

IMAGO AWARDS 2027

CATEGORY SPECIFICATIONS

1. General Provisions

The IMAGO Awards 2027 comprise the following categories:

1. **IMAGO YSO (Young Stellar Object) Award**
2. **IMAGO Best Cinematography Award**

These category specifications supplement the **IMAGO Awards Official Regulations** and form part of the rules applicable to the 2027 edition of the IMAGO Awards.

Only **IMAGO Full Member Societies in good standing with their membership dues** may submit entries. Each eligible Society may submit **one film in each category**.

For the 2027 edition, only **fiction feature films** are eligible.

The first official release of a submitted film must have occurred between **November 1st, 2024 and October 31st, 2026**.

All submissions shall be made through the platform designated by IMAGO.

2. IMAGO YSO (Young Stellar Object) Award

The YSO Award recognizes an **emerging cinematographer whose first or second feature film demonstrates a distinctive visual voice and a notable contribution to cinematography**.

The nominated cinematographer:

- must be active in the submitting Society's national film industry;
- does not have to be a member of the Society; and
- must be credited on screen as “Cinematographer”, “Director of Photography”, or under an equivalent credit identifying them as the primary author of the film's cinematography.

The submitted film must be the cinematographer's **first or second feature film**.

Where two cinematographers share equal credit on a single film, they shall be submitted jointly and, if awarded, shall receive the Award jointly.

3. IMAGO Best Cinematography Award

The Best Cinematography Award recognizes **outstanding cinematographic achievement in a feature film representing the submitting Society**.

Each Society shall nominate the feature film that best represents its Society.

The cinematographer must be credited on screen as “Cinematographer”, “Director of Photography”, or under an equivalent credit identifying them as the primary author of the film's cinematography.

Where two cinematographers share equal credit on a single film, they shall be submitted jointly and, if awarded, shall receive the Award jointly.

4. General Submission Requirements

Each submission shall comply with the IMAGO Awards Official Regulations and shall include the materials required by IMAGO for the relevant edition.

Films shall be submitted in their original language. Films in languages other than English shall include English subtitles.

The submitting Member Society is responsible for ensuring the eligibility and accuracy of its submission and for obtaining all necessary permissions for participation in the Awards.

IMAGO reserves the right to reject or disqualify submissions that do not comply with the applicable Regulations.

5. Voting

The Awards shall be decided exclusively by **IMAGO Full Member Societies in good standing**.

The Awards shall be determined through a first round of voting to establish the nominees and a second round to determine the winner.

The number of official nominees in each category shall be determined by the IMAGO Board in accordance with the General Awards Regulations.

In the second round, each Society shall have **one vote per category**. The nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared the winner.

In the event of a tie for first place, a third and final voting round shall be held to determine the winner.

The decision on how each Member Society determines its vote in each category and round shall be entirely internal to that Society.

Voting shall be based on the artistic and cinematographic qualities of the work under consideration. Votes are final and all decisions are not subject to appeal.

6. Awards

Finalists shall receive an official **IMAGO Certificate** and the winners shall additionally receive an **IMAGO Award**.

Unless expressly announced, no cash prize shall be granted.