Preamble

The Locarno Film Festival is recognized by the International Federation of Film Producers’ Associations (FIAPF) as belonging to the category of “Competitive Festivals”. The following Rules and Regulations are subject to the “Regulations for International Film Events” published by the FIAPF.

1. Organizers

The Locarno Film Festival is organized by the Festival Internazionale del film di Locarno Association. Its principal subsidies are provided by the Swiss Federal Government, the Canton Ticino, Ascona-Locarno Turismo and Municipal Authorities of the region. Additional financing is provided by other associations, organizations, institutions and private partners.

2. General Information

The ongoing health crisis and Swiss federal authorities’ decisions regarding large public events in Switzerland have led the Locarno Film Festival to determine that it is impossible to hold the physical event in its usual form. Since the Locarno Film Festival cannot present an edition centered on gathering and sharing in physical spaces, the Festival has chosen to find another way to support filmmakers, launching several projects under the umbrella of Locarno 2020 – For the Future of Films.

Most of the Locarno 2020 – For the Future of Films, initiatives will take place from 5-15 August 2020.

3. Goals

The Locarno Film Festival aims to promote arthouse cinema of artistic merit; to provide a showcase for major new films of the year from around the world; to take stock, in its competitive sections, of the new perspectives of filmmaking expression, concentrating especially on such new film directors and industries as command international attention. For the 2020 edition the Locarno Film Festival has decided to propose several initiatives to foster independent auteur filmmaking.

4. Programs

The 2020 Locarno Film Festival will present online films in the following sections:

Open to submissions:

a) The Pardi di domani section is reserved for short and medium-length films not more than 59 minutes in length by filmmakers who have not yet made feature-length films: student and graduation films, as well as the first cinematic ventures from new talents. All genres are eligible. This section is organized around two competitions: one is reserved for Swiss productions and co-productions, while the other is open to works from the rest of the world.
b) The initiative The Films After Tomorrow aims to support filmmakers who have had to halt their projects because of the global pandemic COVID-19. The Locarno Film Festival will select ten international and ten Swiss feature film projects, two juries will award the best projects, helping them to take these projects to the next stage of production or post-production.

Not open to submissions:

c) Open Doors Screenings is a section focusing in 2020 on a selection of feature-length and short films from the cinematographic and cultural universe of the following four countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines. Open Doors is organized with the collaboration of the Swiss Foreign Ministry’s Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) and from 2019 to 2021 is exploring the cinematic voices of South East Asia and Mongolia.

d) A Journey in the Festival’s History is a selection of films from the history of the Locarno Film Festival will be presented online. If the Swiss authorities allow indoor screenings, a selection of films will also be screened in some movie theaters in the Locarno area.

5. Official prizes and juries

Jury members will be invited by the Artistic Director and the President. Persons directly associated with the production or exploitation of a film in competition may not serve as jurors.

a) Pardi di domani
A Jury composed of three personalities from the world of cinema and culture will award the following prizes:
– Pardino d’oro Swiss Life for the best Swiss short film (CHF 10,000);
– Pardino d’oro SRG SSR for the best international short film (CHF 10,000);
– Pardino d’argento Swiss Life for a Swiss short film (CHF 5,000);
– Pardino d’argento SRG SSR for an international short film (CHF 5,000);
– Best Swiss Newcomer Prize;
– Medien Patent Verwaltung AG Prize.
These prizes are conferred on the directors of the winning films

b) The Films After Tomorrow – International
A Jury composed of three film directors will award the following prizes:
– Pardo 2020, for the production of the film, to the best film project (CHF 70,000)

c) The Films After Tomorrow – Switzerland
A Jury composed of three film directors will award the following prizes:
– Pardo 2020, for the production of the film, to the best film project (CHF 70,000)
– SSG SSR Award promotion on the Swiss National channel worth CHF 100,000

– Other Awards to be confirmed

d) These prizes may not be awarded ex-aequo.

e) The decisions of the official Juries are final.
A single copy of the Pardo statuette awarded for each main prize will be handed over to the recipient of the prize.

6. Entry conditions

Pardi di domani
a) Only short and medium-length films by directors who have not previously directed a full-length feature can be entered.
b) Films must have been completed within the 12 (twelve) months preceding their Festival screening.
c) Films must not have been screened at a physical venue outside the countries where they were produced or co-produced. Preference will be given to films that are world premieres. Films previously shown online as world premieres (with or without geo-blocking) by a Festival organized in their country of production may be considered for selection. Films previously broadcast on television or marketed on VOD, DVD, Blu-ray or any other medium cannot be considered for selection.
d) For Swiss productions and co-productions, presentation as a world premiere is an essential condition for selection.
e) Films that are exclusively promotional, educational or scientific in character are not eligible for selection.
f) Films that have been submitted for previous editions of the Festival cannot be resubmitted, even if presented in a new version.

Piove di domani
a) Submissions of short and medium-length films are entered online at www.entryform.locarnofestival.ch
b) Submission of films is subject to a registration fee payable during the online submission process.
c) Films must be uploaded during the submission process.
d) All films must be submitted in the original language with English subtitles. For pre-selection, English-language films do not require subtitles.
e) Due to high number of submissions, we are unable to provide any personal feedback in case of non-selection.
f) The submission and participation of a film in the Festival imply acceptance of the Rules and Regulations for participation. In any unforeseen eventuality, the decision of the Festival Directorship is final.

G. Projects that are eligible include: International and Swiss full-length feature projects (over 70 minutes), meant for theatrical release, which were suspended immediately before shooting or at any time during shooting or editing (development finished, financing closed).

A Selection Committee (with an advisory brief) made up of film experts will assist the Artistic Director in the scouting and selection of works for the Festival.

7. Submission of films and projects for pre-selection

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The Films After Tomorrow
g) Projects for the The Films After Tomorrow initiative may submit at the following link:
https://forms.gle/wJXG73zS1Stnqh9q7.

8. Deadlines and entry fees for submission

Pardi di domani
a) Deadline for short films (up to 40 minutes) and medium-length films (between 41 and 59 minutes) is June 3, 2020. Submission fee is CHF 50 for short films and CHF 130 for medium-length films.

The fee is tax-inclusive. Incomplete or misleading entries will not be considered. In case of cancellation of the submission, the registration fee will not be reimbursed for films submitted after May 19.

The Films After Tomorrow
b) Submissions for The Films After Tomorrow are free and the deadline is May 27, 2020.

9. Selected films

a) All selected works must be screened in their original language with English subtitles, including English-language films.

b) It is mandatory to provide the Festival with all the required documentation.

c) The producers and distributors of all films selected undertake to make mention in their publicity and advertising materials (posters, press-kits, trailers, website, etc.) of the selection of the film for the Locarno Film Festival, by featuring the official logo which will be supplied by the Festival. The logo must not under any circumstances be modified or altered without the prior permission of the Festival. Any publication featuring the logo must be approved by the Festival (marketing@locarnofestival.ch).

d) All the films will be viewable free online on a platform accessible worldwide without geographical restrictions, with a limited number of views.

10. Selected projects for The Films After Tomorrow

a) All selected projects must provide, for the Jury members, a pdf dossier (in English) of the project by June 29 that includes: synopsis (1000 characters), director/s’s biography (500 characters), producer/s’s biography (500 characters), director’s notes (1000 characters), budget and cast and crew. Filmmakers and producers are free to share anything else they want about their project: script, mood board, images, edited sequences, or further materials.

b) For the Locarno Film Festival’s website selected projects must provide the following material (in English and, if available, in French and/or Italian) by July 6: image of the project, photography of the director, synopsis (1000 characters), director/s’s biography (500 characters), producer/s’s biography (500 characters), director’s notes (1000 characters) and a video presentation of the project by the director.
c) The director of the selected project commits to choose three favourite films from Locarno’s international competition between 1946 and 2019 to be communicated to the festival after the confirmation of the participation agreement. One of the chosen films will be part of A Journey in the Festival’s History section that will be online during the Festival. By July 6, we ask the directors to provide for the Festival’s website a text (450 characters) or a video presentation with a comment on the chosen film.

d) All selected film projects must include a logo and a special mention, that will be provided by the festival, in the credits of the film once completed.

e) The selected projects, once completed, will not be committed to premiere at the Locarno Film Festival, nor does the Festival is committed to include the complete films in its coming editions.

11. Prizewinners

a) All awarded projects must include the logo of Locarno 2020 Award and a special mention, that will be provided by the festival, in the credits of the film once completed.
b) The producers and distributors and the buyers and sellers of rights to films awarded prizes undertake to make mention in their publicity and advertising materials (posters, press-kits, trailers, website, etc.) of the winning of a prize at the Locarno Film Festival. The official logos of the various prizes will be supplied by the Festival. The logo must not under any circumstances be modified or altered without the prior permission of the Festival. Any publication of a logo must be approved for press by the Festival: marketing@locarnofestival.ch. The producers and distributors of prize-winning films also undertake to add to the start of all prints released for distribution the official prize logo, provided by the Festival.

12. Delivery or shipment of screening copies of selected films

a) For the Pardi di domani, Open Doors and A Journey in the Festival’s History online screenings, movies will be asked to be delivered as a digital HD file through a secured upload. The Festival will get in contact to provide you with technical specifications of the whole delivery process.
b) If the Swiss authorities allow indoor screenings in August, a selection of the movies presented in the online section A Journey in the Festival’s History will also be screened in some movie theatres in the Locarno area. In this case, all screening copies (DCP and 35mm) must be shipped and arrive in Locarno by July 14, 2020, after which date the presentation of a film at the Festival cannot be guaranteed.

The Festival Print Admission Unit (printadmission@locarnofestival.ch) will get in contact and, depending on the print’s format and provenance, provide the appropriate shipping instructions.

As a general rule, screening copies must be sent to the following address:

Locarno Film Festival
Via Franchino Rusca 1
6600 Locarno
Switzerland
Important: for customs and transport, Global Forwarding air freight offices worldwide require a proforma invoice. Title, format, language, subtitles, length, and the information whether the film is in color or black-and-white, must always be stated on the abovementioned document. For 35mm copies it is also necessary to indicate the number of reels and the length in meters of each film. At the same time, the sender must send notification of shipment by e-mail (printadmission@locarnofestival.ch) to the Festival, indicating the film’s title and the number of parcels, as well as the date of dispatch and forwarding information (Air Waybill/AWB number).

Our Digital Cinema screenings are only on a server basis. All films must be shipped on a physical drive containing only the DCP (Digital Cinema Package) of the selected film, encoded following DCI or SMPTE standards. Further technical and logistical specifications will be provided.

As a rule, films will not be returned before the end of the Festival. Films will be shipped back within the two weeks following the end of the event. Within this time-frame, participants must supply the Festival with precise shipping instructions (full address, contact details). Whenever possible, the Festival will respect participants’ shipping and timing requests concerning return shipments of their films. The Festival declines all liability for any forwarding error that may result from erroneous shipping information provided by participants and for any failure to return the film print when shipping instructions are not supplied within the above-mentioned time-frame.

Any claims or queries arising from the return of a film sent to the Festival must reach the Festival by e-mail (printadmission@locarnofestival.ch) no later than three days after the film has been received: no claims can be dealt with after such time.

12. Insurance of prints

a) Transportation of films to and from the Festival is entirely at the risk of the participant. All prints will be insured, from the moment of their arrival in Switzerland to the moment of their return shipment, against any loss or damage that may occur.

b) 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. All other costs or liabilities are specifically excluded. Negatives will be treated as standard prints for insurance purposes.

c) The Festival reserves the right to refuse to allow the participation of any film that fails to meet the technical requirements for a public screening of good quality.