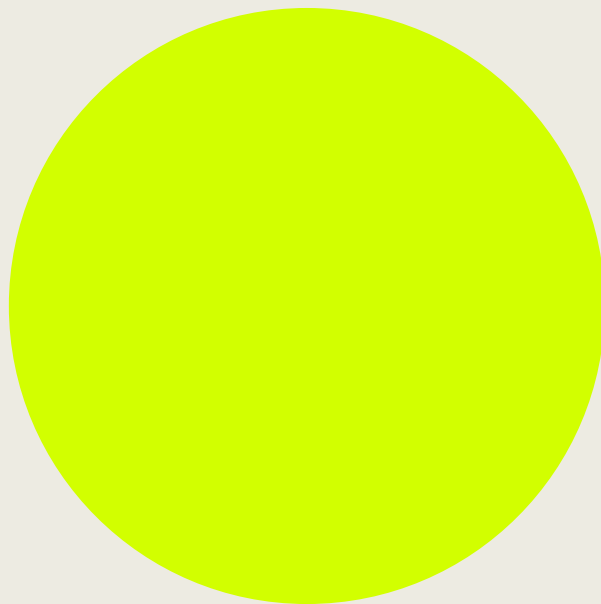


# **17TH VILNIUS INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL**

**17-23 JANUARY 2024**



## **INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL COMPETITION REGULATIONS**

**[WWW.FILMSHORTS.LT](http://WWW.FILMSHORTS.LT)**



Vilnius International Short Film Festival is one of the biggest short film festivals in the Baltic countries, presenting the newest and best short films from all around the world. Established in 2006, the festival has become a unique platform in Lithuania, not only screening European but also global short films made by both the upcoming generation of talented filmmakers and renowned film directors.

Each year Vilnius International Short Film Festival holds the International Competition, which involves up to 35 most acknowledged short films from the last two years, and the National Competition, which presents a condensed selection of Lithuanian short films. The festival also features several non-competition programmes – theme-based short film selections, country focus, retrospectives, films for kids, programmes curated by teenagers and seniors and special programmes of partnering film festivals.

The 17th edition of the Vilnius International Short Film Festival will take place on 17–23 January 2024 as a hybrid event: films will be screened on-site in Vilnius and other Lithuanian cities as well as on local VoD platform [geo-blocked to Lithuanian territory].

**SUBMIT HERE**

#### **International Competition**

Early Bird Deadline: 31 May (FREE)

Final Deadline: 15 July (5 EUR)

#### **National Competition:**

Early Bird Deadline: 30 June (FREE)

Final Deadline: 15 August (5 EUR)



#### **Results notification:**

15 November 2023

#### **Festival contacts:**

E-mail: [programming@filmshorts.lt](mailto:programming@filmshorts.lt)

[www.filmshorts.lt](http://www.filmshorts.lt)

  Vilnius Short Film Festival

#### **Sponsored by:**





#### **Festival is organised by**

Lithuanian Short Film Agency

LITHUANIAN SHORTS

Šiltadaržio str. 6, LT01124 Vilnius, Lithuania

[www.lithuanianshorts.com](http://www.lithuanianshorts.com)

  Lithuanian Shorts



# INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION REGULATIONS

## 1. RULES OF PARTICIPATION

**1.1.** International Competition is open to short films from every country (except Lithuania and Russian Federation) and of all production techniques and genres (fiction, documentary, animation, experimental or hybrid) from low to high budgets.

**1.1.1.** In response to the Russian aggression and the invasion of Ukraine, the Festival boycotts any associations with any entity, organisation or production that is backed, funded and endorsed by the Russian state, and therefore bans submissions of films produced or co-produced by Russian Federation.

**1.1.2.** If the film is a minority co-production with Lithuania, it is eligible to compete in the International Competition.

**1.2.** Films must not exceed 30 minutes including credits.

**1.3.** The Festival does not require any premiere status but notes that this may come into consideration during the selection process.

**1.4.** Films must have been completed after 1 January 2022.

**1.5.** Films that promote violence, race, and religion or gender discrimination or contain explicit drug advertisement are barred from the Festival programme.

**1.6.** Films that have previously been submitted to the Festival, also works-in-progress are not accepted.

**1.7.** Filmmakers are allowed to submit more than one film with a separate application form for each work.

**1.8.** All non-English language films must be submitted with burned-in English subtitles.

## 2. SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

**2.1.** Films can be submitted only via [www.shortfilmdepot.com](http://www.shortfilmdepot.com) platform.

**2.2.** For International Competition, the final deadline for submission is 15 July 2023. Submission fees: until 31 May – FREE; from 1 June to 15 July – 5 EUR.

**2.2.1.** For films produced in Ukraine and by Ukrainian filmmakers, we offer to waive the submission fee. For the fee waiver and free stamp, contact [programming@filmshorts.lt](mailto:programming@filmshorts.lt).

**2.3.** Only films accompanied by a fully filled official entry form on [www.shortfilmdepot.com](http://www.shortfilmdepot.com) platform and requested documentation are accepted for selection.

**2.4.** The sender of the submitted film is responsible for all copyrights. He/She is legally authorised to enter his/her short film to the Festival and, if selected for the Festival, authorised to give screening permission.

**2.5.** All received films are considered by the preselection team. Decisions made by the preselection and programming teams are final.

**2.6.** Organisers reserve the right not to provide any feedback, comments, or any other information regarding the selection or non-selection of any submitted film.

**2.7.** The selection results will be announced by the 15 of November 2023. Filmmakers whose entries have been selected for the International Competition will be informed by email only. Please be sure to provide a valid email address with your submission accordingly.

**2.8.** Submissions may not be withdrawn from the Festival once they have been entered, except at the sole discretion of the Festival.

### **3. SCREENING AND PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTED FILMS**

**3.1.** Representatives of selected films are not entitled to claim rental or other fees for the screenings of their films at the Festival.

**3.2.** Each selected film must provide a screening copy without subtitles (clean file), together with a subtitles file (.srt) or an English dialogue list with timecode by the deadline set by the organisers.

**3.3.** Screening format accepted: digital file (Format - MP4; Codec - H264; Bitrate minimum 10mbps; Resolution - HD (1920x1080); Sound (5.1 or stereo)).

**3.4.** The screening copy together with a subtitles file must be uploaded to the Vilnius ISFF FTP server.

**3.4.1.** If it is not possible to upload the required film files to the Vilnius ISFF FTP server or sent them via any other platform, the filmmaker is responsible for the costs of sending the screening copy to the Festival by courier. The Festival covers the costs of returning or forwarding screening copies.

**3.5.** Film authors grant the Festival their right to use promotional materials delivered for Festival publications (printed material, Festival website, social media and Partners' online platforms) and for the Festival promotion on other media channels, free of charge.

**3.6.** For promotional purposes excerpts of the film can be broadcasted on TV, in cinema theatres, and/or on the Festival online channels (website, social networks), free of charge. The excerpts cannot exceed 3 minutes or 10% of the total length of the film.

**3.7.** Selected films will be made available online (password-protected) to the representatives of the press (journalists, critics) for promotional purposes.

**3.8.** The 17th edition of the Vilnius ISFF will be organized in a hybrid format. All Festival competition programs will be screened in cinemas and simultaneously streamed on local VoD platform which is geo-blocked to Lithuanian territory. Should your film be selected for the Festival, the organisers will inform the rights holders and seek the necessary permission.

**3.8.** After the Festival, for one year period and in agreement with the rights holders, Vilnius ISFF presents International Competition films free of charge at non-commercial screenings of festival highlights.

## **4. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

**4.1.** Each selected film must provide:

- a synopsis of the film
- at least 3 high-quality stills
- trailer of the film (not mandatory)
- high-quality profile photo, short biography and filmography of the director
- a full list of artistic and technical credits.
- a full list of film festivals and awards.

## **5. AWARDS**

**5.1.** Films selected for the International and National Competitions are considered by the 3-members International Jury.

**5.2.** Films compete for the following awards:

- Festival Grand Prix (monetary prize and a trophy; both International and National Competition films are eligible for this award)
- Best International Short Film (monetary prize and a trophy)
- Best Lithuanian Short Film (monetary prize and a trophy)

The Jury can also award special mentions with no monetary prize or a trophy attached.



# NATIONAL COMPETITION REGULATIONS

## 1. RULES OF PARTICIPATION

**1.1.** The National Competition is open to Lithuanian short films of all production techniques and genres (fiction, documentary, animation, experimental or hybrid) from low to high budgets.

**1.1.1.** In the case of co-production, a film is eligible for National Competition if it shows a majority co-production with 50% Lithuanian participation.

**1.1.2.** In response to the Russian aggression and the invasion of Ukraine, the Festival boycotts any associations with any entity, organisation or production that is backed, funded and endorsed by the Russian state, and therefore bans submissions of films produced or co-produced by Russian Federation.

**1.2.** Films must not exceed 30 minutes including credits.

**1.3.** The Festival does not require national premiere status but notes that this may come into consideration during the selection process.

**1.4.** Films must have been completed after 1 January 2022.

**1.5.** Films that promote violence, race, and religion or gender discrimination or contain explicit drug advertisement are barred from the Festival programme.

**1.6.** Films that have previously been submitted to the Festival, also works-in-progress are not accepted.

**1.7.** Filmmakers are allowed to submit more than one film with a separate application form for each work.

**1.8.** All films submitted to the National Competition must provide burned-in English subtitles.

## 2. SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

**2.1.** Films can be submitted only via [www.shortfilmdepot.com](http://www.shortfilmdepot.com) platform.

**2.2.** For the National Competition, the final deadline for submission is 15 August 2023. Submission fees: until 30 June – FREE; from 1 July to 15 August – 5 EUR.

**2.3.** Only films accompanied by a fully filled official entry form on [www.shortfilmdepot.com](http://www.shortfilmdepot.com) and requested documentation are accepted for selection.

**2.4.** The sender of the submitted film is responsible for all copyrights. He/She is legally authorised to enter his/her short film to the Festival and, if selected for the Festival, authorised to give screening permission.

**2.5.** All received films are considered by the 3-member programming team. Decisions made by the programming team are final.

**2.6.** Organisers reserve the right not to provide any feedback, comments, or any other information regarding the selection or non-selection of any submitted film.

**2.7.** The selection results will be announced by 15 November 2023. Filmmakers whose entries have been selected for the National Competition will be informed by email only. Please be sure to provide a valid email address with your submission accordingly.

**2.8.** Submissions may not be withdrawn from the Festival once they have been entered, except at the sole discretion of the Festival.

### **3. SCREENING AND PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTED FILMS**

**3.1.** Representatives of selected films are not entitled to claim rental or other fees for the screenings of their films at the Festival.

**3.2.** Each selected film must provide three screening copies by the deadline set by the organisers:

**3.2.1.** A digital file with English subtitles (burned-in): format - MP4; Codec - H264; Bitrate minimum 10mbps; Resolution - HD (1920x1080); Sound (stereo);

**3.2.2.** A digital file without subtitles (clean file): format - MP4; Codec - H264; Bitrate minimum 10mbps; Resolution - HD (1920x1080); Sound (stereo);

**3.2.3.** A DCP file (with burned-in English subtitles).

**3.3.** The screening copies must be uploaded to the Vilnius ISFF FTP server.

**3.4.1.** If it is not possible to upload the required film files to the Vilnius ISFF FTP server or sent them via any other platform, the filmmaker is responsible for the costs of sending the screening copy to the Festival by courier. The Festival covers the costs of returning or forwarding screening copies.

**3.5.** Film authors grant the Festival their right to use promotional materials delivered for Festival publications (printed material, Festival website, social media and Partners online platforms) and for the Festival promotion on other media channels, free of charge.

**3.6.** For promotional purposes excerpts of the film can be broadcasted on TV, in cinema theatres, and/or on the Festival online channels (website, social networks), free of charge. The excerpts cannot exceed 3 minutes or 10% of the total length of the film.

**3.7.** Selected films will be made available online (password-protected) to the representatives of the press (journalists, critics) for promotional purposes.

**3.8.** The 17th edition of the Vilnius ISFF will be organized in a hybrid format. All Festival programs will be screened in cinemas and simultaneously streamed on local VoD platform that are geo-blocked to Lithuanian territory. Should your film be selected for the Festival, the organisers will inform the rights holders and seek the necessary permission.

**3.9.** After the Festival, for one year period and in agreement with the rights holders, Vilnius ISFF presents National Competition films free of charge at non-commercial screenings of festival highlights.

## 4. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

### 4.1. Each selected film must provide:

- a synopsis of the film
- at least 3 high-quality stills
- trailer of the film (not mandatory)
- high-quality profile photo, short biography and filmography of the director
- a full list of artistic and technical credits.
- a full list of film festivals and awards.

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- Festival Grand Prix (monetary prize and a trophy; both International and National Competition films are eligible for this award)
- Best International Short Film (monetary prize and a trophy)
- Best Lithuanian Short Film (monetary prize and a trophy)

The Jury can also award special mentions with no monetary prize or a trophy attached.