

# DRAMA INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

## REGULATION 2026

### I. PREAMBLE

The Drama Short Film Festival 2026 is organized by the Legal Entity under Public Law (Decision No. 12059/2012) "Cultural Organization - Drama International Short Film Festival" (hereinafter and for the sake of brevity the "Festival") of the Municipality of Drama, Drama, Greece (Government Gazette B '2521/2012). The Festival aims at the promotion and development of cinematographic art, the preservation of audiovisual works - short films, the promotion of cinematographic art in Greece, the cultural decentralization and the dissemination of Greek short films, as well as at the encouragement of networking and friendship between creators, filmmakers and actors worldwide.

This Regulation governs the conduct of the Short Film Festival, (hereinafter and for the sake of brevity referred to as the "Festival") according to the specific provisions for each competition section, for the year 2026 and participation implies acceptance without reservation of all the terms outlined in the present regulation. For the participation to be considered valid, the necessary documents, declarations and guarantees provided herein must be submitted by those registering for participation (hereinafter and for the sake of brevity also referred to as "participants"). The Festival reserves the right to cancel any submission or to take any appropriate action in case of violation of the terms and conditions set forth in this Regulation or in case of act or omission that disrupts the proper conduct of the Festival.

### II. GENERAL TERMS

#### **1. General Principles**

1.1 The 49<sup>th</sup> Drama International Short Film Festival will take place from September 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026, in Drama.

1.2. The films will be screened at the Festival's venues, as well as online on the DISFF platform, restricted to the Greek territory.

1.3 **Greek Premiere** is required for the submission of films. Therefore, prior public performance, screening, or broadcasting of the works to the public by radio and television by any means to the public in Greece or on-demand access in any way before or during the days of the Festival are not allowed. The presentation of the film shall be deemed to be public when the film becomes accessible to a circle of persons wider than the narrow circle of the family and the immediate social circle of the author,

regardless of whether the persons of this wider circle are at the same or at different locations.

1.4 The DCP to be screened at the Festival shall be available in one of the formats provided for in this Regulation for theatrical screening and in one of the formats provided for in this Regulation for online screening.

1.5 Each director may participate in the Festival with only one (1) film.

1.6 When submitting the application, the applicant must state the type of film and category.

1.7. Films that have been rejected in the past by the Preliminary Committee may not be resubmitted.

## **2. Application: Entry Procedure and Material**

2.1 The applicants shall submit via the platform filmfreeway a non-public link of the film for preselection (A secure/password protected link with download option to be available until the announcement of the preliminary selection results).

2.2 The deadlines and submission fees vary depending on the programme and submission date, as specified in this Regulation.

2.3 The festival reserves the right to provide discounted or total waiver codes to film or educational institutions or directors unable to pay the submission fees. Waivers are provided upon their request before the Drama Short Film Festival, and relevant Administration's decision.

2.4 Payment is due with submission. Once the submission is finalized, fees may not be refunded.

2.5 In case of selection the following should also be submitted by the **10<sup>th</sup> of June 2026, 14:00:**

- Completed submission entry form
- File for the screening
- English subtitles SRT
- Film's synopsis
- Two (2) photographs – stills of the film
- The declaration – license and guarantees of the author and / or producer of and / or rightholder over the film, as provided in Annex I hereof, signed.
- A photograph of the director.
- Director's CV and Filmography (international title and release year of each film).

2.6 The files submitted with the application form remain in the Festival Archive, as defined in term VII hereof. When submitting the application, the director/producer declares whether they wish the inclusion of the film in the Film Market, as defined in

term VIII hereof and in accordance with the specific terms to be notified to the applicants.

### **3. Screening material**

3.1 The DCP for the venue screening and the other material described below must be submitted or delivered to the offices of the Festival in Athens (Emm. Benaki 71, 10681 Athens) **by 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 14:00.**

The following material shall be submitted:

3.2.1 Digital Cinema Package (DCP) in one of the following acceptable formats:

- DCP subtitled in English or Greek for foreign-language films or
- Apple ProRes subtitled in English or Greek for foreign-language films or
- H264 subtitled in English or Greek for foreign-language films or
- MPEG4 subtitled in English or Greek for foreign-language films

3.2.2 For the online screening on the platform of the Festival are required:

- One (1) downloadable vimeo link
- A trailer of the film (up to 30'')
- A poster of the film in A4 format
- One (1) clean mp4 file of the final version of the film, accompanied by an English or a Greek subtitles file (srt) for foreign-language films, for the Film Market, as further defined in term VIII hereof.

3.2.3 Signed statements of final technical check by the technical manager of the film and the director.

### **4. Preliminary Round**

4.1 The films for the National Programme are selected by a Preliminary Committee headed by the Artistic Director or, (if he is prevented), his Deputy. For the other programmes, selection is carried out by a group of Selectors and/or the Head of the respective programme, appointed by the Board of the Cultural Organization upon the Artistic Director's or, (if he is prevented), his Deputy's proposal.

4.2 The members of the group of Selectors may be film professionals of various specialties, such as directors, cinematographers, editors, actors, critics, film theorists, film historians, journalists, film programme curators, who are well versed in the short film genre and international artistic developments and trends.

4.3 The Preliminary Committee, the Selectors, the Heads of the Programmes and the Artistic Director may, in their discretion, approve one or more films submitted to any Competition Programme, for participation in other Programmes, in accordance with the provisions of this Regulation provided that these films meet the general principles of the submitting and the corresponding Competition Programme and after the consent of the candidates has been obtained.

4.4 Once the films are selected, applicants shall be informed, by any appropriate means, including an email, whether their film has been selected or not. Applicants shall not disclose the decision and not make any relevant statement and/or publication on media, including social media until the official public announcement of the Festival.

## **5. Awards Committee - Jury**

5.1 Members of the Awards Committee are appointed by the Board of the Cultural Organization upon the Artistic Director's or, (if he is prevented), his Deputy's proposal. The Awards Committee consists of at least five (5) members in National Competition programme and at least three (3) members in the rest of the Competition Programmes. The nominated members of the Awards Committee shall be experts of cinema & the arts, filmmakers of various specialties, theorists, historians or film critics or come from the field of film education.

5.2 The Award Committee shall not include a person who has contributed to the creation, production or commercial exploitation of the films competing in the Festival or who has a relationship up to the second degree with a person who has contributed to the creation, production or commercial exploitation of a film competing in the programme.

5.3 For the decision of the DRAMA QUEER, STUDENT DRAMA QUEER, and SHORT & GREEN awards, a committee consisting of at least three (3) members of the competition programme committees is appointed.

5.4 All films in the Competition Programmes are eligible for the AUDIENCE award(s), which will be presented to the director.

5.5 The members of the Committees are not allowed to announce their discussions and decisions, before the official announcement of the results, nor to comment on the films that compete in the Festival outside their official meetings.

5.6 The Award Committee shall meet, necessarily in the presence of a representative of the Festival (secretary) and only when all members are present. In case of unforeseen circumstances, present members shall be more than absent.

5.7 Decisions shall be taken in an open vote and by an absolute majority of the Committee's members.

5.8 The final meeting of the Awards Committee must take place no later than at 8 am of the awards day.

5.9 The Awards Committee shall sign and submit to the Festival a report containing the results and votes (in favor and against, which are not made public by the Festival) for the awards and distinctions, the names of the members who participated and any absences or impediments to attendance of members are explicitly mentioned. The original minutes remain in the Secretariat of the Festival.

5.10 Any change in award or distinction after the dissolution of the meeting is not possible.

5.11 It is expressly provided that awards may not be shared.

5.12 In exceptional cases, the award committees may grant up to one honorable mention to each Competition Programme.

### III. COMPETITION SECTIONS

## **1. INTERNATIONAL DOCUMENTARY COMPETITION**

### **1.1 Film selection criteria**

1.1.1 The films shall be of the documentary genre and its hybrids.

1.1.2 The films shall be completed after January 1st of 2025.

1.1.3 Their duration should not exceed **thirty (30) minutes**, including opening and end credits. In exceptional cases, with a reasoned opinion of the Artistic Director and a decision of the Board, the Festival reserves the right to accept a longer film.

### **1.2 Deadline for application - Application Fee**

1.2.1 The application form and a digital copy of the film shall be submitted by **30 April, 2026** via the FilmFreeway platform ([www.filmfreeway.com](http://www.filmfreeway.com)). Upon its discretion, the Festival may announce the submission of application through other platforms.

1.2.2. For submissions up to the 20th of April, application fee amounts to eight (8) euros per film submitted, and for submissions from the 21st until the 30th of April application fee amounts to twelve (12) euros. Greek films can be submitted free of charge using a special waiver code provided by the Festival Office upon request.

### **1.3 Awards**

1.3.1 The following awards shall be attributed in the International Documentary Competition of the 2026 Drama Short Film Festival and will be accompanied by a cash prize or award, provided that sponsorships are secured and are to be announced by the Festival:

- BEST DOCUMENTARY FILM AWARD
- SPECIAL JURY PRIZE

1.3.2 The awards shall be awarded to the director of the film.

1.3.3 Films that have been declared by participants as being QUEER or GREEN in theme are also eligible for the DRAMA QUEER or SHORT & GREEN awards, respectively, which shall be awarded to the director.

1.3.4 It is expressly provided that awards may not be shared.

#### IV. "DRAMA FESTIVAL TRAVELS"

As part of its cultural outreach initiatives, the Festival organizes film screenings across various regions of Greece, with the aim of promoting filmmakers and their work.

In particular, in collaboration with cultural institutions, public organizations and legal entities under public and private law, the Festival promotes the screening in appropriate venues in Athens (a) of all films that will be submitted for participation in the National Competition Program and (b) the films that will be submitted for participation in the International Competition Program and will be awarded.

Furthermore, and for a period of fourteen months, i.e., from October 2026 to December 2027, the films that will be awarded in each category may be selected for screening by a network collaborating with the Festival (such as Cinema Clubs, Municipal Cinemas, Festivals, Cultural Organizations, Municipalities, Cultural Centers, Associations and Extraordinary Events).

The Cultural Organization will obtain a relevant written permission from the producer or their beneficiaries for the participation of the films in this action.

#### V. PRE-FESTIVAL AND OTHER EVENTS

The Festival may at its sole discretion support pre-festival events that will take place before the annual events during September and from March to the end of July. Parties that need the Festival's support or patronage may address their proposals including the subject, the content, the duration and the budget of such events, as well as a request towards the Organisation for the amount and type of support until the 7th April 2026. Such requests shall be reviewed by the Organisation.

Furthermore, the Festival may during the year organize educational programs and other events curated by the Artistic Director, in cooperation with Public or Private Entities. (e.g., residencies focused on developing various skills, delivered by professionals to small, selected groups, such as screenwriters, costume designers, and others).

#### VI. COPYRIGHT

The author and / or producer and / or rightsholder (hereinafter referred to as "Producer") declare that they hold all the copyrights required for the film to be submitted and to participate in the competition programs and the events of the Festival. The Producer shall submit, when applying, the relevant statement - provision of guarantees in printed or digital form, as provided in Annex I hereof, providing the necessary licenses.

It is possible that films submitted for participation in the Competition Programmes according to the present Regulation will be selected for non-competitive events of the

Festival, such as events for special occasions and / or events of other organizations - organizers. In case of selection of a film for participation in a non-competitive event, the Cultural Organization will obtain a relevant written permission from the Producer or their beneficiaries.

The Festival is permitted to broadcast snapshots and / or extracts of any work submitted for a duration not exceeding 2'59" by the Media and / or the internet for the promotion of the film and the Festival. The license for the aforementioned retransmission is valid for one (1) year from the final selection of the film.

## VII. ARCHIVE

Since its establishment, the Cultural Organization - Drama Short Film Festival has always conducted a mission of preservation, collection and classification of any document, work of art, audiovisual material and any other material or audio material of cultural creation. Furthermore, the Cultural Organization proceeds to the recording, indexing, classification and microphotography or digitization of the aforementioned files or media, in order to make them available to the public but also the operation of the departments and programs of the Legal Entity and the Municipality. Furthermore, the Cultural Organization creates, organizes and preserves archives that have a special historical value for the public, so that they can be used for study and research.

To this effect, each participant gives a free permission to the Cultural Organization for the perpetual storage, preservation, archiving and classification of the audiovisual work in the archive of the Cultural Organization. Participants also give a free permission to the Cultural Organization to make a copy of the work in any form, technologically known or not today, in order to ensure its preservation. The participant may revoke the relevant permission.

The Cultural Organization shall request for a permission from the participant/rightsholder or their legal beneficiaries, in order to include an audiovisual work in a special archive for study, research and/or other use, promotion or exploitation.

## VIII. FILM MARKET

As part of its objectives and in alignment with international practices in the field of audiovisual events, the Cultural Organization operates an online platform known as the Film Market. The primary goal of this platform is to facilitate communication between directors and producers, connecting them with distribution companies and television channels. The overarching purpose is to facilitate the purchase, distribution, and promotion of films not only within this festival but also at other international festivals. This initiative aims to foster interaction among professionals in the short film industry, thereby promoting their economic activities.

The Film Market encompasses all films submitted for participation in the competition sections of the Festival. Greek films, in particular, are allocated to a distinct category. It is important to note that the Festival reserves the right to categorize films at its discretion, and contributors may not receive prior notification of such categorization. The file submitted by the applicant shall be uploaded to the Film Market. In case of modification of the file, any interested party can send a request via email to [info@dramafilmfestival.gr](mailto:info@dramafilmfestival.gr)

In case of objection to the described upload to Film Market, the applicant shall send a request via email to [info@dramafilmfestival.gr](mailto:info@dramafilmfestival.gr)

#### **IX. RECEIVE AND RETURN OF FILM MATERIAL**

Hard drives and other hardware shall be sent in the Secretariat of the Festival, either in Drama or in Athens. Shipping costs for the participation and return of hardware shall be paid by the participants.

#### **X. PERSONAL DATA**

For the participation in the Festival, all personal data required in the application form shall be collected, namely:

- (a) the names of the director, the actors and all the contributors;
  - (b) the e-mail address of the applicant;
  - (c) a brief curriculum vitae of the director;
  - (d) a photograph of the director.
  - (e) contact details (email address and telephone number) of the producer and director
- The Cultural Organization may publish in the Media, on social media, in newspapers (print and digital) and all kinds of websites concerning cinema, in addition to information and data relating to the film, the names of the director, the actors and all the contributors, the C.V. of the director and the photograph of the director.

#### **Data Controller**

The data controller is the Legal Entity under Public Law named “Cultural Organization of the Drama Short Film Festival” of the Municipality of Drama, Greece, with its registered office at 218A Vergina Street, Drama, Tel.: +30 25210 47022, E-mail: [modd.gr@gmail.com](mailto:modd.gr@gmail.com).

The retention, and storage of personal data are governed by the personal data protection policy adopted in the context of the Cultural Organization of the Drama Short Film Festival operations and activities.

The Festival recognizes and respects the right of data subjects to the protection of their personal data, in accordance with European Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (“Regulation”), Law 4624/2019, and Law 3471/2006.



### **Data Protection Officer**

The Legal Entity under Public Law named “Cultural Organization of the Drama Short Film Festival” has appointed a Data Protection Officer, who is responsible for monitoring compliance with the Regulation, cooperating with the Personal Data Protection Authority (“Authority”) and acting as a point of contact with the Authority and data subjects.

The contact details of the Data Protection Officer are as follows:

Email: [dpo.modd@gmail.com](mailto:dpo.modd@gmail.com)

### **Rights of Data Subjects**

With regard to the protection of personal data, data subjects are entitled to the following rights:

1. right of access, i.e. the right to be informed whether personal data concerning the data subject are being processed,
2. right to rectification, i.e. the right to request the correction of inaccurate personal data,
3. right to erasure, i.e. the right to request the erasure of personal data concerning the data subject,
4. right to restriction of processing when the accuracy of the data is contested, is unlawful or for other reasons,
5. right to data portability, i.e. the right to request the receipt of data concerning the data subject in a structured, commonly used and machine-readable format, as well as to transmit such data to another data controller; and
6. right to object to the processing of the data subject's personal data, unless there are compelling and legitimate reasons for the processing that override the interests, rights, and freedoms of the data subject.

To exercise your rights, you can contact – free of charge – the Data Protection Officer of the LEPL under the name “Cultural Organization of the Drama Short Film Festival” by sending an email to [dpo.modd@gmail.com](mailto:dpo.modd@gmail.com) or by post to the address above.

When registering, participants must be informed in order to sign the documents relating to the protection of their personal data in accordance with the personal data protection policy of the Cultural Organization of the Drama Short Film Festival.

### **Right of complaint**

In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679, data subjects have the right, if they believe that their rights regarding the protection of their personal data have been violated, to lodge a complaint with the Hellenic Data Protection Authority (HDPA), based in Athens at 1–3 Kifissias Avenue, Postal Code 115 23. Complaints can be

submitted by telephone at +30 210 6475600, by fax at +30 210 6475628, or by email at [complaints@dpa.gr](mailto:complaints@dpa.gr).

#### XI. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

The screening program of films in each Competition Program shall be determined by the Head Programmers in collaboration with the Artistic Director of the Festival.

It is underlined that non-compliance with the set deadlines leads to exclusion from the procedure.

It is explicitly noted that all the dates and deadlines provided in this Regulation, including those mentioned for each competition programme are indicative for the Festival, which reserves the right to modify them. In case of any change, the Festival shall notify the public and all interested parties.

The Awards for each Programme may be modified and / or changed upon the recommendation of the Artistic Director.

It is explicitly noted that in case of force majeure, the Festival may be canceled or conducted only in digital form. General strike, natural disasters, civil unrest and emergency measures for the pandemic constitute cases of force majeure.

The President of the Festival is responsible for resolving any dispute that may arise as a result and during the implementation of this Regulation and makes every effort in order amicably settle any dispute in accordance with the principles of good faith and and fair practice.

In case of non-settlement, the dispute shall be subject to the mediation process, conducted by a Mediator registered in the Register of Certified Mediators maintained by the Ministry of Justice, Transparency and Human Rights. The seat of mediation will be Drama, in Greece, and the process will be conducted in Greek.

If the dispute is not settled through mediation within twenty (20) days from the beginning of the procedure, the Courts of Drama are solely responsible for the final settlement of the dispute arising from the application of this Regulation and the applicable law is Greek law.

**APPENDIX I**  
**DECLARATION – LICENSE-WARRANTY**

The undersigned..... child of ..... resident of..... on the street..... no..... VAT no..... Passport no....., by virtue of my capacity as “Producer” as defined in article VI of the present Regulation of the Festival posted on the page of the Festival [www.dramafilmfestival.gr](http://www.dramafilmfestival.gr) of the audiovisual work entitled (hereinafter the “Film”), grant a license for the public performance, screening, and / or presentation to the public of the Film in the cinematic and online screenings of Competition Programmes of the Drama Short Film Festival, as well as for the uploading and screening on the online platform under the name Film Market according to the Regulations of the Festival and the specific screening program that will be defined, without further compensation.

Furthermore, I unreservedly consent to the digitization and / or recording of the Film for the purposes of the Festival archive and the preservation of the copy in accordance with Article V of the Festival Regulations.

I also grant a license for the download and retransmission of snapshots and / or excerpts of the Film of a duration not exceeding 2’59” from Media and online for the promotion the Film, as well as the recording of the Film strictly for the Archive of the Festival.

I hereby, the undersigned, declare that the Film does not infringe the copyright or related rights of third parties and that I have obtained all necessary licenses from the authors and artistic or other contributors related to the submission, participation, and uses of the Film according to the Festival Regulations. In any case of such claims by third parties, I, the signatory, am obliged to compensate the Festival and to intervene in any lawsuits as a procedural guarantor.