

## **2015 Karen Schmeer Film Editing Fellowship FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### ***When is the deadline to apply for the 2015 Fellowship?***

Applications must be submitted online by 11:59 pm E.S.T., Tuesday, September 30, 2014, using this link:  
<https://ksfef.submittable.com/submit>

### ***What are the 2015 Eligibility Requirements?***

Applicants must be based in the United States and reside there March 2015 - March 2016.

Applicants must have edited at least one feature-length *documentary* (60 minutes or longer), but no more than three feature-length films (fiction or documentary).

The feature documentary work sample (60 minutes or longer) must be a film that the applicant did not direct or co-direct.

For the Fellowship's purposes, a feature-length film is defined as a project longer than 60 minutes, produced for theatrical or festival presentation. (An eligible film may be screened on television only after its theatrical release or festival run.)

"Co-Editor" credits *do* count towards the total.

"Additional Editor" or "Associate Editor" credits *do not* count towards the total.

### ***How do you define 'emerging documentary editor'?***

We define an 'emerging documentary editor' as an editor who has edited or co-edited no more than 3 feature-length films (of which at least 1 is a documentary) and shows great promise early in his or her career. We are interested in providing opportunities to applicants who are wholly devoted to their role as a documentary editor.

### ***If I am not a United States citizen, am I eligible to apply?***

Yes. You may apply as long as you are based in the United States and plan on residing there between March 2015 and March 2016.

### ***I applied in a previous year. Can I apply again?***

Yes, you can. You may submit the same letters of recommendation and the same work sample a maximum of two times. That said, please understand that we'll value anything new in your application. So if things have changed for you (e.g. you have another film that you're proud of your work on; your recommenders can say something new; etc.), be sure to revise your application accordingly.

Also be sure to answer the two additional essay questions listed in "Section II: Essay Questions" in the application: A) Describe the project or projects you've worked on since the last application, and B) Since your last application, how have you evolved as an editor?

***If I have one editing credit and it's as a co-editor on a feature documentary film, am I still eligible to apply?***

Yes. Each feature film you have co-edited will count towards your total. Jim Hession, our 2013 Fellow, had one feature credit when he applied and it was as co-editor. If you submit a film that you co-edited for your work sample (which must be a documentary), please choose a 5-minute sequence in which you were the primary editor. In "Section III: Work Sample Questions," describe how much of the film you were involved in, how you shared editing duties with your co-editor(s), etc. Also describe your contribution to the sample: Did you cut the scene from scratch? Is this what appeared in the final cut? Did you inherit the scene and substantially re-cut it? Etc.

***Can I submit a work-sample that I also directed?***

No. Our mission is to support emerging editors who are making editing their main career focus. We're also interested in seeing how a person works while taking direction from someone else. Therefore, please do not submit a work sample of a project where your role was director as well as editor.

***Can I submit a short film instead of a feature documentary for consideration?***

No. You must submit a feature length documentary, as defined above.

***For the 4 to 6-minute work sample, can I edit together a selection of scenes from the feature?***

No. The work sample must be a continuous excerpt from the feature length documentary that you are submitting.

***Can I submit a rough cut of my current feature documentary for consideration?***

We require final, locked-picture films. Applicants with rough cuts would be at a disadvantage and are better off applying next year.

In some cases, we may accept advanced rough cuts nearing completion with only minor changes (e.g., color correction, titling, final audio mix, etc.). If you find yourself in this situation, please email us at [info@karenschmeer.com](mailto:info@karenschmeer.com) and tell us what part of your film is incomplete: temporary music, no credits or titles, no color correction, etc. We will make decisions on a case-by-case basis.

***What kind of editor are you looking for?***

We're looking for a documentary editor who has done excellent work on one film or two or three. We want someone who is thoughtful, passionate, and has a point of view. We're open to all career trajectories; in fact, reading about how editors got to where they are now is one of our favorite parts of the process. We are looking for the emerging editor who is best poised to take advantage of the opportunities that we provide.

One of the key benefits of the fellowship is a mentorship opportunity. If you have already had a mentor in your professional life, please describe that for us in the "What do you hope to gain from the Fellowship?" section of the application: what was it like, and why would having another mentor next year help you in your career?

***Do I have to live in New York or Los Angeles to apply?***

No, but you must be based in the United States and live there between March 2015 – March 2016. While many of the benefits of the fellowship are enjoyed in New York (but also in Austin, Los Angeles and Boston), we welcome and encourage applicants from all over the U.S. We will do our best to ensure that a fellow from another part of the U.S. will be able to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Fellowship.

***What are you looking for in the letters of recommendation?***

One of your letters of recommendation must come from someone who worked closely with you on the film you are submitting for review (e.g., the director, producer, or if applicable, co-editor or supervising editor). Your letters should give us a sense of your personality, your work ethic, and your collaborative process. If possible, we would like to hear specific stories about your contributions and ideas during the course of the project.

***Is there a fee to apply?***

No.

***When will applicants be notified of their status?***

Applicants will be notified of their status in early January 2015. Interviews will be scheduled with a small group of semi-finalists at that time.

The Fellow will be selected and notified by January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2015. The Fellow will be announced in March, 2015.

***If I'm chosen as the Karen Schmeer Film Editing Fellow, who will be my mentor?***

The Fellowship Committee will consult with you to find a mentor or mentors who suit your current situation and your career objectives. The 2014 mentors are Jonathan Oppenheim, David Teague, and Jean Tsien, A.C.E.

***How does the mentorship work?***

The mentorship will be tailored to fit the needs of the fellow, and is based on the availability, schedule and preferences of the mentor(s). For example, if the fellow is starting work on a new film, the mentor may provide story consultation. If the fellow is in the midst of editing, the mentor may give notes at different stages of the edit.

***When does the Karen Schmeer Film Editing Fellowship take place?***

The 2015 Fellowship will take place between March 2015 and March 2016, and includes passes to:

SXSW (Austin, TX), March 13-17, 2015

Independent Film Festival Boston (Boston, MA), Late April – Early May 2015

Manhattan Edit Workshop's "Inside the Cutting Room: Sight, Sound & Story" event, June 2015.

ACE Edit Fest LA (Los Angeles, CA), August 2015

Rooftop Films, (NY, NY), Summer 2015

Stranger Than Fiction, (NY, NY), TBD

DOC NYC (NY, NY), November 2015

One class at the Manhattan Edit Workshop, NY, TBD

The Fellowship will pay for transportation, 3 nights of accommodation, and per diem to TWO of the above events. Travel and lodging for the remaining events will be the responsibility of the Fellow.

***Where can I see more information about what having the Fellowship would be like?***

Take a look at our website for blog entries from our current and past fellows.

8/5/14

## What are the 2015 Fellowship benefits?

- EDITOR MENTORSHIP — with guidance from American Cinema Editors, the Fellow will be given a mentorship with an established editor or editors who fit the Fellow's interests. [www.ace-filmeditors.org](http://www.ace-filmeditors.org)
- ADMISSION TO ACE EDITFEST IN LOS ANGELES — the Fellow will be provided with a pass to Edit Fest LA, a seminar event featuring working experts in the field of editing. [www.ace-filmeditors.org](http://www.ace-filmeditors.org)
- CLASS AT MANHATTAN EDIT WORKSHOP — free class at New York City's Manhattan Edit Workshop; an Apple, Adobe & Avid Authorized editing and training facility. [www.mewshop.com](http://www.mewshop.com)
- SXSW FESTIVAL FILM BADGE — full access to films, panels, mentor sessions and more at the South By Southwest (SXSW) Film Festival in Austin, Texas. [www.sxsw.com/film](http://www.sxsw.com/film)
- IFFBOSTON FESTIVAL CHROME PASS — full access to films, panels and more at the Independent Film Festival Boston. [www.iffboston.org](http://www.iffboston.org)
- ADMISSION TO MANHATTAN EDIT WORKSHOP'S "INSIDE THE CUTTING ROOM: SIGHT, SOUND & STORY" EVENT IN NEW YORK — a day-long seminar with editing professionals. [www.mewshop.com](http://www.mewshop.com)
- DOC NYC PASS — see films at America's largest documentary film festival. [www.docnyc.net](http://www.docnyc.net)
- TRAVEL EXPENSES / ACCOMMODATIONS — the fellow will be provided with travel, 3 nights of accommodations, and a per diem to two of the festivals/classes above, based on the fellow's preference.
- ROOFTOP FILMS SUMMER SERIES TRIPLE MEMBERSHIP & \$1000 EQUIPMENT RENTAL CREDIT — free entry for the fellow and two guests to all regularly priced Summer Series shows at New York's long-running outdoor film festival, plus an equipment rental credit for up to \$1000 for a projector, sound system, screen, etc. [www.rooftopfilms.com](http://www.rooftopfilms.com)
- STRANGER THAN FICTION SEASON PASS — a season pass to the Stranger Than Fiction documentary film series at New York City's IFC Center. [www.stfdocs.com](http://www.stfdocs.com)
- \$1000 CASH AWARD
- \$250 POWELL'S BOOKS ONLINE GIFT CERTIFICATE — an online gift certificate to Powell's Books (Karen's favorite), based in Portland, Oregon. [www.powells.com](http://www.powells.com)
- TANYA BRAGANTI PHOTOGRAPHY PORTRAIT SESSION — [www.tanyabraganti.com/](http://www.tanyabraganti.com/)
- DVD COLLECTION OF ALL 13 OF KAREN'S FEATURE FILMS

If you have questions that have not been answered here,  
please visit: [www.karenschmeer.com](http://www.karenschmeer.com)  
or contact us at: [info@karenschmeer.com](mailto:info@karenschmeer.com)

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