

4.1.4 Short Title: Best Dramatic Presentation, Very Short Form

Moved, to amend Section 3.3 of the WSFS Constitution to add a new Best Dramatic Presentation category, by amending as follows:

Section 3.3.7: Best Dramatic Presentation, Feature Length ~~Long-Form~~.

Any theatrical feature or other production, with a complete running time of more than 90 minutes, in any medium of dramatized science fiction, fantasy or related subjects that has been publicly presented for the first time in its present dramatic form during the previous calendar year.

Section 3.3.8: Best Dramatic Presentation, Mid-length ~~Short-Form~~.

Any television program or other production, with a complete running time between 15 and 90 minutes ~~of 90 minutes or less~~, in any medium of dramatized science fiction, fantasy or related subjects that has been publicly presented for the first time in its present dramatic form during the previous calendar year.

And by adding a new section:

Section 3.3.X Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Length.

Any video, audio recording or other production, with a complete running time of less than 15 minutes, in any medium of dramatized science fiction, fantasy or related subjects that has been publicly presented for the first time in its present dramatic form during the previous calendar year.

Provided that unless this amendment is re-ratified by the 2018 Business Meeting, Section 3.3.X and the changes to Sections 3.3.7 and 3.3.8 shall be repealed, and

Provided that the question of re-ratification shall be automatically placed on the agenda of the 2018 Business Meeting with any constitutional amendments awaiting ratification.

Commentary: The production of short fannish and science fictional audiovisual works has blossomed in recent years, and is likely to grow further as a medium. As is, these works are disenfranchised in their representation of the Hugos by needing to compete against episodes of popular TV series, which dominate the Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form category.

Short audiovisual works are categorically different from episodes of TV series, and deserve separate recognition. Restricted by length, we provide a more even ground for the promotion and popularization of both more and less professional short films, filk songs, commercials, and even acceptance speeches, without needing to judge the intended audience or form of presentation of the work.

It should be noted that Section 3.2.10 of the WSFS Constitution allows for dramatic works with a length within 20% of the boundary to be relocated more appropriately, permitting works of up 18 minutes in length to be included in the proposed category.

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