



## **SAFTAs 19 –**

### **Media Sheet: Questions & Answers**

#### **1. Why was this theme chosen for SAFTAs19?**

**Answer:**

*"One Story. One Industry. One Future"* reflects the current industry: resilient, united, and forward-looking. It honours our shared passion for storytelling, celebrates the collective strength of the industry, and sets the tone for the journey toward the landmark SAFTAs20 in 2027.

#### **2. Why have the SAFTAs been moved from October 2025 to March 2026?**

**Answer:**

The decision to move the awards is the result of leadership changes within the NFVF and related unforeseen delays, which have now enabled a broader period of organisational renewal. This transition has provided us with an opportunity to strengthen governance, sharpen our strategic focus, and reinforce the NFVF's role as the custodian of the South African Film and Television Awards (SAFTAs).

This adjustment also ensures that the SAFTAs align with the international awards calendar, providing South African talent the opportunity to be celebrated in parallel with major global film and television awards. Furthermore, it allows the SAFTAs to revert to the original timeline of March, which had changed as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. This shift will ensure that the event is marked consistently in the industry calendar every year moving forward in the interest of consistency and forward planning.

**3. We note the indication of March 2026 but what will the specific date be in March 2026?**

**Answer:**

The specific date in March 2026 will be announced by December 2025.

**4. What are the timelines for the judging process?**

**Answer:**

**Initial Judging:** October 2025 – December 2025

**Final Judging:** January 2026

These timelines ensure a thorough, transparent, and fair evaluation process for all submissions.

**5. How will aligning with the international awards calendar benefit South African talent?**

**Answer:**

Hosting the SAFTAs in March aligns our industry with the global awards season, which creates more opportunities for South African productions to be part of the international awards conversation, attract global press coverage, and strengthen positioning in global distribution and festival cycles.

**6. How does this build excitement for SAFTAs 20 in 2027?**

**Answer:**

SAFTAs19 will serve as a rallying point, celebrating resilience and creativity while laying the groundwork for the milestone SAFTAs20. The new March schedule means we can maintain industry momentum and anticipation over a two-year period, ensuring SAFTAs20 is one of the most memorable in history.

**7. Will March be the date for SAFTAs 20, or will they be moved to another month or date?**

**Answer:**

The March date will remain in place for SAFTAs20 in 2027. This new timing is a strategic decision to permanently align the SAFTAs with the global film and television awards season, creating greater synergy for South African productions on the international stage.

#### **8. Has a venue been chosen to host SAFTAs19?**

**Answer:**

We are in the process of sourcing a suitable venue in the Johannesburg area that meets the requirements for a prestigious, world-class production. The confirmed venue will be announced in due course.

#### **9. When will the call for entries be released?**

**Answer:**

The official call for entries for SAFTAs19 will be released in **August 2025**. This timeline allows all eligible productions to prepare their submissions in line with the revised awards schedule.

#### **10. When will the call for Jury be released?**

**Answer:**

The call for jury applications will also be released in **August 2025**, ensuring we attract a diverse, experienced, and representative panel in advance of the judging process.

#### **11. When is the nominees' announcement?**

**Answer:**

The date for the nominees' announcement will be confirmed and shared with the industry once the judging process has concluded. This allows us to maintain accuracy, fairness, and quality control in the results.

**12. What changes have occurred in NFVF leadership recently?**

**Answer:**

The NFVF has undergone a leadership transition, including the appointment of an Acting CEO, who has been seconded from the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture to stabilise the entity. Leadership changes are part of the NFVF's renewal process, ensuring the organisation has the right expertise and focus to meet industry needs. This transition has strengthened internal alignment and allowed for a more strategic approach to the SAFTAs.

**13. How will the change in leadership affect the SAFTAs?**

**Answer:**

The change in leadership will positively impact the SAFTAs by bringing fresh perspectives, renewed energy, and a stronger focus on industry engagement. The NFVF leadership team is committed to building on the awards' legacy while introducing innovations that reflect the evolving landscape of film and television.

**14. How will the NFVF maintain transparency and accountability during this transition?**

**Answer:**

The NFVF is committed to open communication with all stakeholders. Regular updates on planning, timelines, and opportunities for industry participation will be shared through official channels. This ensures stakeholders remain informed and engaged in the lead-up to March 2026.

**15. Will this change impact eligibility for nominations?**

**Answer:**

Yes, given this shift back to March of each year, the eligibility criteria for SAFTAs<sup>19</sup> will expand to a period of 18 months for projects that have been on air or screened in cinemas or streamed online between 1 January 2024 and 30 June 2025. This will be a once-off exception for SAFTAs<sup>19</sup> given the unique circumstances. Moving forward, eligibility will revert to a 12-month

cycle, meaning that for SAFTAs<sup>20</sup> in March 2027, eligibility would be for projects that have been on air, screened in cinemas, or streamed online between 1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026.

**16. Will the NFVF leadership changes affect partnerships or sponsorships?**

**Answer:**

No, in fact, the renewed focus on strategy and industry alignment is creating new opportunities for partnerships. The NFVF is actively engaging with both existing and potential sponsors to strengthen the SAFTAs brand and ensure a high-calibre event.

**16. Does this delay signal instability within the NFVF?**

**Answer:**

No, in fact, it reflects the opposite. The NFVF Council and management have used this period to strengthen operations, improve stakeholder engagement, and refine event planning. The decision to move the event is strategic, ensuring that SAFTAs<sup>19</sup> matches both local expectations and international standards.

**17. Why has the NFVF not communicated with the film industry to say what has been happening with the SAFTAs, and to give clarity to the public/industry for people/places that wanted to enter this year?**

**Answer:**

We acknowledge the importance of clear and timely communication with our industry stakeholders. The delay in public updates was due to a period of organisational renewal, leadership changes, and strategic realignment of the SAFTAs schedule to match the global awards calendar. During this time, our priority was to confirm the new date through an extensive consultative process with all critical stakeholders, eligibility criteria, and planning framework before making public announcements, to ensure that when we communicated, it would be with certainty and clarity.