an undertaking. The current COVID-19 pandemic situation

has parked a cloud of uncertainty over everyone; it has brought our planning to a halt. We have waited as long as we could to make this call.

### **Summer 2020 registration refunds?**

**We propose three options for you:**

1. **Summer 2020 registration refund**—Send us an email with your information (name of registered student, week registered for, and your mailing address). We will mail you a refund check (minus any paypal fees if you paid via paypal).
2. **Defer Summer 2020 registration to future class or camp**—Email us if you'd like to do this. We will apply the tuition you have paid to a future class/camp of your choice.
3. **Donate your Summer 2020 registration**—If this option fits your budget, we would appreciate the donation. Small businesses and nonprofits are truly getting squeezed in this mess. Send us an email if you'd like to do this. Our 501c3 status is pending, but we anticipate our IRS approval in the next few months. We can provide a thank you letter that can be used for tax purposes by the end of this year.

Pivoting our planning efforts—As you know, we have a TF Films Youth Scriptwriting Competition currently going on and we've received some great work already. Well,...in an effort to stay connected and keep kids busy & creative during this time, we have decided to expand on our competition.

## **Announcing the Thomas Farm Films Youth Screenwriting and 2-Minute Video Competition!**

### **GUIDELINES FOR THE SCREENWRITING PORTION OF OUR CONTEST:**

1. Contest is open to ages 26 and under, with 3 age categories for screenwriting submissions:
  - Ages 12 and under
  - Ages 17 and under
  - Ages 26 and under
2. Movie screenplays should be 10 to 14 pages long in screenplay format. (Keep in mind our shooting location—a 35 acre farm. There are barns, large fields, trees, green screen, possible set building. Feel free to email any questions to [thomasfarmfilms@gmail.com](mailto:thomasfarmfilms@gmail.com))
3. Keep it rated G or PG.
4. Screenplays in ENGLISH or SPANISH are accepted.
5. ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2020.
6. Submit entries by emailing them as a PDF attachment to [thomasfarmfilms@gmail.com](mailto:thomasfarmfilms@gmail.com)

If your script is selected:

We will pay you \$100 CASH to buy your script!

You will be invited to DIRECT YOUR FILM under the guidance of our filmmaking instructor at our filmmaking camp. (no camp tuition required)

We will make your screenplay into a short film, with you credited as the writer

and director! Your film will be screened at our *Thomas Farm Films 2021 Summer Camp Film Festival*. Plus, we will enter the film into various film festivals around the globe and see what happens!

#### **GUIDELINES FOR THE SHORT FILM/VIDEO PORTION OF OUR CONTEST:**

1. Contest is open to ages 26 and under, with 3 age categories for film submissions:
  - Ages 12 and under
  - Ages 17 and under
  - Ages 26 and under
2. Video entries need to be 2 minutes or less. No exceptions to this rule!
3. Videos must be made between 3/31/20 - 8/31/20
4. Keep it rated G or PG.
5. Videos in ENGLISH or SPANISH are accepted.
6. ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPTEMBER 1ST, 2020.
7. Submit entries by emailing a PRIVATE OR PASSWORD PROTECTED Youtube or Vimeo link. (We will not accept videos that are open for public viewing)

If your video is selected:

Your short film will be screened with the other selections at our *Thomas Farm Films 2021 Summer Camp Film Festival*. Prizes will be awarded for Best in Show, Audience Favorite, Best Cinematography, Best Concept, Best Acting,...

There are free screenwriting and video editing tutorials online.

Here are some helpful screenwriting links:

<https://industrialscripts.com/screenwriting-software/>

*Final Draft* is the "industry standard" for screenwriting software.

Here are some helpful video editing links:

<https://www.oberlo.com/blog/best-free-video-editing-software>

**GOOD LUCK!!**

#### **FIND OUT MORE**

In the meantime, follow our Facebook page and our Instagram feed—Our Summer 2019 films have been (and continue) getting selected and awarded in short film festivals around the world (we've currently earned 96 selections and 13 awards)—This is where I post the news. Also, don't forget to visit our website and keep an eye out for our newsletter to get the updates on our future class/workshops/camp offerings.

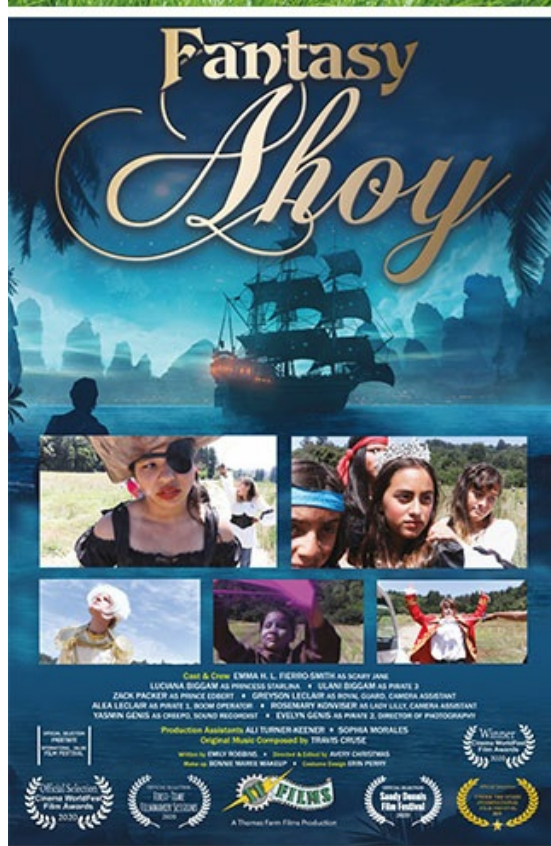
I wish you all the best. Keep yourselves safe and healthy. This will pass.

Sincerely,













[www.thomasfarmfilms.com](http://www.thomasfarmfilms.com)

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