



DGA PRESS RELEASE

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DGA Revamps Eligibility Rule for Its Top Award Eliminating ‘Day and Date’ Releases

Guild Award to Honor ‘Achievement in Theatrical Feature Film’

Los Angeles — In recognition of the unique cultural importance of the theatrical experience to audiences and filmmakers alike, the Directors Guild of America National Board on Saturday unanimously approved a change to eligibility requirements for its top feature film award. Under the new rule, which will apply to the upcoming 72nd DGA Awards cycle, films that are released through other distribution platforms on the same ‘day and date’ as they premiere in theaters will no longer be eligible for the top DGA award.

To reflect the change, the award was re-named “Outstanding Directorial Achievement in Theatrical Feature Film.”

“The DGA proudly affirms that a first-run theatrical release is a distinctive element of our feature film award,” said DGA President Thomas Schlamme. “We celebrate the important role that theatrical cinema has played in bringing together audiences as they collectively experience films as the filmmakers intended them to be viewed. We also take great pride in recognizing all of the work created by our members through the many categories and formats that are part of the DGA Awards.”

All previous DGA feature film nominees, including last year’s winner, *Roma*, would have qualified for the top award under the new rule.

The DGA National Board also decided that the new first-run theatrical release rule will not be applied to the DGA First-Time Feature Film Award category.

Other than the new rule, all other feature film eligibility requirements remain the same for the 72nd Annual DGA Awards. Full eligibility details for the 72nd Annual DGA Awards will be included in entry forms released later this summer. Following the 72nd Annual DGA Awards, the Guild will continue to review eligibility requirements and may make further adjustments as the industry continues to develop.

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About the DGA

In the 83 years since its founding in 1936, the DGA has fought for the economic and creative rights of its members; protected their ability to financially benefit from the reuse of their work; established strong pension and health plans; and established jurisdiction in new technologies and distribution platforms. Today we represent 18,000 directors and members of the directorial team working in film, television, commercials, new media and other audiovisual media.