GUIDELINES

OF THE INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILMS COMPETITION 2027

1. Can participate in the Competition every film and video from all over the world, made after January 1, 2025.

2. There is no theme for the competition. All genres are allowed: fiction, documentary, animation, experimentation and video clips.

3. Each author can participate with a maximum of two works.

4. Registration and participation in this Competition imply full acceptance of these guidelines in all its points.

Short film requirements

5. The works must have a maximum duration of 15 minutes (including credits) and a minimum streaming resolution of 1920x1080 pixels (Full HD).

6. Works containing materials that defame, discriminate or offend people, countries, minorities, religions and which are invasive of the privacy of others, abusive or otherwise harmful to human sensitivity and dignity will be excluded from the competition.

7. International works must attach, if unable to produce subtitles in Italian, a pdf or a word file, containing the transcript of the entire work in English; in the absence of this file the work will be excluded from the competition.

8. Works for which the participant does not hold the copyright will also be excluded from the Competition.

9. Failure to comply with even just one of these requirements will result in the work being excluded from the competition with the unquestionable verdict of the Organizational Committee.
Terms of participation

10. To participate in the competition, each author must use the FilmFreeway platform (https://filmfreeway.com/milazzofilmfestival). The due date for submission for the Competition is December 31th 2026. No exceptions are permitted. Each author is solely responsible for the material uploaded into the platform.

11. At the registration form on the FilmFreeway platform you will need to attach:

• a short bio-filmography of the author in word format;
• a photograph of the author;
• two or more photos of the short film (minimum short side 2000 px), the publication of which in the catalog and other MFF platforms is considered authorized and free of charge;
• the synopsis of the film in Italian and English of no more than 55 words in Word format.

12. Participation in the Competition includes a registration fee of €5.00 until November 20th 2026 (early deadline) and €10.00 until December 31st 2026 (regular deadline) to be paid on the registration web platform. The fee is not refundable under any circumstances.

Selection of works

13. The MFF organizing committee will view the short films submitted within the aforementioned deadline and select, at its sole discretion, those who will participate in the Competition. The selected works, provided they comply with the established standards, will be published on the website www.milazzofilmfestival.it in February 2027.

14. The authors of the selected works will be contacted via email. They must send to the MFF organizers within a mandatory deadline of 72 hours: A valid identity document and tax code; release clause and other forms required, which will be attached to the email sent to the selected authors, duly completed and signed; the short film file, to the email address indicated, through file transfer services or external online download links. Videos must be of the highest quality possible to ensure successful conversion and high-quality screening. The videos sent must have the following characteristics: – maximum size of 40 GB; – a minimum resolution of 1920x1080 (Full HD); – a video codec: Apple ProRes 422HQ or Apple ProRes 444 / H264/ DNxHD (minimum bitrate 30 Mbps); – preferred format: .mov / .mp4.

15. If not physically present on site during the awards ceremony, the authors must guarantee the organizers their availability to intervene live remotely via video call or a thank you video will be requested to be shown during the final awards ceremony. Award ceremony

16. The screening of the competing works will happen during the Milazzo Film Festival, which will take place in Milazzo (province of Messina, Italy) in March/April 2027.

17. The MFF2027 organizing committee will appoint a qualified Jury that will award the following prizes:

• “Scarabeo d’Argento” award for best short film.
• “Polifemo” Award for the best short film made by a Sicilian Author. Furthermore, the following will be awarded:
• “L’Ottava Isola” award assigned by the MFF organizing committee.
• “DepaGroup” award, awarded to the best short film on the theme of well-being and health of elderly people.
• “The dignity of work” award, awarded to the best short film made by authors under 35, on the theme of work and safety at work. We intend with this award to enhance the works, created by young directors, who address in a modern and effective way all the aspects of worklife and, in particular, all the dynamics that can reveal the sustainability of the same, both in environmental and safety terms and in terms of quality, democracy and accessibility for people with disabilities.
• “Posidonia” Award. This section of the short film competition will be created in collaboration with the AMP Capo Milazzo and will have the sea as its sole protagonist, as an environmental heritage and principle of life, a source of health and well-being, a place of commitment and work for millions of people. The works that will be submitted in this section of the competition must

have the same technical characteristics and duration as all the other works in the Milazzo Film Festival 2026 Competition. When registering the work, the author must specify that the short film will participate in this section of the competition. The works selected by the MFF Organizational Committee will enter the final phase and will be screened in a special evening organized in collaboration with the AMP Capo Milazzo. A special jury will decide the winner.

18. The organizing committee reserves the right to establish further prizes or special mentions during the selection of the works.

19. Travel, food and accommodation fees in Milazzo for the award-winning authors, their companions and/or their representatives are not covered by the Festival organization. However, there are discount agreements with some structures on site.

Declarations and authorizations

20. Registration and participation in the International Short Film Competition - MFF imply full acceptance of these guidelines in all its points. In particular, by agreeing with the guidelines:

• the author and/or production authorize the publication of their personal information online and its distribution to the press for promotional purposes. All personal information put in the application form and on the online submission platform will be used in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 relating to the protection of physical people with regard to the processing of personal information, as well as the free distribution of such informations, according to the legislation on the use of personal informations (Legislative Decree 196/2003). The information provided will not be used or shared with anyone for commercial purposes. The information provided will be used exclusively for organizational purposes of the MFF and the Association. They may be provided to organizers of other film festivals or events. For further information, consult the complete Privacy Policy available on the website www.milazzofilmfestival.it/privacy-policy/.
• the author and/or the production declare that the short film does not infringe the rights of third parties, as expressed by law 633/1941 and subsequent amendments (copyright) and does not contain defamatory content. The author is the legal representative, both in civil and criminal matters, of the film presented, and is responsible for violations of the intellectual property rights of the artistic contents of others, present or mentioned, in whole or in part, in the short film presented. The author must own the intellectual property rights, or have proprietary rights under license on the film presented as well as on the additional material complementary to the film sent to the organizers. The author also certifies that all images and commercial logos used in the film are entirely original or that he has obtained any consent, release, license and other authorizations or exemptions of any kind necessary for their inclusion or reproduction in the film.
• the authors and/or productions of the selected short films authorize the public screening of the short films in non-profit events connected to the MFF, without demanding payment. By entering a short film in the International Short Film Competition - MFF, the author allows the promotion of the same on his behalf, the organization of multiple screenings, both public and private, without any violation of copyright; Furthermore, it allows the free use of the short film and its screening in its entirety or part of it or of any trailer during the MFF and other cultural events promoted by the

“L'Altra Milazzo” Association, together with the publication of the submitted texts and images relating to the short on MFF publications, on its website and on MFF social media pages.
• The material sent by the authors will not be returned and all the submitted shorts in the International Short Film Competition - MFF will become part of the MFF archive, where they will be stored in offline mode, classified and made available for the exclusive use of the organizers; copies may be kept on digital media, even after the end of the Festival, for the sole purpose of sharing culture or for educational purposes in events connected to the Festival and for an unlimited number of times. Disputes, additions and modifications

21. The MFF organizing committee has the right to resolve all cases not covered by these guidelines, as well as to deviate from the guidelines itself in particular and well-motivated cases. For any possible dispute on the interpretation of the individual articles of the regulation, the original text written in Italian will prevail.

22. For any cases and/or disputes not covered by these guidelines, the MFF organizational committee is responsible and reserves the right to make, if necessary, any changes to these guidelines without prior notice. Any changes will be made known, once applied, on the official Festival website.

23. The organization reserves the right to change the dates of the festival in case of extraordinary needs. For further information you can visit the website www.milazzofilmfestival.it or contact the email address: concorti@milazzofilmfestival.it.