

SDSA SET DECORATORS SOCIETY OF AMERICA
AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

AWARDS

SDSA AWARDS FOR FILM 2026

Category Definitions

The SDSA Awards for Film will be awarded annually in the following categories:

Qualifies for Preliminary Round and Final Round of Voting

BEST ACHIEVEMENT IN DECOR/DESIGN:

CONTEMPORARY FEATURE FILM

To qualify for the category of a Contemporary feature film, the primary setting is situated in the approximate current day, within the last 20 years. These films may include brief flashes back or forward in time, but the bulk of the story must be in a contemporary setting. Must have a credited Set Decorator.

BEST ACHIEVEMENT IN DECOR/DESIGN:

PERIOD FEATURE FILM

To qualify for the category of a Period feature film, settings are primarily in historical eras that precede our current day by 20 years or more. These films may have time spans that include current day, but the bulk of the story must be situated in a bygone era. Must have a credited Set Decorator.

BEST ACHIEVEMENT IN DECOR/DESIGN:

FANTASY or SCIENCE FICTION FEATURE FILM

To qualify for the category of a Fantasy or Science Fiction feature film, stories are situated in realms of the imagination. These stories may be extra-terrestrial, futuristic depictions of earthly civilizations, or dramatically heightened fanciful versions of a known or unknown universe. The Science Fiction genre will typically feature advanced or dramatically enhanced technologies. Must have a credited Set Decorator.

BEST ACHIEVEMENT IN DECOR/DESIGN:

MUSICAL or COMEDY FEATURE FILM

To qualify for the category of a Musical or Comedy feature film: The Musical genre will include films whose stories are interspersed and advanced with production numbers which include singing and dancing. The Comedy genre consists of films whose stories are designed primarily to make an audience laugh. Must have a credited Set Decorator.

Qualifies for Final Round of Voting Only

BEST PICTURE:

In the Best Picture Category, all feature-length films on the AMPAS list will qualify — including International, Documentary and Animated Features. Voting for Best Picture should reflect overall quality of all aspects of the film, as well as the Decor and Design of the film. The Best Picture is selected in the final round of voting.

These category definitions are approved by the SDSA Awards Committee.