

CALL FOR ENTRIES

Be the next member of the FIFFamily:
Participate in its 39th edition!

Rules and regulations 2025
39th Fribourg International Film Festival

Official Selection:
International Competition: Short Films

Registration deadline: Thursday 12th December 2024
Festival dates: 21 – 30.03.2025

Please control that your country qualifies for this call for entries.

1. THE FESTIVAL

1.1. Presentation

Attracting more than 48,000 people in its cinema – and 55,000 with the inclusion of parallel events –, the Fribourg International Film Festival (FIFF) is one of the most popular film events in Western Switzerland and one of the European pioneers in discovering Asian, Latin American, African, Near and Middle East and Eastern European cinema. Every year the Festival becomes an important gathering for cinema lovers of all cultures and origins, for fans of classics and novelties, of auteur cinema, as well as of contemporary popular productions.

1.2. Aims

The FIFF aims to contribute to the cinematographic and cultural diversity in Switzerland and in Europe. The Festival is open to all horizons, but its Official Selection (International Competition: Short Films) focuses on works from the following countries:

Africa

Angola, Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tomé-et-Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Latin America

Belize, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Salvador

Asia

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Korea (Democratic People's Rep. of), India, Indonesia, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, East Timor, Vietnam

Oceania

Kiribati, Micronesia, New Guinea, Papua, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu

Near and Middle East

Gaza and West Bank, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen

Eastern Europe and the CIS

Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldavia, Serbia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan

To promote the distribution of the selected films, filmmakers, producers, distributors, cinema programmers and film critics are invited to attend the Festival.

1.3. Dates

The 39th Fribourg International Film Festival will take place from the 21st to 30th March 2025.

1.4. Official Selection

The Official Selection includes:

- *International Competition: Feature Films*
- *International Competition: Short Films*

Both competitions are open to fiction, documentary and animation.

1.5. Other Sections

The Festival also offers non-competitive sections focusing on films (long, medium or short-length) that have rarely or never been shown in Switzerland.

- *Opening Film/Closing Film*
- *Genre Cinema*: Genre films and their varieties specially in Latin America, Asia, Africa, Near and Middle East and Eastern Europe
- *FIFF Favorites*: Inspiring films that do not fit neatly in the other sections and that the FIFF team absolutely wants to share with the audience
- *Diaspora*: Emblematic films for an exiled community, chosen by a special guest from that community
- *Make it family time*: a special programme for children and their parents
- *Decryption*: Films dealing with historical, social or religious questions
- *Hommage à...*: Films chosen by a special guest who has contributed to the construction of bridges between different avenues of film production
- *New Territory*: Films from countries whose cinema market is not well-known or recognized. In 2024: North Macedonia
- *Midnight Screenings*: Films for an adult audience (for ages 16 and up). Horrific, erotic, disturbing
- *Passeport Suisse*: Films by Swiss directors that were directed abroad as well as international films directed in Switzerland
- *Sur la carte de...*: Films chosen by a personality according to their cinematographic taste.

The Festival also offers a program for schools, colleges and universities. The programme is called *Planète Cinéma*. With more than 10,000 children and teenagers registered, *Planète Cinéma* is the most important school program in Switzerland.

Discussions and debates are organized between filmmakers, the audience, journalists and industry professionals.

1.6. Participation

The participation in the 39th edition of the FIFF implies that the directors, the producers and their agents accept the conditions of participation under the rules and regulations.

2. PRE-SELECTION

2.1. Eligibility

In its *International Competition: Short Films* the Festival welcomes:

- **Films made by filmmakers from countries listed in point 1.2 exclusively**
- Fiction, documentary or animation films
- Short films (< 30 minutes) for the *International Competition: Short Films* (Official Selection)
- Films with a copyright of the year preceding the date of the Festival (exceptions allowed)
- Films that have not been released in Switzerland (for the Competition, priority will be given to World or European premieres)
- We put a high priority on DCP and ProRes files. Exception will be considered on a case by case basis

According to international regulations, the Festival has the right to organize up to 4 screenings for each selected film. Any additional screening will only be granted after negotiations between the Festival and the eligible party counting of the latter's understanding.

2.2. Registration to the *International Competition: Feature Films*

- Fill out the registration form on [our Eventival page](#). Log in to Eventival to have access to the form.
- Any production in DCP, MP4, MKV, Blu-ray files or any other digital screening format with priority on DCP and ProRes files.
- Registration deadline: Thursday, 12th December 2024
- Festival dates: 21.03.-30.03.2025

To be eligible for the 39th edition, films must be registered by 12th December 2024 at the latest. The online entry form is available on [our Eventival page](#). Films that exceed the deadline will no longer be considered.

In order to allow the Festival to facilitate the promotion of each selected film, **it is mandatory to fill out the registrations form entirely and accurately, and to provide all the requested material.**

Films with an incomplete registration form will not be taken into account by the selection committee.

The data given will be published in the catalogue of the Festival, on its website, as well as in all official documents.

Your inscription will be completed once we have received the selection materials including a link to the screener.

2.3. Shipping of the selection materials (screener and technical details)

Directors or producers are requested to provide the Festival with the following selection materials:

- Online screening access to be provided on the registration form or with a digital file
- 3-5 images of the film in high resolution (300dpi) and its poster
- One trailer with English and/or French subtitles
- Film director's biography and filmography in the form of a list containing their country of origin, their birth day and a selective filmography with dates (maximum 250 characters)
- Photo of the director

Last shipping deadline: 10th January 2025

The sender is liable for all transport and insurance expenses of the material. (Please mark the package as sample: **"No commercial value, for cultural purpose only"**)

The Festival accepts working copies (works in progress) if the movie can be completed before the shipping deadline of the Festival (4 weeks before the Festival begins).

The Festival does not return the screening material.

The screeners of films entered for pre-selection must be sent to:

Festival International du Film de Fribourg

Film entry

Esplanade de l'Ancienne-Gare 3

1700 Fribourg – Switzerland

Producers and directors who have submitted a film will be notified by e-mail of the selection committee's decision at the Festival's earliest convenience. The selection committee's decisions are irrevocable.

2.4. Entry fee

FIFF does not charge any entry fee for the *International Competition*.

3. SELECTED FILMS

3.1. Commitment

Once chosen for the *Official Selection*:

- The film cannot be withdrawn from the selection
- The film cannot be shown in Switzerland before the edition of FIFF

3.2. Print traffic

In case of selection, the prints (preferably DCP) must reach the Festival **at the latest 30 days prior to its start**.

The Festival covers the transport expenses. The Festival Print Traffic will supply the shipping address in due time. A pro forma document must accompany the print, providing the usual information:

- Name and contact of the sender
- Film title
- Screening format
- Duration (in minutes)
- Number of hard disks, files or tapes or print rolls
- Color or in black/white

The films will be returned the Monday following the end of the Festival at the earliest (exception may apply). The precise shipping address for the return of the prints must be clearly stated to the Festival print traffic manager by the opening day of the Festival at the latest.

To guarantee the best possible screening conditions, the Festival encourages, if possible, the sending of DCP or ProRes files.

3.3. Subtitles and dialogue list

The Festival proposes digital subtitles in English, French and German for all films selected in the Official Selection. The producers or the directors are asked to send the dialogue list (including time codes) and the translations in English, French and German (if possible) as soon as the selection of their film is confirmed.

3.4. Publicity material

The producer or the director will supply the following promotional material:

- Posters
- Flyers
- 3-5 film stills in high resolution, 300dpi)
- 2 excerpts (1 minute and 2-3 minutes and with English and/or French subtitles and if possible without insert of the production visual)

The Festival is allowed to use this material at its convenience in order to promote the film (website, printed programme, press material, invitations), The festival do not have to credit the photographs.

3.5. Excerpts

Participating in the Festival implies granting permission for video excerpts of the film to be used by the media and their websites. These excerpts shall be limited to a maximum of 10% of the total film length and shall in no case exceed 3 minutes each.

3.6. Video library

The selected movies will be made available for the organization of the Festival and for certain industry professionals in the offices of the Festival during the Festival only. By accepting the regulations, the holders of the rights of the film authorize the film to be accessible on the server of the Festival. In order to screen the films under the best conditions, the participants must provide a digital screening copy valid until the end of the Festival.

3.7. Partnership with Festival Scope

The films selected for the *International Competition* and some selected for other sections will be available on the Festival Scope site. Free access is available only for film industry professionals with subscriptions.

Bringing the film festival experience further, the Festival International de Films de Fribourg partners with Festival Scope to offer the selected short and feature films an additional screening, online and limited to 400 people. The screening will take place in a virtual theatre hosted by Festival Scope (<http://www.festivalscope.com/>). This theatre will stay open for 3 weeks only starting on 30th March 2025. The films will be screened for free, in secure streaming with one viewing per person and no downloads allowed. The aim of the initiative is to bring additional visibility to the films through media partnerships and targeted promotion. The members of Festival Scope team will contact you for your permission and regarding the technical questions.

3.8. Screenings locations

The Festival takes place in Fribourg and its neighbouring cities.

3.9. Insurance

The Festival bears the insurance costs of the prints covering the period between the reception of the prints in Switzerland and the return of the prints from Switzerland. In the case of loss or damage during this period, the Festival is liable for the replacement cost of the print only. No claim concerning the condition of a print returned by the Festival will be taken into consideration unless it is made within 8 working days of reception by the consignee or prior to any further screening of the film outside the Festival.

3.10. Invitation to FIFF

In accordance with hospitality regulations, the Festival will invite the directors of the films in the *International Competition* as a priority. The Festival has the right to decide upon the best possible itinerary in agreement with the guests. The Festival schedules the dates for the film screenings. Invited directors are requested to attend these screenings. The dates shall be confirmed at least 15 days prior to the beginning of the Festival.

3.11. Awards and Juries

The Festival gives the following awards for the *International Competition: Short Films*:

- Best International Short Film endowed with CHF 7'500.–
- CH Cinema Network Award endowed with CHF 3'000.–

The Festival reserves the right to change, add or suppress awards according to the circumstances.

3.12. Certificate of participation, promotion and publicity of the Festival awards

Each director whose film is screened in the Festival Official Selection will receive a diploma vouching for their participation.

Each director whose film is presented at the Festival will be provided with a certificate of participation. Each director, producer or distributor will receive press clippings and reviews of their film.

Each awarded film must mention the name of the award(s) and **"Fribourg International Film Festival 2025"** in its promotional material. Films not awarded may mention for their promotion **"Fribourg International Film Festival 2025 Official Selection"**.

3.13. Exceptions and disputes

The Festival management is responsible for settling any cases not provided for in the present regulations, and granting any exceptions from the provisions for expressed and justified requests only. Participation in the Festival implies unreserved acceptance of the terms of the present regulations.