PROSPECTIVE SCREENWRITING COMPETITION PARTICIPANTS

south street

INAUGURAL SOUTHERN SCREENWRITING COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT

South Street is proud to announce the launch of the **2026-2027 Southern Screenwriting Competition.**

This competition is designed to discover and support emerging screenwriters who can authentically capture the voice, culture, and complexity of the American South through compelling, character-driven storytelling. Writers are encouraged to develop original feature-length screenplays or an episodic series that reflect the people, places, relationships, and emotional depth unique to Southern life.

The competition will take place in two rounds.

COMPETITION GUIDELINES

Round One: Treatment Submission

- Submissions will be accepted from November 1st through December 18th, 2026.
- A $35 submission fee is required for each submitted treatment.
- Writers must submit no more than a five-page treatment for an original feature-length screenplay or episodic series.
- The proposed screenplay must be set in the American South.
- Stories must feature Southern characters and themes.
- Submissions must be original works and must not have been previously produced or optioned.

Following the initial submission period, 20 finalists will be selected to advance to the second round of the competition.

The 20 finalists will be announced by **January 4th, 2027.**

Round Two: Screenplay Submission

Each of the 20 finalists will have until **March 19th, 2027** to submit their screenplay material for final judging.

- Finalists must submit a full feature length screenplay or full-length pilot to a series.
- Finalists will be judged based on the strength of the writing, including character development, story, dialogue, originality, emotional impact, and authenticity of its Southern setting, characters, and themes.
- Participants retain full ownership of all rights to their submitted treatments and screenplays. Participation in the competition does not transfer or assign any ownership rights in the submitted work to South Street, or any other competition partner.

PRIZE AWARDS

A total of **$10,000 in prize money** will be awarded to the top three finalists:

- First Place: $5,000
- Second Place: $3,000
- Third Place: $2,000

Competition winners will be announced on **April 16th, 2027.**

The Southern Screenwriting Competition aims to celebrate authentic Southern voices while identifying and supporting talented writers with stories capable of becoming compelling feature films. Through the two-round competition, selected writers will have the opportunity to develop their ideas from treatment to screenplay and compete for recognition and prize awards.