

ARTICLE I - General Propositions

The 24th Zagreb Film Festival will take place in Zagreb, Croatia, from November 9 to 15, 2026. Its aim is to get the Croatian audience acquainted with emerging film directors and to organize creative meetings with international and local professionals. The festival thus aims to make a positive impact on the improvement of Croatian film production and culture. The Festival's specific focus is to enable insight into European cinema.

ARTICLE II - Submission Requirements

In its competition program, the Zagreb Film Festival will present an international selection of films by emerging directors in the following categories:

Feature Fiction Film

To qualify for the festival's competition program, the following criteria must be met:

- The film must be the director's **first or second feature film**, produced in 2025 or 2026, and intended for theatrical screenings.
- It must have a runtime of more than 70 minutes.
- An online screener must be provided in the submission form at the time of submission, and the link must remain accessible until the end of the selection process.
- If selected, the film must be screened in DCP format.
- The film must not have had any public screenings in the Republic of Croatia prior to the festival. If selected, its screening at the festival must be its Croatian premiere.
- Feature films produced in Croatia must not have been screened elsewhere in Croatia, with the sole exception of a screening at the Pula Film Festival, which is permitted.

Short Film

To qualify for the festival's competition program, the following criteria must be met:

- The film must be produced in 2025 or 2026.
- The film should have a maximum duration of 20 minutes.
- An online screener must be provided in the submission form at the time of submission, and the link must remain accessible until the end of the selection process.
- The festival is open to submissions of short fiction, animated, experimental, and documentary films.
- Only directors who have not previously directed a feature film are eligible to apply. Applicants are required to submit the director's complete filmography as verification of eligibility.

- It must not have had any public screenings in the Republic of Croatia prior to the festival. If selected, its screening at the festival must be its Croatian premiere.

Checkers

Checkers is the national competition program of short fiction films.

To meet the festival requirements for the competition program, the following criteria must be met:

- The film must be produced in 2025 or 2026.
- The film should have a maximum duration of 30 minutes.
- An online screener must be provided in the submission form at the time of submission, and the link must remain accessible until the end of the selection process.
- The festival is open to submissions of short fiction films.
- Only directors who have not previously directed a feature film are eligible to apply. Applicants are required to submit the director's complete filmography as verification of eligibility.
- To be considered, a film may have prior screenings only if it was shown at *Dani hrvatskog filma* (eng. *Days of Croatian film*) or had a single screening at a Croatian film festival, but only in a non-competitive program.
- Preference is given to films that would have their Croatian premiere at the Zagreb Film Festival.

Submissions with incomplete or misleading information or documentation will not be considered.

Submission fees

Submissions for international feature and international short film programs are subject to a fee, payable during the online submission process.

All payments must be made through the FilmFreeway platform.

The submission fee is non-refundable.

Submissions for the Checkers competition program are free of charge.

Filmmakers from countries with restricted online payment access or those impacted by war or conflict may request a submission fee waiver. Please note that the number of available waivers is limited.

The submission and participation of a film in the Festival implies acceptance of the Terms and Conditions for participation. In any unforeseen eventuality, the decision of the Festival Management is final.

Submission deadlines

Feature Fiction & Short Film Submissions

Early Bird Deadline: April 15

Standard Deadline: June 30

Checkers Competition Submission

Deadline: September 15

ARTICLE III - Selection and Film Screenings

For the competition program, the selection panel will choose up to 9 feature fiction films, up to 12 short films and up to 12 Croatian short films (Checkers program).

All selected films will be screened in its original version with English and Croatian subtitles. Films produced in Croatia must have subtitles in English.

After the festival's selection team has seen all the films and has made the final selection, the festival organizers will inform the authors of their decision via a letter of invitation.

All authors of the selected films will have been notified by October 9, 2026.

Submissions that reflect or promote discriminatory attitudes or content will not be accepted.

ARTICLE IV - Jury and Awards

Feature Film Competition

The international jury for the feature film competition will consist of at least three film professionals and will present:

- Golden Pram for Best Feature Film
 - The director of the winning film will also receive a cash prize.

Short Film Competitions

The international jury for the international short film competition and the Croatian short film competition (Checkers) will consist of at least three film professionals and will present:

- Golden Pram for Best Short Film
 - The director of the winning film will also receive a cash prize.
- Golden Pram for Best Croatian Short Film (Checkers Competition)

- The director of the winning film will also receive a cash prize.
- European Short Film Candidate – Prix Vimeo (European Film Awards 2027)
 - The jury will select one short film as a candidate for the annual European Film Awards 2028.

PLUS Competition

The young jury, made up of at least three members aged 16 to 21, will present:

- PLUS Award for Best Film by the Young Jury
 - The director of the winning feature film will receive the PLUS Award.

PLUS program showcases films by emerging directors who explore themes of coming of age in an innovative and daring way. The competition includes films from the Main Program of feature-length films.

ARTICLE V - Press and screening material

Upon the notice of selection, the Festival will request materials for each of the selected films, which must include the following:

- At least 5 high-resolution stills from the film
- A photo of the director
- A document containing a brief synopsis, a credits list, and information about the production
- Poster of the film in .jpg format
- A list of festivals and awards, as well as any other relevant information that can be used to promote the film
- Trailer, short excerpts, or a teaser of the film
- A downloadable screener and dialogue list in .srt format (in English and the film's original language) for the purpose of translating the film

By providing these materials, the producer or director authorizes the festival to use and publish all listed materials for the purpose of promoting the festival in the media.

All screening materials of feature and short films should be delivered digitally by October 10, 2025. Film copies need to have English subtitles, except the films done in the English language.

In case of physical deliveries, details should be arranged with the Festival.

ARTICLE VI - Guests of the Festival

Directors whose films have been selected in the competition program are invited to the festival. The directors will be contacted by the Festival's hospitality office.

Article VII - Final Provisions

Terms and Conditions are written both in Croatian and in English. In case of ambiguities in the interpretation of the text, the Croatian version is prevalent. Items that are not included in these Terms and Conditions will be considered directly by the festival organizers in compliance with the generally established Terms and Conditions. All the participants of the festival accept these Terms and Conditions. In case of complaints, all the issues related to the festival fall exclusively within the jurisdiction of the *ratione materiae* court in Zagreb.