

65th THESSALONIKI INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

REGULATIONS

ARTICLE 1: The Thessaloniki Film Festival, a non-profit Legal Entity under Private Law (hereinafter referred to as “The Festival”), in the context of its object of promoting the art of cinema and supporting Greek film domestically and abroad, and in accordance with the provisions of Law 3905/2010 (articles 21-23), organizes yearly the following events in Thessaloniki:

- a) The Thessaloniki International Film Festival, showcasing feature-length fiction films by Greek and international filmmakers
- b) The Thessaloniki International Documentary Festival, showcasing documentaries by Greek and international filmmakers
- c) The Greek Film Festival, a non-competitive event, showcasing recently produced short and feature-length Greek films
- d) Parallel activities organized in the framework of the aforementioned events (as part of the Agora Film Market section of the Festival, and the “Crossroads” and “Works in Progress” programs).

ARTICLE 2: This Regulation of the Thessaloniki Film Festival was established by the Festival Director and, with the consent of the Festival General Director, was approved by the Festival Board of Directors, which determined the dates of the Festival.

The Festival Director determines the date and the order of the films screened in the Festival program, selected by him.

The 65th Thessaloniki International Film Festival will be held from October 31 to November 10, 2024.

ARTICLE 3: The Thessaloniki International Film Festival takes place every year in Thessaloniki. The Festival features the work of upcoming and leading film directors from all over the world, establishing Thessaloniki as a meeting point between filmmakers and Greek audiences. This year, the 65th Festival is to be held from the 31st of October to the 10th of November, 2024.

Part of the festival program may also be put online on a secure streaming platform for a limited number of screenings, geo-blocked to Greece.

In the event of online screenings, the festival will coordinate with filmmakers or rights holders the details of including their film in this selection.

ARTICLE 4: The following sections are included within the framework of the Festival.

- Official International Competition for first and second feature-length fiction films.
- Meet the Neighbors+ Official Competition for first and second feature-length fiction films from 36 countries of Southeast Europe, the Mediterranean and the Middle East. The countries are: Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kosovo*, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine. **This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence.*
- The International Film Forward competition section for first and second feature-length films which includes works characterized by their innovative and formally-daring approach to cinema.
- The official Immersive: All Around Cinema section which consists of an International Competition section showcasing Immersive/VR works, the Immersive Out of Competition section, showcasing VR works out of competition, and the Immersive Installations section.
- The Official International Podcast section, which consists of a Podcasts Competition section presenting Greek and international podcasts, a non-competitive Podcast section showcasing Greek and international podcasts, and a Special Hearing podcasts section.
- An Out of Competition section for first and second feature-length fiction films.
- The Greek Film Festival, official non-competitive section for Greek films produced in 2023-2024.
- Retrospectives and Tributes devoted to the work of upcoming and leading Greek and international filmmakers.
- A thematic, non-competitive section named “Survey Expanded”, featuring films from the 36 countries of the Meet the Neighbors+ competition section, that aims to map cinematic and artistic currents, as well as social and geopolitical issues of the region.
- A Special Screenings section.

- An international informative section under the title “Open Horizons”, a panorama of films from around the world.
- The Agora section, which includes the Agora Film Market, the “Crossroads Co-production Forum”, the “Agora Works in Progress”, and more industry activities. Agora is the Festival’s industry section; it establishes an international network of film professionals, providing the ground for professional agreements and supporting the development of film projects from conception to completion and distribution, while promoting Greek film worldwide.

ARTICLE 5: The Festival Director selects and invites the films participating in all the sections of the Festival. He also schedules the screening timetable. In his selection work, the Festival Director may be assisted by advisors of his choice. For the selection of the films, password-protected streaming URL links are accepted.

ARTICLE 6: The Festival Director appoints leading figures of the film and art world to form the International Competition Jury, the “Meet the Neighbors+” Competition Jury, the “Film Forward” Competition Jury, the “Immersive: All Around Cinema” Competition Jury, the Podcast Competition Jury, as well as the “Mermaid Award” Competition Jury, that awards the best LGBTQI+ film selected from the Festival’s official program.

The Festival Director may participate in the Juries’ meetings but has no vote. The Secretary of each Jury is selected by the Festival Director. The decisions of the Juries are made with open ballot, by simple majority.

Anyone having any connection with the films participating in the competitive sections cannot be part of the Juries.

ARTICLE 7: The films that meet the following conditions are eligible to participate in the International Competition section:

- is a director’s first or second feature-length fiction film
- production must have been completed within 15 (fifteen) months preceding the Festival screening
- has not been released or screened publicly in Greece either in cinemas, television or online.

- must be in a standard DCP format
- has a running time of over 60 minutes

The films that meet the following conditions are eligible to participate in the “Meet the Neighbors+” competition section:

- is a director’s first or second feature-length fiction film
- The countries are: Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kosovo*, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine. ** This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence*
- production must have been completed within 15 (fifteen) months preceding the Festival screening
- has not been released or screened publicly in Greece either in cinemas, television or online
- must be in a standard DCP format
- has a running time of over 60 minutes.

The films that meet the following conditions are eligible to participate in the “Film Forward” competition section:

- is a director’s first or second feature film
- production must have been completed within 15 (fifteen) months preceding the Festival screening
- has not been released or screened publicly in Greece either in cinemas, television or online.
- must be in a standard DCP format
- has a running time of over 60 minutes

The films eligible for the informative sections should have a running time of over 60 minutes.

In order to enter a film in the Festival, an online entry form should be duly completed, containing the names of all the main contributors of the film, a brief synopsis, technical data and the director's bio-filmography, as well as a declaration stating if it is a first or second film.

Submission is subject to the payment of a **registration fee** (including VAT):

Early bird fee: 25.00 EUR, April 4th - May 31st, 2024

Standard fee: 35.00 EUR, June 1st - July 14th, 2024

Films will only be considered for pre-selection when the Festival receives the fee.

The deadline for submissions is July 14th, 2024.

Films can be submitted via password-protected streaming URL link screeners, but should be available to screen in DCP by October 10, 2024.

All URL links must remain active and accessible until November 11, 2024. A downloadable version of the film must be available on the same streaming link. Please prepare this link before you start filling your online entry form.

The Festival reserves the right to use electronic subtitles (not on the print).

ARTICLE 8: a) The International Competition Jury must give out the following honorary awards:

- Golden Alexander "Theo Angelopoulos" - Best Full-length Feature Film Award, accompanied by a 10,000-euro cash prize; the amount is shared equally between the producer and the director of the film
- Silver Alexander - Best Director Award, accompanied by a 5,000-euro cash prize; the amount is offered to the director of the film.
- Best Actor Award
- Best Actress Award
- The Jury may also award a Best Screenplay Award or a Best Artistic Achievement Award
- The Jury may moreover award a maximum of two mentions.

Only one of these awards may be given ex aequo.

No more than three awards may be given to the same film.

b) The “Meet the Neighbors+” Competition Jury must give out the following honorary awards:

- Golden Alexander “Michel Demopoulos” - Best Full-length Feature Film Award, accompanied by a 10,000-euro cash prize; the amount is shared equally between the producer and the director of the film
- Silver Alexander - Best Director Award, accompanied by a 5,000-euro cash prize; the amount is offered to the director of the film.
- Best Actor Award
- Best Actress Award
- The Jury may also award a Best Screenplay Award or a Best Artistic Achievement Award
- The Jury may moreover award a maximum of two mentions.

Only one of these awards may be given ex aequo.

No more than three awards may be given to the same film.

c) The “Film Forward” Competition Jury must give out the following honorary awards:

- Golden Alexander - Best Full-length Feature Film Award, accompanied by an 8,000-euro cash prize; the amount is shared equally between the producer and the director of the film
- Silver Alexander - Best Director Award, accompanied by a 4,000-euro cash prize; the amount is offered to the director of the film.
- The Jury may also award a Best Screenplay Award or a Best Artistic Achievement Award

The Jury may moreover award a maximum of two mentions.

ARTICLE 9: The films that meet the following conditions are eligible to participate in the “Immersive: All Around Cinema” competition section:

- production must have been completed within 24 (twenty-four) months preceding the Festival screening
- the film has not been released or screened publicly in Greece, physically or online

In order to submit a VR film to the Festival, an entry form should be duly completed, containing the names of all the main contributors of the film, a brief synopsis, technical data and the director's bio-filmography.

Works can be submitted in the form of downloadable links. These may be video files, APK files or other formats. A video walkthrough can be submitted along with the project as a link or a downloadable file.

All submitted material should be available to download until the end of the festival.

For the 65th edition of the Thessaloniki International Film Festival, no fee applies to Immersive/VR project submissions.

The deadline for VR projects submission is August 16th, 2024.

ARTICLE 10: The "Immersive: All Around Cinema" International Competition Jury must give out the following honorary award:

- Best Immersive International Competition Award (Golden Alexander), accompanied by a 2,000-euro cash prize; the amount is offered to the director of the film

The Jury may also award one or more project(s) with a Special Mention.

ARTICLE 11: The podcasts that meet the following conditions are eligible to participate at the Podcast Competition section:

- they hold their World Premiere at the 65th Thessaloniki Film Festival
- their spoken language is Greek or English
- their running time is between 20 and 30 min.

The 65th Thessaloniki Film Festival Podcast section considers:

- fiction podcasts
- documentary podcasts

In order to enter a podcast in the Festival, an online entry form should be duly completed, containing the names of all the main contributors of the project, a brief synopsis, technical data and the podcaster's biography. A statement confirming that the podcast has not premiered

yet and will not hold its premiere elsewhere until the end of the Festival, and that the podcaster consents to the podcast being posted on the Festival's webpage, needs also to be submitted.

Podcasts may be submitted via a secure online link in one of the following file formats: MP3, MP4A, WAV, MPG, MOV, MP4. The file size should not exceed 250MB.

The deadline for Podcasts submission is August 30th, 2024.

ARTICLE 12: The Podcast International Competition Jury must give out the "Best Podcast Award", accompanied by a 2.000-euro cash prize; the amount is offered to the podcaster.

The Jury may also award one or more project(s) with a Special Mention.

ARTICLE 13: The Mermaid Award Jury must give out the "Mermaid Award", accompanied by a 3.000 cash-prize; the amount is offered to the director of the film.

The Jury may also award one or more project(s) with a Special Mention.

ARTICLE 14: In the framework of the Festival, Audience Awards may also be presented, as well as awards presented by independent juries, upon approval by the Festival Director.

ARTICLE 15: It is understood that the Festival will not make any copies or digitalization of the films without the consent of the producers or duly authorized representatives. It is possible that these digital copies will be screened at non-commercial, free venues, but only with the prior written consent of the films' producer or his/her duly authorized representative.

ARTICLE 16: Regarding the "Agora Film Market" of the Agora of the Thessaloniki International Film Festival: during the Festival, unless otherwise requested by the rights holders, all films selected for the official program and a selection of films not included in the official Festival Program, will be available for viewing through the Agora Film Market, powered by Cinando.

All films participating in the "Agora Film Market" will be available during the festival, unless stated otherwise, on the online video-library. This access is restricted to the Thessaloniki International Film Festival guests who have Industry or Press accreditation. The films will be also available for 45 days after the end of the festival to industry accredited professionals only.

The “Crossroads Co-production” Forum selects 14-16 feature-length, fiction film projects that contain a link to the Mediterranean and Southeastern European countries. These projects should either be produced or co-produced by a country within these regions or contain elements in the story that link them to these regions. Projects should have a producer attached, a treatment or script and could be in all stages of pre-production. Crossroads’ main focus in the selection procedure is placed on projects that present a high possibility of being realized, combining this quality with artistic elements.

Each project has two readers, whenever possible a female and a male reader, from different backgrounds and countries. The selection is based on the treatment/script, the previous film of the director and the company’s track record, as well as the director’s intention note, the financial plan and producer’s strategy and its international potential. Special attention is given to projects promoting diversity, equality, environment and focus on the human experience. Gender equality between selected producers and directors is also a focal point during decision making. The final decision of selection is the one of the Head of Agora in accordance with the Festival director.

“Agora Works in Progress” selects 8-10 fiction feature films and is offering to the filmmakers of our region the platform to present to key players of the audiovisual sector their films just before completion, thus offering the possibility to be picked up by sales agents, distributors and festival programmers and enhance their possibilities and the networking between them and the invited professionals. The selection is based mainly on the quality of the visual material sent to Agora (minimum 25 minutes), the artistic elements and storyline of the film. Other factors are the previous films of the director and the company’s track record. Special attention is given to films promoting diversity, equality, environment and focus on the human experience. Gender equality between selected producers and directors is also a focal point during decision making. Agora Works in Progress selects only premieres, making the films presented an exclusive opportunity for the festival programmers, sales agents and distributors to discover the new films emerging from the region just in time for the next season of the festival circuit. The selection committee is composed of the Agora department team, the Festival’s International Program team and the Greek Film Festival’s Program team.

Both sections have a focus on Southeastern Europe and the Mediterranean region.

Countries that are eligible to submit are: Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kosovo*, Lebanon, Libya, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Morocco, North Macedonia, Palestine, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine. ** This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence*

Countries not mentioned in the above list can still apply if they are co-produced by a country within these regions or contain elements in the story that link them to these regions. Projects not coming from one of the above-mentioned countries who think that Crossroads Co-

production Forum and Agora Works in progress is a good springboard for their project or fit their market strategy, may still apply. The committees will evaluate all submitted projects.

Agora presents awards to projects participating at the “Crossroads Co-production” Forum and at the “Agora Works in Progress” sections. The awards are offered in cash, in kind or by ways of fellowships sponsored by companies that grant them to the Agora.

The award-winning projects are selected by respective three-member international juries, composed by established experts of the audiovisual and film sector, and/or representatives of the sponsor companies.

The number, type and cash sums that accompany the awards are evaluated per Festival edition and are subject to change, amendment or revocation should the Agora considers appropriate or necessary to do so.

ARTICLE 17: No public screening in Greece of any of the films participating, including VR works and podcasts, is permitted before the official screening organized by the Festival.

ARTICLE 18: All transportation costs incurred in sending the print or hard drive to and from Greece must be borne by the entity or individual(s) registering the film for participation. In case the shipment takes place to/from other festivals, standard practices of cost sharing will apply.

In the case of the Immersive/VR projects if the project submitted requires specific equipment (hardware and/or software) for its exhibition, all transportation and installation costs must be borne by the entity or individual(s) registering the project for participation unless otherwise agreed.

The Festival Organization will be liable for insuring the films or Immersive/VR projects once inside the Festival area, from the moment of their arrival to the Festival or its transport agent until its return.

Damage to the film prints or Immersive/VR hardware must be reported to the Festival in writing, within a month after its return and before its next screening. All the claims will be judged by the reported state of the print or hardware. The Festival’s liability in case of whole or partial destruction of a 35mm print or hardware during the Festival cannot exceed the value of 3.000 Euros. The Festival liability in case of whole or partial destruction of a DCP cannot exceed 400 Euros. The liability of the Festival is limited to reimbursement of the replacement costs of a new print, as per the prices declared by the producer in the submission form. All other costs or liabilities are specifically excluded.

ARTICLE 19: Entry and participation of films implies unconditional acceptance of the regulations. In unspecified cases, the Festival will make a final decision.