



Rules and Guidelines 2026

- Competition is open for Amateur Film makers aged 12-18 years (YOUTH) and 19 years and Over (ADULT).
 - First time entrants preferred. (Returning entrants may enter different categories than previously entered)
 - Interested entrants are required to complete an entry form and create a 5-15 minutes One Page Treatment for a Short Film by selecting one of the five Categories/Genres (Animation, Documentary, Sci-fi, Drama or Comedy) and based on one of the following Jamaican Proverbs and Special Theme:
 1. Any dutti waata kool hat iron.
TRANSLATION: Any dirty water will cool a hot iron.
MEANINGS AND EXPLANATIONS: 1. Not everyone who says they are your friend really is 2. Be careful in your relationships.
 2. Ole file cyaan shaap' n new machete.
TRANSLATION: An old file cannot sharpen a new machete.
MEANINGS AND EXPLANATIONS: Always use the right tool for the job.



3. A nuh same day leaf drap it ratten.

TRANSLATION: It is not the same day, a leaf falls, it rots.

MEANINGS AND EXPLANATIONS: Conditions deteriorate over time.

The effects of a mistake are not felt immediately; a person who has been taken advantage of may have some responsibility for his situation.

4. Ef yuh bawn fi heng yuh cyaan drown.

TRANSLATION: If you were born to be hanged, you cannot drown.

MEANINGS AND EXPLANATIONS: Whatever is your destiny, it will be fulfilled.

Nothing will happen to you that you are not already destined to experience.

5. Wha sweet Nanny goat ago run him belli

TRANSLATION: What tastes sweet to the goat will cause burns to the belly.

MEANINGS AND EXPLANATIONS: Some things are not good for us, although they appear to be exactly what we want. We should be cautious about what we latch on to, lest we cause ourselves much pain and embarrassment.

Things that you think are good or enjoyable may not really benefit you.

“Be careful what you wish for.”

SPECIAL THEME

The cookie that grants one wish (SHIRLEY)



- Treatment should include Name, age and contact information, proverb/& theme, Working Title, List of Characters and a Synopsis of the story (paragraph).
- Submission of Screenplay treatments will open on June 1 and may be registered on jcdc.awardsplatform.com.
- There will be Virtual Workshops from June 16-18, 2026;
 1. Information Session (Virtual)
 2. Industry Information Session (Virtual)
 3. Face to Face Workshop at Ranny Williams Entertainment Centre, Louise Bennett Garden theatre.
- Submission of Short Film Treatments will close on June 30, 2026.
- Shortlisted filmmakers will be notified by July 13, 2026
- Top 20 will then work on their screenplays by July 27, 2026.
- Announcement of Top 10 filmmakers that will go on to create their short film by July 27, 2026.
- Then participants will work on their films with a mentor from our team to complete the film between July 27 and September 26, 2025.
- Films must be shot in Landscape format (16:9).
- The use of any software to edit video, audio or special effects are allowed.
- *Films should be 5-15 minutes in length without credits.*
- Films with expletives, pornography and excessive violence will not be accepted by the JCDC.
- Rating should be PG or conducive for family viewing.
- The Awards Ceremony will be in OCTOBER 2026.