



## Regulations of the 39<sup>th</sup> Warsaw Film Festival, 6-15 October, 2023

### 1. ORGANISATION, AIMS, DATES

The Warsaw Film Festival (WFF) is organised by the Warsaw Film Foundation in Warsaw, Poland. Its aim is to present the best films from all over the world to Polish and international audience, and to improve communication and understanding between people living in different countries and of different cultural backgrounds. WFF is accredited by FIAPF ([www.fiapf.org](http://www.fiapf.org)) as a competitive non-specialized film festival. At WFF we present films made to be screened at cinemas.

The 39<sup>th</sup> Warsaw Film Festival will take place October 6-15, 2023.

### 2. SECTIONS

The Festival programme is divided into the following sections:

**2.1. International Competition** – for feature films (over 60 min) from all over the world. World, International and European Premieres.

**2.2. Competition 1-2** – for first and second feature films (over 60 min) by the directors from all over the world. World, International and European premieres.

**2.3. Crème de la Crème Competition** - for fiction feature films (over 60 min), which have already been presented and/or Awarded at other events. Polish premieres at the least.

**2.4. Free Spirit Competition** – for independent, innovative, rebellious feature length (over 60 min) fiction and documentary films from all over the world. Eastern European premieres at the least.

**2.5. Documentary Competition** – for feature length (over 60 min) documentaries from all over the world. Eastern European premieres at the least.

**2.6. Short Films Competition** – for narrative, documentary and animated short (40 min or less) films from all over the world. Academy Awards® eligible. World, European and International premieres.

**2.7. Special Screenings** – for feature length (over 60 min) fiction and documentary films from all over the world. Non-competitive section. Polish premieres at the least.

**2.8. Family Cinema Weekend** – for feature length and short films from all over the world, for children and their parents. Non-competitive section, non-restricted film length. Polish premieres required.

**2.9. The Best Shorts from Poland 2023** – for selected Polish short films (60 min or less) from 2023. Non-competitive section.

### 3. ELIGIBILITY

Except in special circumstances, accepted by the festival director, only films meeting the following criteria can be presented at the Warsaw Film Festival.

3.1 Eligible for programme consideration are:

a/ for competitive sections - films which had their first public screening on or after January 1, 2023;

b/ Polish films which have not been presented during any motion picture event in Poland; the only acceptable exceptions are: Polish feature films presented at the current (2023) edition of Gdynia Film Festival and films entering The Best Shorts from Poland section, which may be presented at other film events in Poland and abroad;

c/ films which have not been distributed or exhibited in Poland or broadcast on TV stations which are available in Poland;

d/ films which have not been previously shown on the Internet;

3.2 For Submitting a film, a fee is required:

Entry fee from April 1st to July 15th:

35 Euro – submission of a feature length film

15 Euro – submission of a short film

Entry fee from July 16th to July 30th:

50 Euro – submission of a feature length film

25 Euro – submission of a short film

In case the current edition of the Festival is postponed or cancelled, the organisers will automatically invite the qualified film to the next edition of the Festival. The right holders, who do not agree to that, are entitled for the submission fee refund, if they notify the organisers within four weeks after the postponement / cancellation is announced.

3.3 Acceptable screening format\*:

DCP (Digital Cinema Package): 2K/jpeg2000/mxf, 24 fps, 25 fps

IMPORTANT: if the DCP is encrypted, the rights owner is obliged to:

- issuing KDM for tests (valid for at least 7 days, starting on the day in which the Festival receives the DCP)
- issuing KDM valid for the entire duration of the festival;

\*this refers to screening in cinemas, not submitting the film (see point 4.2)

3.4 World, international, and European premieres have priority.

## 4. SELECTION

4.1. The Director of the Festival invites the films participating in the Festival.

4.2. Films will be accepted for selection only if submitted before the deadline with an online screener or a DVD or a USB, with English subtitles (if the language of dialogues is not English or Polish).

4.3. DVDs remaining in Poland will be destroyed six months after the end of the festival.

## 5. DEADLINES / IMPORTANT DATES

April 1 – film submissions open

July 31 – deadline for film submission

September 14 – sending the selection results information to the entrants;

September 14 at noon - WFF press conference, full programme announced

September 20 – deadline for delivery of screening materials to the Festival Office

October 6-15 — Festival dates

October 12-15 – CentEast Market, the industry part of the Warsaw Film Festival

Saturday, October 14 – Awards Ceremony, usually held in the afternoon at 16:30 hours

Sunday, October 15 – screenings of awarded films

November 6 – film prints returned (at the latest; please mind 9.4 for details).

## 6. PUBLICITY MATERIALS, LANGUAGE VERSIONS AND SUBTITLES

6.1. All films will be screened in their original languages with English subtitles, except for films with dialogues in English. The English subtitles are obligatory for Polish films.

6.2. Polish Distributors must provide the prints of foreign films with Polish subtitles at their own expense.

6.3. If the film does not have a Polish Distributor, the Festival Organisers will provide electronic subtitles (under the screen) in the Polish language at their own expense.

6.4. Polish films presented at the WFF must be subtitled in English at the expense of the Producer. The English subtitled print needs to be delivered by the producer(s) to the festival office.

6.5 The Festival does not hold rights to the dialogue lists translations.

6.6. Once the film is confirmed in Warsaw Film Festival programme, the right owners agree to provide the materials required for translating purposes, the festival website information and festival catalogue in due time.

6.7. The Festival reserves the right to publish either on the website or in the catalogue only the information that was duly submitted.

## 7. SCREENINGS

7.1. Each film will be presented to the audience no more than five times, including press and industry screenings.

7.2. In case the film wins an award, the organisers may run one extra screening on the last day of the festival.

7.3. During the Festival no public screening of any of the films participating is permitted before the official screening, organised by the Festival.

## 8. JURIES, AWARDS

The Juries and their Presidents are appointed by the Festival Director, who has the right to attend the jury proceedings, but does not take part in the voting. The decisions of the Juries are taken by open ballot, with simple majority. Persons who have any connection with films presented in the competition cannot be on the Jury.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION regarding cash awards:

a/ payments will be made by bank transfer only; the winners are requested to provide us with their banking details;

b/ the entire sum of prize money will be transferred to one account of the winner;

8.1. International Competition awards:

a/ the main award – Warsaw Grand Prix, funded by the Mayor of Warsaw

The financial part of the award: 100,000 zlotys\*). The award goes to the Director (or Directors). There can be only one winner of the Grand Prix (no ex aequo).

b/ Best Director

The financial part of the award: 10.000 zlotys\*). The award goes to the Director (Directors).

c/ Special Jury Award

The financial part of the award: 5.000 zlotys\*). The award can be given to an actor, composer, editor, director of photography, producer, scriptwriter or set designer.

There can be only one winner of each of the awards in the International Competition (no ex aequo).

8.2. Awards in Competition 1-2:

Winner of Competition 1-2

The financial part of the award: 10.000 zlotys\*). The award goes to the Director (Directors). There can be only one winner of the Competition 1-2 (no ex aequo).

8.3. Free Spirit Competition award:

Free Spirit Award

The financial part of the award: 5.000 zlotys\*). The award goes to the Director (Directors). There can be only one winner of the Free Spirit Competition (no ex aequo).

8.4. Documentary Competition award:

Best Documentary Award

The financial part of the award: 5,000 zlotys\*). The award goes to the Director(s). There can be only one winner of the Documentary Competition (no ex aequo).

8.5. Short Films Competition:

a/ Grand Prix

The financial part of the award: 2,000 zlotys\*). The award goes to the Director(s) of the winning film. There can be only one winner of the Grand Prix (no ex aequo).

b/ Best Animated Short Film Award

The financial part of the award: 1,000 zlotys\*). The award goes to the Director(s) of the winning film.

#### c/ Best Live Action Short Film Award

The financial part of the award: 1,000 zlotys\*). The award goes to the Director(s) of the winning film.

#### d/ Best Documentary Short Film Award

The financial part of the award: 1,000 zlotys\*). The award goes to the Director(s) of the winning film.

Please note that if there will be less than 4 films in a given category (live action, documentary or animation), the award in that category will not be given.

#### 8.6. Crème de la Crème Competition Winner

No cash.

8.7. The Audience Award: The audience votes for the best film from any section of the Festival. The winner gets the Audience Award. No financial part of this award.

\*) all financial awards are subject to tax, to be paid in Poland, according to the Polish Law; for current exchange rates please consult [www.nbp.pl](http://www.nbp.pl);

#### 9. TRANSPORT AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRINTS

9.1. The prints should reach the Festival Office in Warsaw (in accordance with Shipping Instructions) by September 25th at the latest.

9.1.a. Early ingests will only be considered if requested by September 15.

9.1.b. For short films – online transfer of the screening material is preferred to the regular shipment, and most welcome.

9.2. Polish Producers and Distributors deliver and collect the prints to the Festival Office at their own expense.

9.3. For films without Polish Distributor, the cost of prints' transportation, if not agreed otherwise, is covered by WFF:

a/ to and from Poland, if the print is transported from and to the lending company (Producer/Sales Agent);

b/ one way (to Poland only), if the print is transported along a chain of festivals.

c/ in case the print is delivered on a USB Stick it will not be returned.

9.4. Prints will be returned/shipped forward by November 6th if the Festival is informed of the outbound address at least 2 business days before the date, on which the outbound shipment is requested. If the Festival does not receive the outbound address information by November 4th, the prints will be shipped out within a month after receiving outbound instructions. If the Festival does not receive outbound instructions by December 18th the prints will not be returned (will be destroyed).

9.5. The Festival is responsible for the prints from the moment of pick-up from the shipper (when importing) to the moment of giving them to the shipper (when returning/exporting). The Festival's responsibility for damage or loss of the print is limited to the cost of making a new print according to the present laboratory rate for making a standard print. The festival's liability in case of whole or partial destruction of a print during the festival cannot exceed the value of 3.500 Euro.

9.6. Damage to the film print must be reported to the Festival Office in writing within one month of its return and before the following screening. All claims will be judged by the reported state of the print.

## 10. OTHER ISSUES

10.1. Participation in the Festival implies acceptance of the Festival regulations.

10.2. Once the invitation has been accepted, the invited film cannot be withdrawn from the Festival programme.

10.3. Participation in Warsaw Film Festival automatically entails observance of these Regulations. Producers, distributors, sales agents or other parties who submit films to the Festival must guarantee to be legally authorised to do so.

10.4. The Director of the festival reserves the right to determine any cases not covered by the Regulations herein and may make exceptions to the Regulations in justified, well motivated cases.

10.5. In case of any dispute regarding the interpretation of any article contained in these Regulations, the original Polish version will be considered binding.

WFF office address (mail & couriers): Warsaw Film Festival, ul. Lwowska 11/11, 00-660 Warszawa, Poland

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