



**FESTA
DEL CINEMA
DI ROMA**

21a FESTA DEL CINEMA DI ROMA

21st ROMEFILMFEST

Rome, October 14 – 25, 2026

ORGANISATION

The 21st edition of the **Rome Film Fest** is organised by the **Fondazione Cinema per Roma** and will take place at the Auditorium Parco della Musica and other venues in Rome **from the 14th to the 25th of October 2026**.

The Festa del Cinema is officially recognised by the Fédération Internationale des Associations de Producteurs de Films (FIAPF) as a specialised competitive film festival.

The Fondazione Cinema per Roma is also one of the partners of the **MIA|Market, the International Audio-visual Market** according to its own regulations (<https://www.miamarket.it/it/>)

RoFF REGULATIONS 2026

The Festa del Cinema aims to promote the knowledge and dissemination of national and international cinema in all forms and expressions (fiction, documentaries, animation, without distinction within the various sections), favouring the experience of viewing in a Theatre and the circulation of ideas and opinions among spectators and professionals. It also promotes, through Restorations, Homages and Retrospectives, indispensable knowledge of the history of cinema, and intends to valorise, through collective viewing on the big screen, the variety of formats inherent to the contemporary audio visual world (streaming and television series, video clips, video art).

As well as the sections mentioned below, The Fest will also host events and Special Screenings.

1. OFFICIAL SELECTION

1.1 PROGRESSIVE CINEMA – *Visions of Today for the World of Tomorrow*

A specialised international competition with a maximum of 18 titles, both national and international, with no distinction between fiction, documentary and animated films. Present inspirational storytelling and prospective point of views to encourage and entice curiosity from our audiences; with a focus on directions towards the future.

A selection on the move, mindful of the past, yet reaching to catch new tendencies and speculate on what may come next.

Priority is given to films with international premieres. For Italian titles, a European premiere in the Fest is mandatory.

1.2 FREESTYLE

Non-competitive section consisting of around 15 titles of free format and style, ranging from TV series/streaming to video clips, from films to advertising shorts and video art. Priority is given to international premieres. For Italian proposals, a European premiere is absolutely required. For international films and series, an Italian premiere in the Fest is mandatory.

Prodotto da

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1.3 GRAND PUBLIC

A non-competitive section devoted to cinema for a wider audience, to be screened in prime time or on weekday afternoons, for a total of around 15 titles. Priority is given to films with international premieres. For Italian titles, a European premiere in the Fest is mandatory.

1.4 BEST OF 2026

A non-competitive section composed of "the Best Of" 10 titles approximately, from other international festivals. An Italian premiere in the Fest is strictly required.

1.5 RESTORATIONS, TRIBUTES AND RETROSPECTIVES

An essential contribution to the Festival's overall offer to broaden and enhance knowledge of film history.

ENCOUNTERS will take place in two special sections:

1.6 PASO DOBLE

Two authors come face to face in a dialogue on cinema.

1.7 ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS

Debuts that changed the history of cinema, as discussed by the authors who made them.

2. JURY

The Festival's Directors will have the sole charge of appointing 5 jury members who are professionals in the fields of Cinema and the Arts who will award prizes in the competitive section of Progressive Cinema. The Fest will also award a People's Choice Audience Award as well as two transversal prizes.

3. AWARDS

3.1 Progressive Cinema - Visions of Today for the World of Tomorrow

- Best Film
- Jury Grand Prix
- Best Director
- Best Screenplay
- Best Actress
- Best Actor
- Special Jury Prize, proposed by the President, to be chosen in one of the following categories: photography, editing and original soundtrack or any other category chosen by the Jury.

Best First Feature Award - across all sections.

Best Documentary Award - across all sections.

Audience Award to the best film in Competition assigned by the audience on the basis of the highest number of preference votes.

Lifetime Achievement Awards: a maximum of three awards to be proposed by the Artistic Director.



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Prizes do not include ex aequo.

In non-specific categories, they are awarded to the director.

Award Visibility

The producers and distributors strictly undertake to highlight the mention of the award received, with the logo of the Rome Film Festival, in all areas of circulation and communication of the film.

4. SELECTION PROCESS

The Festival Director shall be assisted by a committee of experts in the selection of the proposed works.

The selection shall be made by and at the sole discretion of the Festival Director.

All works submitted must have been completed after November 1st 2025.

Priority is given to films with an international premiere, unpublished in the countries of the European Union or shown to the public only in their countries of origin.

Works already screened in Italy in any mode, medium, form of diffusion are excluded from participation in any section, except Encounters, Retrospectives and Tributes. At the discretion of the Artistic Director, exceptions to the above conditions of admission are only possible in exceptional cases.

5. PROJECTION FORMATS OF PRESELECTED FILMS

To participate in the pre-selection of films:

The film files (min. MPEG 2 – 720x576 4Mbps) may be uploaded on the Starbase platform, on or before **July 30th 2026**. Should you choose to use a different streaming platform you are kindly asked to follow the instructions in this regard on the pre-selection entry form online (the film must be available for viewing maintaining the same password through October 1st);

Alternatively:

- You may send a Blu-ray Disc or DCP of the film to the Rome Film Fest headquarters on or before **July 30th 2026**

The method you use to send the film must be specified, selecting the option you have chosen on the pre-selection entry form.

6. SELECTION PROCEDURES

The Director of the Fest will be assisted in the selection of the works by a Committee composed of consultants and experts in international cinema.

7. FILM REGISTRATION

7.1 Legal representative for the film

The person who registers the film takes responsibility for being the legal representative authorized by everyone who holds rights to the film. The declaration by the person who signs the registration form therefore exempts the Fondazione from the need to verify whether this person is legally entitled to register the film considering this fact to be ascertained, and releasing the Fondazione from every responsibility in the matter.



7.2 Final deadline for registration of films

Only films uploaded, with a link or posted to the Rome Film Fest headquarters and postmarked on or before **July 30th 2026** will be considered for selection.

7.3 Registration fees

Each film registered in the pre-selection process of the Fest must pay a registration fee to cover administrative costs, which must be paid before the film is shipped. Should the registered film not be shipped to the address of the Fest, this fee will not be refunded. In no event, even if the Fest does not take place (i.e. due to Covid-19), can the registration fee be returned

EARLY BIRD

Until May 31st the registration fee is in the amount of:

- 60 euro: for films registered by uploading the video file using the Starbase platform, or for those who choose to specify a link to an independent platform on the preselection form;
- 100 euro: for films registered by shipping a DCP or Blu-Ray Disc.

REGULAR SUBMISSION

From June 1st to July 30th

- 80 euro: for films registered by uploading the video file using the Starbase platform, or for those who choose to specify a link to an independent platform on the preselection form;
- 150 euro: for films registered by shipping a DCP or Blu-Ray Disc.

The registration fee must be paid online by credit card, at the end of the registration process for the film. Any other form of payment must be arranged by special request, to be sent to the following email address: filmpayment@romacinemafest.org.

The costs of pre-selection screenings organized far from the main venue (Rome), as well as the shipment costs for the film copies, must be borne by the participants. Any exceptions to these conditions for submission must be agreed upon by the Direction of the Rome Film Fest.

7.4 Copies, materials and subtitles to be sent for the preselection process

In order to be considered for selection, the film's submitter must, no later than **July 30th 2026**

- a) Fill out the pre-selection entry form online exclusively on the Fest website at www.romacinemafest.org;
- b) Send a copy of the film in one of the formats listed

The Festival is under no obligation to return works submitted for the pre-selection process in any format. All works must be subtitled if the original language is not in Italian or English.



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All materials (work in progress) and films may become part of the Fest archives, for documentation and research purposes only, and would not be used for commercial purposes, to protect the interests of filmmakers and producers. Authorisation for such a deposit will be requested to the producer or his/her/their representative.

8. INVITED FILMS

8.1 Entry form

Films invited to participate in the Fest will receive an entry form that must be duly completed and returned within five days of receiving the invitation. Receipt of the entry form by the Cinema Office implies the legal acceptance of the invitation by all concerned, and will be considered definitive and irrevocable.

8.2 Program

The invitation of a film must remain absolutely confidential until the line-up has been officially announced by the Direction of the Rome Film Fest. Failure to comply will result in exclusion from the selection.

Programming and scheduling of the screenings are at the sole discretion of the Artistic Director.

Acceptance of the invitation by the persons submitting the film entails the commitment to allow up to five screenings of the film free of charge and to not withdraw the film once the invitation has been accepted.

Moreover, any additional screenings may be requested in Theatres, subject to the specific authorisation from the producer or his/her representative.

Winning films will be screened on the last day of the Festival.

In cases of force majeure the Artistic Direction reserves the right to present options to deliver the program, either through streaming technologies (online platform) or in any other forms and screening methods.

8.3 Waiver Agreement

The Rome Film Fest is open to the public. The Rome Film Fest is also attended by accredited professionals and accredited journalists from the Italian and international press. All participants and/or guests of the Fest acknowledge that accredited television channels and other media partners will cover the Rome Film Fest for television and radio. By agreeing to take part in the Fest, all participants relinquish, free of charge, their broadcasting rights to any filmed footage and recorded audio, allowing the media partners to make such use of the above materials as they see fit.

8.4 Film copies

The owners of the invited films must send the following materials at their own expense **no later than Friday, October 2nd 2026:**

2 DCPs in the original version (one for the screening and one back-up copy) **Italian language films must include English subtitles in the DCP, English language films must include in the DCP Italian subtitles.**



Films whose original version is in a language other than Italian or English must include subtitles in one of these two languages in the DCP. Presenters will be required to provide the necessary materials for electronic subtitling in the other language, namely: a list of dialogues in the original version, .srt or .xml subtitle files in English (for films not in English), and a link for downloading the film screener, which must conform to the screening copy in terms of editing, duration, and framerate.

Furthermore, exclusively for the Rome Film Fest's internal use, the owners of the invited films are requested to:

- upload an MP4 file (Codec H.264 – 720p – audio format AAC-LC, Stereo) with English subtitles to our online platform;
- **OR** 1 Blu-ray Disc in the original version with English subtitles;
- send the list of subtitles with time codes.

All subtitling costs are at the expense of the submitters of the film – any off-screen subtitles MUST be coordinated with the festival and will be at the charge of the submitter.

Fondazione Cinema per Roma shares the objectives of national regulations on inclusion and accessibility for those with audiovisual disabilities.

Therefore, to ensure the widest possible accessibility of screenings for all viewers, the presenters of Italian films invited to the Festival must provide subtitles and audio descriptions compatible with apps designed to eliminate sensory barriers.

8.5 Technical Specifications

Copies of films sent in the Digital Cinema Package format (DCP) must strictly comply with DCI directives and be recorded on hard-disks (with SATA interface for ingest – CRU) in NTFS –EXT2 - EXT3 formats only.

If the DCP is protected by KDM, the opening of the same is requested from the date of shipment of the copy to October 25th, for all servers that will be specified by the Rome Film Fest technicians.

Alternatively, the DCPs can be sent via Internet through dedicated platforms (i.e. Aspera or Mediashuttle), at the expense of the submitters.

The Direction reserves the right to refuse copies that, after testing them for quality control (TQC – Technical Quality Check), the Film Fest technicians deem to be of unsatisfactory quality for a public screening.

In order to ensure the quality check for all the films it is necessary to receive the copies and the relative opening of the KDM for the encrypted DCPs, strictly by Friday, October 2nd 2026:

The submitters of invited films must arrange for the return of the copies with the Cinema Office, so that they may be shipped, at the expense of the submitters, on or before November 6th, 2026. Beyond that date redelivery is not guaranteed.

Any other technical and IT specifications will be provided by the Prints Office at the time of contact with the submitters.



8.6 Catalogue

All materials required for the publication of the official catalogue of the Film Fest (synopsis, cast and crew credits, biography and complete filmography of the director, photographs of director and actors and stills from the film in b/w and colour, as well as a brief director's statement on the film) must be received at the Fest headquarters as soon as possible, and in any case **no later than September 4th 2026**. They must be clearly labelled "Materials for catalogue" to publications@romacinemafest.org

8.7 Press material

The owners of the invited film must send to the Rome Film Fest press office (press@romacinemafest.org), **on or before September 4th 2026**, all the material necessary to promote the film (digital press book, links from which to download the trailer and film clips, contacts for the international and Italian press agent or a liaison to communicate to the press, any further printed material, etc.) following the instructions that will be attached to the film's invitation. All publicity and promotional material must mandatorily include the words "Film selected for the 21st Rome Film Fest". All shipping costs for these materials (including any customs charges) must be borne by the sender. The costs for returning any materials will be at the expense of the sender. If no specific request for the return of the materials is sent to the address press@romacinemafest.org, all materials will be disposed of as of November 6th 2026.

8.8 Official Logo

After the Festival has officially announced its line-up, film submitters shall explicitly guarantee that all forms of promotional activity mention the participation in the 21st Edition of the Rome Film Fest, with the official logo designed and supplied by the Fondazione Cinema per Roma. The producers and distributors of the films presented at the Rome Film Fest pledge to include the official logo of the Fest on the promotional materials to support the release of the film in theatres (posters, trailers, materials for the social media and the web) and, when the film is released in theatres and/or any other release it may have, a notice announcing the participation of the film at the Rome Film Fest, and if the film won an award, stating which award was won, using the official graphics designed and provided by the Fondazione Cinema per Roma.

The complete and definitive graphic design of the above-mentioned materials must be submitted for verification and approval to the Fest Communication Office at: s.parpaglioni@romacinemafest.org, communication@romacinemafest.org)

9. SHIPPING AND INSURANCE

9. 9.1 Shipping costs & digi-delivery costs

Costs related to the round-trip transportation of films on physical media (whether for pre-selection or selected) from their place of origin to the venue of the Film Festival are the responsibility of the presenters (including all customs operations for arrivals from non-EU countries). Additionally, the costs of digital transmission of DCPs remain the responsibility of the presenters/submitters.



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9.2 Addresses

9.2.1 Film pre-selection phase

Copies of films and all materials requested for selection must be sent by courier or by post directly to the Fest at its official headquarters:

Festa del Cinema di Roma
Ufficio Cinema
Fondazione Cinema per Roma
Piazzale Cardinal Consalvi, 9
00196 Roma

9.2.2 Invited films

Copies of the selected films, sent by courier, must be sent by the submitters as instructed, once the film is invited, by the Print Traffic of Rome Film Fest
Tel. +39 06 40401772/773 e-mail: prints@romacinemafest.org

9.3 Shipping of promotional material

All costs related to the transport of publicity, promotional and photographic material for the films, from the place of origin to the offices of the Fondazione Cinema per Roma - including all customs charges for materials sent from outside the European Union - must be borne by the film submitters. At the end of the Fest, for the return of unused promotional material, all requests must be addressed to the Rome Film Fest Press Office (press@romacinemafest.org), **no later than October 30th 2026**

9.4 Shipping Insurance

All insurance costs covering the transport of films and press material to and from the Fest will be borne by the submitters.

9.5 Insurance at the Fest

The Fondazione Cinema per Roma provides "fully-comprehensive risk" insurance for the entire period of the Fest. The insurance value of a film may not exceed the average laboratory costs for a standard copy.

9.6 Anti-piracy

Furthermore, for the entire duration of the Fest, the Fondazione Cinema per Roma shall adopt all anti-piracy measures in effect at the major international film festivals to protect authors' rights for the works entrusted to the Fest.

10. GENERAL RULES

Participation in the Fest automatically entails observance of the present regulations. Producers, distributors or other parties who submit films must guarantee that they are legally authorized to register the film in the Rome Film Fest.

The Director of the Fest reserves the right to settle any cases not covered by the present regulations and in turn, make exceptions to the Regulations in special, well-motivated cases. Should any dispute arise regarding the interpretation of any article of these regulations, the original Italian version is binding.

The Rome Film Fest is strongly against any form of discrimination and continues to be committed to promoting social justice, equality and human rights through Cinema.



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