



REGULATIONS FOR ALL SHORT FILMS

The **2026** Strasbourg European Fantastic Film Festival will be held from **25 September to 4 October**. It is organised by Les Films du Spectre, a non-profit making association dedicated to genre film.

The Festival hosts 5 sections for short films: 4 competitive and 1 non-competitive. Descriptions and submission criteria are laid out below.

1. The International Competition

Screens fantastic short films, widely-defined as fantasy, sci-fi, horror, and films with elements of surrealism, magic realism, etc.

Prizes: the Golden Octopus, the Audience Award

2. International Animated Film Competition

Screens fantastic animated short films, widely-defined as fantasy, sci-fi, horror, and films with elements of surrealism, magic realism, etc.

Prize: Best Animated Short-Film Award

3. Made in France Competition

Screens French productions of fantastic films, widely-defined as fantasy, sci-fi, horror, and films with elements of surrealism, magic realism, etc.

Prize: Best Short Film Made-in-France

Films in this section must be of French origine, defined as follows:

- if the director is not a French national, the financing must be entirely French;
- if the director is a French national, then a French co-production, with one or two other countries can be considered.

Note that there will be a Student Jury Prize for the three above sections combined.

4. The Silver Méliès Competition for European Fantastic Short films

Screens fantastic films, widely-defined as fantasy, sci-fi, horror, and films with elements of surrealism, magic realism, etc.

Prize: Silver Méliès for the Best European Fantastic Short Film

This competition is open to European films only. It is organised by the Méliès International Festivals Federation (MIFF, <https://melies.org>), represented in France by the Strasbourg European Fantastic Film Festival. The Strasbourg winner of the Silver Méliès will automatically compete for the Golden Méliès competition, held annual at the Sitges International Fantastic Films Festival, held in Sitges, Spain. A European film is defined as follows:

- if the director is not a European national, the financing must be entirely European. The languages and settings of the film are not taken into account;
- if the director is a European national, part of the funding must be European.



The Strasbourg European Fantastic Film Festival

Europe refers to the “Member States” of the Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights. See <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/members-states>

5. **Midnight Shorts (non-competitive)**

Screens horror, fun gore, over-the tops and disturbing films of a darker kind.

Selection criteria: All short films must:

- have been completed within 24 months prior to the start of the Festival;
- not exceed 30 minutes (25 minutes for Méliès films);
- be in the original language version, subtitled in either French or English.

Submission information for all short-film sections

Deadline: Films must be submitted **from 15 February to 7 June, inclusive** (late comers will be handled individually.)

Fees: The submission fee for shorts is €20 (twenty euros). Films should be submitted on the platform Festhome (festhome.com/festival/feffs) or on the platform FilmFreeway (filmfreeway.com/festival-feffs).

Selection committee: The committee will determine the section in which films will be screened.

Promotional and translation materials: Once agreement is reached on a selected film, you will be asked to provide the following:

- a selection of HD stills (pdf, jpg, tiff) preferably in landscape;
- a poster of the film in HD, preferably in portrait format (pdf, jpg, tiff);
- a press kit in English or French;
- a trailer, with English or French subtitles, if available;
- a dialogue list and a downloadable file of the film for the translator;
- photo and bio of the director;
- a visa number, if available.

Transport: The Festival will cover round-trip transport; however, if the film is to be sent to another festival or organisation, we will cover inbound transport only.

Agreement: Once agreement is reached, films may not be withdrawn. The rights-holders of the selected films authorise its screening at the Strasbourg European Fantastic Film Festival.

By submitting a film to the Festival, the rights-holders certify that they hold all authorisations to distribute the images and music contained in the film.

