

SAGE ACRONYM

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS, 2025

Recognition of Exceptional Edit Excellence and Professional Contribution



www.editorsguildsa.org

4th Floor, West Tower
Nelson Mandela Square
Sandton City
Johannesburg

ABOUT THE SAGE ACRONYM

The South African Guild of Editors (SAGE) ACRONYM is the highest professional recognition bestowed upon editors who demonstrate sustained excellence in their craft and significant contribution to the South African film + TV industry.

The ACRONYM is not simply a reward for past achievements or career longevity. It recognises ongoing excellence, dedication to mentorship, and meaningful contribution to the advancement of editing craft in South Africa. Recipients are consummate professionals who consistently deliver exceptional work while actively shaping the future of our industry.

It is important to note that the acronym should not be thought of as a rite of passage for an editor, but rather a special accolade to celebrate excellence within the craft. The application process is rigorous and does not guarantee a positive result. This is a SAGE-decided acronym and is in no way related or weighted to other awards and achievements, such as the SAFTAs. The acronym process also seriously considers the applicant's ability to articulate their editing process in a way one would with a director or a producer when discussing creative intention. So the written submission allows the judging panel to understand the reasoning behind the editing and creative decisions exhibited in the creative work submitted. The judging committee will need to understand the applicant's thinking around the creative choices made in the examples provided. The judging committee will also consider the applicant's ability to demonstrate a commitment to uphold the craft of editing and SAGE as an organisation.

The Guild has 38 active Acronym-accredited editors.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

SAGE Membership:

- Active SAGE membership for a minimum of 5 years, with a minimum of 1 year as a full member
- Participation in guild activities and initiatives, displaying a commitment to the Guild and its aims.

Professional Requirements:

- Professional editing experience in a senior position with 10 screen and/or festival credits.
- Still working within the industry – completed works within the last 2 years.
- Contribution to the South African editing community.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Application

1. A CV with a detailed and dated filmography as well as a bio.
2. Three references from directors or producers you have worked with
3. Letter of Motivation - should address the applicant's opinion on the following:
 - *Why would you like to receive the SAGE Acronym?*

- *Who or what has had the greatest influence on your work and why?*
- *What do you do to actively promote the values of good editing practices within the industry and with your colleagues?*

There is also a choice to make **a video of yourself** answering the above 3 questions, should you prefer. However, please also note that your writing is not judged academically but rather is there to help the panel understand your creative motivations.

4. SAGE Contribution Statement – should address the following:
 - *Summary of your involvement in SAGE activities*
 - *Description of mentorship, teaching, or knowledge-sharing activities*
 - *Outline of your contribution to the South African editing community*

B. Work Portfolio

- One export, including a maximum of 20 minutes showcasing your best work from a minimum of 3 works. The compilation should **not** be a montage of the works akin to a showreel, but should be a collection of longer pieces (about 5 mins each) that give a sense of editing style, rhythm, and pace. Select your scenes carefully so that they can show narrative progression or the ability to create character identification and growth. The judging also includes your ability to select scenes.
- **Work must be of broadcast/theatrical quality** - no rough cuts, works-in-progress, or technically compromised material. The work should be pieces from existing broadcast, festival, or cinematic released content, which has been cut in a professional environment with industry-standard time restrictions.
- **At least 50% of the submitted work should be from work completed within the past 5 years** (work older than 5 years may be included for context, but may not be weighted equally)

C. Creative Explanation

For each piece of work, provide a brief creative motivation (no longer than 500 words). This is an important part of your application and should be used to explain your artistic choices, motivations, cutting to genre, and, if relevant, your engagement with the director and feelings about the raw footage you had to work with in each particular example. This is the space for you to explain your creative choices - what was your brief, and how did you execute it? You may also explain limitations you had (lack of footage, script pages being cut, etc.)

Please make it very clear if any submission has a co-editing credit on the work or if another editor collaborated on the editing process. **Please include the Edit timeframe** (e.g. August - September 2025, 7 weeks) for each piece.

Please take care to include information that will help us to understand the particular space you are working in. For example, if you are applying as a colourist, it would be beneficial to include before and after examples. If you are applying as a documentary editor, you may want to include details of the shooting ratio, etc.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Submissions Due: 1 October 2025

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Submit all materials via googledrive to **acronym@editorsguildsa.org**

- Digital files must be clearly labelled with the applicant's name
- All written submissions compiled into one PDF

JUDGING PROCESS

- **Judging Panel:** 3-5 SAGE ACRONYM holders with diverse experience and specialisations
- **Evaluation Process:** Structured scoring using detailed rubrics, followed by a panel discussion
- **Standards:** Work will be evaluated against international standards while recognising the South African industry context
- **Confidentiality:** All submissions will be treated confidentially; judges will recuse themselves from evaluating applicants with whom they have conflicts of interest

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Judging involves a rigorous process of viewing and reading, judging through a thorough rubric and meeting for a panel discussion. The judging rubric considers the application in the following ways:

1. Craft Excellence (50%)
2. Body of Work Quality (25%)
3. Guild commitment & Advocacy for Craft (10%)
4. Professional Standards (15%)

AWARDING THE ACRONYM

- How to use the acronym: Once awarded the acronym, recipients are allowed to write S.A.G.E. (in a slightly smaller font if possible) after their names. Being a SAGE member does not automatically entitle someone to use the acronym or write it behind their name.
- While we encourage dialogue around all that we do at SAGE, the Judging Panel's decision is final.
- Once someone is awarded the Acronym, there is an obligation for them to join the judging panel in future years.