

18th
Vilnius Short
Film Festival

15–21 January 2025

REGULATIONS

National Competition

www.filmshorts.lt

Vilnius Short Film Festival is one of the biggest international short film festivals in the Baltic countries, and the only short film festival in Lithuania. Every January, it presents the newest and most significant short films from all around the world, while also gathering together filmmakers, industry representatives, and film lovers.

Established in 2006, the Festival has become a unique platform in Lithuania, screening global short films made by both emerging and established talents. Each year, the Vilnius Short Film Festival holds the International Competition, which features approximately 30-40 of the most acclaimed short films from the past two years. In addition to the International Competition, the Festival hosts a National Competition showcasing a carefully chosen selection of the newest Lithuanian short films. Moreover, the Festival features special non-competition programs such as retrospectives, programs for kids, youth, and seniors, as well as theme or country-based short film selections.

Complementing the Festival screenings, there are numerous events for both the public and film industry professionals. Every year, the Festival offers a tailored Industry Day program for filmmakers and other industry professionals, which includes networking opportunities, workshops, and seminars. Moreover, the Festival invites its fans to various music and interactive events, as well as workshops for families and late-night screenings.

The 18th edition of the Vilnius Short Film Festival will take place from 15 to 21 January 2025 as a hybrid event – having both on-site screenings and short film programmes on the local VoD platform. The Festival is hosted in multiple venues across Vilnius Old Town and other Lithuanian cities such as Kaunas, Klaipėda, and Šiauliai.

SUBMIT HERE

International Competition

Early Bird Deadline: 31 May (FREE)

Final Deadline: 14 July (7 EUR)

National Competition:

Early Bird Deadline: 30 June (FREE)

Final Deadline: 14 August (7 EUR)



Results notification:

15 November 2024

Festival contacts

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Funded by



AVAKA

Festival is organised by



Lithuanian Short Film Agency

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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 more than 50% Lithuanian participation.

1.1.2. In response to the Russian 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 2023.

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

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

1.7. 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 platform.

2.2. For the National Competition, the final deadline for submission is 14 August 2024. Submission fees: until 30 June – FREE; from 1 July to 14 August – 7 EUR.

2.3. Only films accompanied by a fully filled official entry form on www.shortfilmdepot.com and requested documentation are accepted for selection.

2.4. The sender of the submitted film is responsible for all copyrights. They are legally authorised to enter their 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 the 15th of November 2024. 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. REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTED FILMS

- 3.1.** Submitters are not entitled to claim screening or rental fees for the screenings of their films in the Competition during the Festival.
- 3.2.** Seeking better accessibility for people with disabilities, the Festival will be screening National Competition with subtitles for the deaf and hard of hearing (SDH)¹ and audio description².
- 3.3.** Each selected film must provide files listed below:
- 3.3.1.** A digital file with English subtitles (burned-in): format - MP4; Codec - H264; Bitrate minimum 10mbps; Resolution - HD (1920x1080); Sound (stereo);
- 3.3.2.** A digital file without subtitles (clean file): format - MP4; Codec - H264; Bitrate minimum 10mbps; Resolution - HD (1920x1080); Sound (stereo);
- 3.3.3.** A DCP file (clean, with no subtitles).
- 3.3.4.** Lithuanian and English dialogue lists (.srt file format).
- 3.4.** The screening copies together with additional files must be uploaded to the Festival FTP server.
- 3.4.1.** If it is not possible to upload the required film files to the Festival FTP server or sent 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 rights-owners grant the Festival their right to use film materials for the Festival promotion on owned and other media channels, free of charge (Festival and Partners websites, social media, mass media, printed material, VoD platform etc.).
- 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 18th edition of the Vilnius Short Film Festival will be organized in a hybrid format. All Festival programs will be screened in cinemas and simultaneously streamed on local VoD platform which is geo-blocked to Lithuanian territory only. 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, the Festival presents International Competition films free of charge at non-commercial screenings of festival highlights.
- 3.10.** With the submission, the Festival is allowed to process the given data for the purpose of handling the Festival and its archive. This consent is the legal basis for the data processing (according to the GDPR—General Data Protection Regulation of the European Union). The data will only be stored as long as necessary for the above mentioned purpose.

¹ These subtitles assume the end user cannot hear the dialogue and include important non-dialogue information such as sound effects, music, and speaker identification.

² Audio description is the auditory narration of visual representations, during gaps in dialogue, it describes visual elements such as scenes, settings, actions and costumes. It is particularly beneficial to people who are blind and vision impaired.

4. PROMOTIONAL 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 National and International Competitions are considered by the 3-members International Jury.

5.2. Films compete for the following awards:

5.2.1. Festival Grand Prix - monetary prize and a trophy; films from both National and International Competition are eligible for this award;

5.2.2. Best International Short Film - monetary prize and a trophy;

5.2.3. Best National Short Film - monetary prize and a trophy.

5.3. The Jury can give a special mention with no monetary prize or a trophy attached.