

The IAC British International Amateur Film Festival (BIAFF)

Diamond Award means...

There are no specific criteria for Diamonds. The judges select the eight best films in the competition.

Five Stars mean...

An excellent film, creative and well structured, possibly stylish or innovative. It has a clear and satisfying structure, appealing to the audience. Films at this level would generally be technically excellent, demonstrating a comprehensive grasp of film-making. Any acting/narration will be of a high standard, and the subject matter will be well researched etc.

Four Stars mean...

It is expected that the story will hang together well as an artistic whole. This standard of film would have something special about it: perhaps something original in the treatment of the subject, or something out of the ordinary about the content, or be technically creative. It may, however, have minor flaws which detrimentally affect the audience appeal.

Three Stars mean...

Basically good cinematography, and with signs of using pleasing compositions. Sound appropriate and well balanced. Clear structure and planning. Appropriate pace. Acting good enough not to spoil the story. Flows reasonably well with few distractions. Overall the film lacks sparkle, but largely holds the viewer's attention.

Two Stars mean...

The work demonstrates a developing understanding of film-making techniques but there are still some significant weaknesses. Cinematography may be inadequate with little sign of attractive or well composed pictures. Sound may be uneven. Story may feel too long. The film may fail to show an adequate sense of purpose/structure/timing. Voiceover may state the obvious. Editing may not flow.

One Star means...

Work at this level shows little understanding of the basics of film-making. It may for example have unsteady photography or problems with exposure, obvious distortions of sound or unattractive abrupt changes. It may lack understanding of the conventions of editing. The film may typically lack effective story or structure and fail to engage the viewer.

Clearly each rating will inevitably cover a range of attainment levels, and will be subjective to some degree; film is a work of art not science.

Please also be aware that the general standard of films drifts over time.