

74 Locarno Film Festival 4-14 | 8 | 2021

Rules and Regulations for participation

Preamble

The present version is valid from April 6, 2021 and may be modified by the Locarno Film Festival at any time.

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 Festivals" published by the FIAPF.

1. Organization

The Locarno Film Festival (hereinafter also referred to as the "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 74th Locarno Film Festival will take place in Locarno from August 4-14, 2021.

An eventual cancellation of the 74th edition of the Locarno Film Festival by effect of law, decree or regulation issued by local, Cantonal, Federal or international authorities in the context of a situation of force majeure or emergency (including, but not limited to, situations resulting from an epidemic or pandemic, in particular with regard to COVID-19 and related consequences and effects) shall result in the cancellation of all and/or the majority of the screenings in theaters and in Piazza Grande and of the edition of the Festival and shall render all contractual obligations of the Locarno Film Festival null and void.

Even where no such law, decree or regulation is issued by a competent authority, the Locarno Film Festival may at any time and when required by circumstances beyond its control, for reasons of urgency, necessity or of safeguarding preeminent public or private interests (in particular regarding, but not limited to, COVID-19 and related consequences and effects), cancel the 74th edition of the Locarno Film Festival and thus automatically rescind with immediate effect any contract or agreement with the participant or participants of a film or films selected.

Should any situation of force majeure or emergency arise, the Locarno Film Festival may at any time and when circumstances require it, for reasons of urgency, necessity or of safeguarding preeminent public or private interests, amend the format of the 74th edition of the Locarno Film Festival (including, but not exclusively, by digital alternatives or reduction of the program).

In all the eventualities mentioned, the Locarno Film Festival undertakes to promptly inform all the participants of the submitted/invited films. In such cases the registration fees and other compensations will not be reimbursed and/or become due.

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.

4. Programs

The Festival is composed of several sections which accept films shot in any format.

Sections open to submissions:

- a) The Concorso internazionale presents as world or international premieres a selection of fiction feature films, documentaries, or animated films over 60 minutes in length. This panorama of contemporary auteur cinema includes films by young talents alongside work by established filmmakers.
- b) The Concorso Cineasti del presente is reserved for first and second full-length features over 60 minutes. This section offers a selection of films as world or international premieres, ranging from documentary to fiction and including the most hybrid and up-to-date forms of cinematic creativity.
- c) The Pardi di domani section presents as a world or international premiere short and medium-length films not more than 59 minutes in length. All genres are eligible. This section includes two competitions open for filmmakers who have not yet made feature-length films: one reserved for Swiss productions and co-productions (Concorso nazionale), while the other is open to works from the rest of the world (Concorso internazionale). A third competitive program (Corti d'autore) presents works by well-established filmmakers exploring new narrative forms and innovative film language.

Sections not open to submissions:

- d) The Piazza Grande section offers as world, international or European premieres works intended for a mainstream audience but made by genuine auteur filmmakers, with original genre films and the best of recently made documentaries.
- e) The Fuori concorso selection offers recent works – feature films and shorts, film essays and documentaries – by well-established filmmakers, mainly as world or international premieres.
- f) Histoire(s) du cinéma is the sidebar dedicated to the history of cinema. It offers works from filmmakers and artists to whom the Festival dedicates special tributes, restored prints of rare and important works, but also films (documentaries, essays, experimental and hybrid films) that shed new light on the history of cinema.
- g) The Retrospectiva – a historical or thematic program, or the complete works of a major filmmaker – is designed to make a contribution to the history of cinema or to enable the audience to (re)discover the body of work of an important auteur.

h) Open Doors Screenings is a non-competitive section, focusing in 2021 on a selection of films from the cinematographic and cultural universe of the following countries: Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Mongolia. 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 South East Asia and Mongolia. For more information and regulations: www.locarnofestival.ch/opendoors

i) The Locarno Kids section offers films for children and teenagers. It has a special emphasis on works screening as national premieres, together with restored titles that help rediscover film history.

Two sections, likewise subject to this regulation, are independently organized within the framework of the Festival:

j) The Semaine de la critique, reserved for documentaries, is organized by the Swiss Film Journalists Association. For submissions and more information: www.semainedelacritique.ch

k) Panorama Suisse presents a selection of Swiss films, chosen by a commission with representatives of the Solothurn Film Days, SWISS FILMS and the Swiss Film Academy. www.swissfilms.ch – www.journeesdesoleure.ch

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) Concorso internazionale

A Jury composed of five personalities from the world of cinema and culture will award the following prizes:

- Pardo d'oro (Golden Leopard), Grand Prize of the City of Locarno to the best film: CHF 75,000 to be shared equally between the director and the producer;
- Premio speciale della giuria (Special Jury Prize) of the Cities of Ascona and Losone: CHF 30,000 to be shared equally between the director and the producer;
- Pardo per la migliore regia (Leopard for Best Direction) of the City and Region of Locarno for the best directed film: CHF 20,000 to the director;
- Pardo per la migliore interpretazione femminile (Leopard for Best Actress);
- Pardo per la migliore interpretazione maschile (Leopard for Best Actor).

The Jury may also award:

- a maximum of two special mentions, the nature of which will be clearly defined by the Jury.

The three first prizes may not be awarded ex aequo.

The film receiving the Pardo d'oro will not be eligible for other prizes that entail money or services.

b) Concorso Cineasti del presente

A Jury composed of three personalities from the world of cinema and culture will award the following prizes:

- Pardo d'oro Cineasti del presente (Cineasti del presente Golden Leopard) to the best film: CHF 35,000 to be shared equally between the director and the producer;
- Premio per il migliore regista emergente (Best Emerging Director Award) of the City and Region of Locarno: CHF 20,000 to the director;
- Premio speciale della giuria Ciné+ Cineasti del presente (Special Jury Prize): a promotional campaign to the value of CHF 25'000 on Ciné+ channels at the time of its theatrical release in France.
- Pardo per la migliore interpretazione femminile (Leopard for Best Actress);
- Pardo per la migliore interpretazione maschile (Leopard for Best Actor).

The three first prizes may not be awarded ex aequo.

c) Best First Feature Prize

A jury composed of three personalities from the world of cinema, culture, journalism and film criticism will award the best film presented as international or world premiere in all the Festival sections, except for the independent sections Semaine de la Critique and Panorama Suisse. First feature: first fiction, documentary, or animated film over 60 minutes in length.

The Jury will award the following prize:

- Swatch First Feature Award: CHF 15,000 to the director.

- d) Pardi di domani
A Jury composed of three personalities from the world of cinema and culture will award the following prizes:

Concorso nazionale and internazionale

- Pardino d’oro for the best Swiss short film – Premio Swiss Life (CHF 10,000);
- Pardino d’oro for the best international short film – Premio SRG SSR (CHF 10,000*);
- Pardino d’argento Swiss Life for the National competition (CHF 5,000);
- Pardino d’argento SRG SSR for the International competition (CHF 5,000*);
- Pardi di domani Best Direction Prize – BONALUMI Engineering (CHF 2,000 to the director);
- Best Swiss Newcomer Prize;
- Medien Patent Verwaltung AG Prize.

Corti d’autore

- Prize to the best film

These prizes may not be awarded ex-aequo and are conferred on the directors of the winning films.

*Part of the prize money is subject to the non-exclusive transfer of online rights to SRG SSR for the purpose of streaming the film in Switzerland on the Play Suisse platform.

- e) The decisions of the official Juries are final.
- f) A single copy of the Pardo statuette awarded for each main prize will be handed over respectively to the director or lead actress or actor of the winning film.
- g) Films screened on the Piazza Grande are eligible for the following prizes:
- Prix du Public UBS: CHF 30,000 to the film that receives the most audience votes, shared equally between the director, the producer and the Swiss distributor (if any);
 - Variety Piazza Grande Award: awarded by a jury of Variety Critics to a film screened as a world or international premiere that stands out for artistic qualities and potential for theatrical release.

At the following link you can find information on the independent juries: www.locarnofestival.ch/LFF/about/juries

6. Entry conditions

- a) Following the extraordinary conditions due to the health situation, exceptionally for the 74th edition the Locarno Film Festival will be considering all works completed after January 1, 2020.
- b) Films selected must not have been previously released outside their country of origin prior to the official presentation at the Locarno Film Festival. World premieres (first public screening) are favored. Films available on Internet, broadcasted on television or commercially released on VOD, DVD, Blu-Ray or any other format are not eligible.
- c) All Swiss productions and co-productions must be world premieres.
- d) Works that are solely promotional, educational or scientific in character are not eligible for selection in the Festival.
- e) Exceptionally, for the 74th edition of the Locarno Film Festival, feature films submitted for the 73rd edition may be submitted again as well as short and medium-length films that have withdrawn their submission during the 73rd edition. Short and medium-length films submitted and rejected for previous editions of the Festival may not be resubmitted, not even in a new version. The films have to be completed after January 1, 2020 and must not have been previously released outside their country of origin, complying with the Rules and Regulations for participation.

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 for pre-selection

- a) Submissions are entered online at www.entryform.locarnofestival.ch
- b) Submission is subject to a registration fee payable during the online submission process. The fee varies according to the chosen deadline (point 8).
- c) Films must be uploaded during the submission process. DCP screenings are allowed under exceptional circumstances subject to written agreement from the Programming office (programming@locarnofestival.ch) and will be charged an additional fee of CHF 200 (in addition to the entry fee).
- 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. The Italian text of these Rules and Regulations is the authentic and binding version.

8. Deadlines and entry fees for submission

	Early	Regular	Late
Deadlines	22.03.2021	05.05.2021	14.05.2021
Feature and medium length films*	CHF 100.-	CHF 130.-	CHF 160.-
Short films**	CHF 30.-	CHF 50.-	CHF 70.-

* over 41 minutes | ** up to 40 minutes

All fees are tax-inclusive. The upload of the film and the entry fee payment must be completed before the chosen deadline (before midnight CET). Incomplete or misleading entries will not be considered. In case of cancellation of the submission, or in case the film is not eligible, the registration fee will not be reimbursed.

9. Selected films

- a) The accepted screening formats are: 35mm, DCP.
- b) All selected works must be screened in their original language with English subtitles on the print. English-language films must be subtitled in French on the print. If the original version of your film is multilingual, you will be contacted to establish the necessary language/s for subtitling. Films presented in the Piazza Grande must be screened in their original language and be subtitled in two languages on the print. For films in 35mm, two prints must be supplied (in order to enable a double screening in case of rain), of which at least one must be subtitled in two languages. The production and costs of the subtitles on the print must be paid by the participant.
- c) Each film participating in the Concorso internazionale should preferably be represented by the majority producer, the director of the film and a leading member of the cast. Each film participating in the Concorso Cineasti del presente should preferably be represented by its majority producer and its director. The Festival undertakes to provide accommodation for these representatives in accordance with its hospitality regulations.
- d) It is mandatory to provide the Festival with all the required documentation. This includes a file of the final version of the film in the original language with English subtitles for our archives and for internal consultation. The participant is liable for the costs of transportation and customs clearance of all material related to the selected film.
- e) All selected films will be shown to accredited professionals in a Digital Library (unless otherwise agreed with the right holders).
- f) 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).
- g) Each film in the competitive sections may have up to five public screenings during the Festival.

10. Prizewinners

- a) 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 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.

- b) Prizewinners will be asked to supply a copy of their winning film for additional screenings (screenings of the award-winning films on the day after the end of the Festival and possible screenings at the Festival's partner events, in Switzerland or in other countries, in the weeks following the Festival).

11. Shipment of screening copies of selected films

- a) Screening copies of films invited to the Festival must arrive in Locarno, or in case of DCP prints to our partner lab, by **July 13 2021**, after which date the presentation of a film at the Festival cannot be guaranteed. Exceptions to this deadline may be granted in writing by the Festival Management. Please be aware of the fact that for shipments to Switzerland, customs clearance may involve delays.

- b) The Festival Print Admissin Unit (printadmission@locarnofestival.ch) will get in contact and, depending on the print's format and provenance, provide the appropriate shipping address. As a general rule, screening copies must be sent to the following addresses:

1. From Switzerland (including from foreign Embassies located in Switzerland):

Locarno Film Festival
Via Franchino Rusca 1
6600 Locarno
Switzerland

2. From countries outside Switzerland, via air mail or air freight:

Locarno Film Festival
IN TRANSIT c/o TNT Swiss post SA
Via Passeggiata 2
6828 Balerna
Switzerland

with the following customs declaration:

"Of no commercial value, for cultural purposes only".

Special instructions: goods must be delivered **IN TRANSIT**.

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).

- c) 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 Interop or SMPTE standards. To assure the best handling of the DCP and the distribution of the KDMs of your film, it is imperative to ship the DCP to our partner lab for a quality check and to provide the D-KDM (Distribution Key): the partner lab will generate the KDMs for all playback servers in use at the Festival. D-KDMs must be open from the moment the DCP is shipped for quality check until August 23. Further technical and logistical specifications will be available online for the selected films.
 - d) The participant is liable for all costs of transportation and customs clearance for both outward and return shipment. If the return shipment of the selected films entails costs, these will be billed to the participant before the end of the year. The Festival reserves the right to refuse any shipments entailing additional costs.
 - e) 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 and courier account number). 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.
 - f) 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.