2021 Holle Award for Excellence in Filmmaking

*Deadline: January 15, 2021 at 11:59 pm CST*

**DESCRIPTION:**
The 2021 Holle Award for Excellence in Filmmaking honors the director of the best narrative or documentary short film made by an undergraduate student. We are seeking films that demonstrate artistic excellence through creative storytelling, emotional resonance, ambition, and an engagement with larger themes. Ideally, projects will be tightly connected to the distinct lived experiences of the director. The director of the film must either be currently enrolled as an undergraduate student or a graduate in the calendar year of 2020.

The top five films selected by the Holle Award judges will automatically be programmed in the 2021 Black Warrior Film Festival at The University of Alabama.

For more information, visit:
http://www.blackwarriorfilmfest.com
https://cis.ua.edu/current-students/holle-awards

The deadline to submit is January 15, 2021 at 11:59 pm CST.

**COMPETITION GUIDELINES:**
The 2021 Holle Award for Excellence in Filmmaking considers narrative or documentary films of 20 minutes or less. The director of the film must be a currently enrolled student in an undergraduate program or a recent graduate of such a program in the calendar year of 2020 who created the film prior to graduation. Narrative films must be based on an original screenplay—adaptations are allowed if they have been written by students.

**CRITERIA FOR JUDGING:**
We are seeking films that demonstrate artistic excellence through a unique vision, creative storytelling, emotional resonance, ambition, and an engagement with larger themes and the world around us. We additionally value a unique artistic voice developed from the lived experiences of the director.

1) **Creative Storytelling:** The film demonstrates a unique voice and vision of the director. The style is clear and consistent. We are seeking creativity both in the types of stories that are told and the ways in which they are told.

2) **Emotional Resonance:** The director connects audiences with the characters and story on an emotional level.

3) **Ambition:** The filmmaker isn't afraid to take risks and experiment. The film demonstrates bold stylistic stances and/or pushes the boundaries of narrative storytelling to tell an engaging story in new ways.
4) Engagement: The story directly engages with larger themes about the human condition, making statements or asking questions about the state of the world today.

5) Background: The lived experience of the director has led to the development of a distinctive artistic voice.

APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS:
Filmmakers should submit a complete application at: https://cis.ua.edu/current-students/holle-awards

Film Synopsis (1-3 Sentences): Describe your film succinctly, providing a hook.

Director's Statement (500 words max): Tell us about yourself, your background, and the work you create. How did you come to tell this story and how has your unique lived experience influenced the way you approached this project? Why did you have to tell this story? Describe your creative vision for this film, focusing on the tone, style, visuals, and themes you are exploring.

Director's Bio (500 words max): Tell us about your filmmaking experience so far. What type of work do you make? Tell us about your previous films. Did they screen anywhere or receive recognition? What are you working on now?

JUDGING PROCESS:

1st Round: Each film will be screened at least twice by a panel of faculty judges, film festival programmers, and industry professionals.

Final Round: The final judges include two representatives of the C&IS Board of Visitors as well as a film, television, or media industry professional.