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The 100% free Anti-Black Friday Sale with Muse

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MUSE STORYTELLING

I struggle with this time of year.

I've lost a few family members in the past few years, and their loss is never more evident than during the festive season when many of us are gathering with our loved ones.

Toss in a pandemic and that yearning for connection goes much deeper. I imagine I'm not alone in that feeling.

As we pass through Black Friday and into Cyber Monday, the opportunity to do a flash sale on any or all of our courses passes through your mind. To be honest, even though I'm not proud of it, I've done that in the past.

But the last thing I want is to be pushing another sale on you. And I think the last thing you need is another sale and more distractions crowding your inbox.

What I really yearn for, and I believe you might feel the same, is connection over consumption.

Giving over selling.

I want to feel inspired again, to feel a sense of hope, and to know that my work matters and can make a difference.

While I can't promise you all of that, I (and the team) certainly can try.

We want to bring the community together to celebrate our best stories, our best ideas, and remind each other what's at stake here when we tell our best stories.

We're calling it the Muse Film Festival.

With a new year, we want to help you tell a new story.

It's 100% free to enter, to watch, to get inspired, to learn, to network—all of it, totally free.

It will be a three-day virtual event in late January when you can watch some of the top stories made by the community, see each film broken down by a group of expert panelists, and hear from some powerful speakers.

It's two days of screening films (two hours a day) followed by a final day designed to channel all that inspiration into developing and sharing a story you'd love to bring to life.

Remarkable stories, powerful ideas, and the healing power of community.

And today we start accepting submissions. You're welcome to skip ahead to the submission form.

You can submit up to three films. It can either be your own submission or you can nominate someone you believe deserves to be recognized.

The top seven films will be screened and discussed by a panel of experts.

These stories will be featured across our social channels and by many of our festival partners. Plus each finalist gets a pretty sweet custom trophy to celebrate their storytelling.

I'm also going to do something that scares me.

This festival will also serve as the debut of my short film *I Am Dust*, a narrative short based on my late mother's struggle with bipolar disorder. It's the hardest story I've ever told, created from the words found in the journals she left behind.

It's the story I couldn't not tell, and one that is deeply rooted in why I tell stories in the first place—to build bridges, to create conversations, and to incite change.

I hope you'll consider matching this vulnerability and put yourself out there by submitting the stories you most love. And by showing up and bringing your full self.

As submissions open today, a couple of quick parameters:

- This festival is for shorts, so all films must be 10 minutes or less
- You do not have to use Muse or be in any of our courses to submit your films or to be chosen
- You can submit for best storytelling in the nonprofit, commercial, documentary, or narrative spaces
- We'll also choose a 'best story', a 'best character', and a selection designed to amplify underrepresented voices

While you'll be able to submit until early January, we'd love it if you could do so early as we'll be reviewing each and every submission.

I'll be back in touch with more details on how you can register as an attendee for the festival, plus much more.

I hope you'll join us for this truly special three-day event
that's sure to inspire and help you up your story game.

I personally cannot wait.

Thanks, friends.

-Patrick (on behalf of the whole Muse Team)

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