RULES & TERMS
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION AUTHORS SPOTLIGHT
EDITION 2026

§ 1.
GENERAL TERMS

1. International Competition Authors Spotlight (from now on, referred to as the "Competition") takes place as part of the 17th "Camera Action" Film Critics Festival (from now on, referred to as the Festival), which will be held on October 22-25 2026, in Lodz, Poland.
2. The Organizer of the "Camera Action" Film Critics Festival is the Fundacja FKA (address 52 Tuwima Str., office 4U, post code 90-021 Łódź) from now on, referred to as the Organizer.
3. Films are evaluated in two categories: Best Short “Live Action” (Feature Film, Documentary, Experimental) and Best Short (Animated).

§ 2.
AIM OF THE COMPETITION

1. The Competition aims to present interesting productions in terms of the story as well as the aesthetics and language of the film.
2. In the Competition will be select the Best Short “Live Action” (Feature Film, Documentary, Experimental) and Best Short (Animated).

§ 3.

COMPETITION CALENDAR

1. Opening for film submissions – March 25, 2026.
2. Deadline for film submissions – August 9, 2026, 23:59 (UTC +2).
3. Selection of competition films by the Selection Committee – August 10–23, 2026.
4. Notification of the Participants by FilmFreeway about the final selection and feedback from the Participant with the confirmation of further decision to participate in the Festival – August 24- 30, 2026.
5. Publication on the Organiser's websites, the full list of films that will take part in the Competition – August 31, 2026.
6. Competition screenings during the Festival – October 22-25, 2026.
7. Announcement of the winners of the Competition – October 25, 2026.

§ 4.

TERMS OF PARTICIPATION AND PAYMENTS

1. The film is submitted to the Festival and is only available through the FilmFreeway website and is payable. An entry fee is required:
    a) Earlybird Deadline – when submitting a film by July 20, 2026: 10$
    b) Regular Deadline – when submitting a film from July 21,, 2026: 15$
2. Payment of the competition fee is a condition for admitting the film to the selection. However, it is not a guarantee of getting into the Competition.

3. Films submitted to the Competition do not have to have the status of a national/international premiere. The Organizer will consider each application, regardless of the Festival's film history.
4. Films submitted to the Competition should be produced after January 1st, 2025.
5. In case the current edition of the Festival is postponed or canceled, the Organizer will automatically invite the qualified film to the next edition of the Festival. The right holders, who do not agree to that, have the right to withdraw the film from the Competition if they notify the Organizer within four weeks after the postponement/cancellation is announced.
6. May not take part in the Competition: Music videos and advertising films.

§ 5.
TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

1. The maximum allowable movie length is 30 minutes.
2. Films should have initial subtitles and end credits (title, authors' names).
3. Films should be submitted in the original version with English subtitles
4. At the submission stage, a link to the film should be placed on the FilmFreeway website.
5. The link should enable viewing the movie in a minimum quality of 720p (HD Ready).

The Organizers reserve the right to withdraw the film from the Competition at the stage of the Selection Committee's work due to a broken link or failure to meet the technical requirements contained in the regulations.

§ 6.

AUTHORS AND ORGANIZER RIGHTS

1. The director or a person authorized by the director to submit the film (hereinafter referred to as the Participant) is considered the person authorized to present the film at the Festival.
2. Submitting a film to the Competition is tantamount to the consent of all authors to participate in the Competition and the related rights and obligations.
3. By submitting a film to participate in the Competition, the Participant also agrees to its public presentation as part of the Festival's competition screenings, the presentation of its fragments on television, media, advertising publications, on the Festival's website, on websites and in other social media of the Festival, as well as in the Festival's database created by the Organizer.
4. The Organizer reserves the right to use fragments or all of the selected films as part of educational events, thus promoting the image and work of the Competition Winner. Information about such use will be communicated by the Organizer to the Winner each time.

§ 7.

METHOD OF NOTIFICATION AND PERSONAL DATA

Competition participants consent to the processing of personal data contained in the Application Form (FilmFreeway) for the purposes of organizing the Competition (in accordance with the Act of 10.05.2018 on the protection of personal data, consolidated te t, Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland of 2018, No. 1000, with

later changes) due to the change in legal regulations regarding the processing of personal data, the authors of the works accept the Privacy Policy of the Festival available at the link http://kameraakcja.com.pl/polityka-prywatnosci

To enter the Competition, Participant must:

1. Read the Rules of the Competition.
2. Read the Privacy Policy of the Festival.
3. Submit your movie using your profile on FilmFreeway (the movie links must be active until the end of the work of the selection Committee, i.e. August 30, 2026).
4. The Application by FilmFreeway should be completed no later than by the date of the end of recruitment to the Competition, i.e. until August 9, 2026, 23:59 (UTC +2).

§ 8.

SELECTION COMMITTEE AND JURY

1. The Selection Committee, composed of the Festival Organizers, will select films that will be nominated for competition screenings and judged by the Jury. The Organizer plans to select about 15 winners in each category Best Short "Live Action" (Feature Film, Documentary, Experimental) and Best Short (Animated).
2. The Competition Finalists is the Participant whose film has been nominated for competition screenings.
3. All Competition Participants will receive a notification from the Organizer by FilmFreeway about the final selection carried out by the Organizer on August

24-30, 2026. The Finalist of the Competition is obliged to inform the Organizer about further participation or resignation from participation in the Competition by August 30, 2026 at the latest. Lack of feedback from the Participant is tantamount to continued participation in the Competition.

4. The Organizer undertakes to publish the full list of qualified films on its website by August 31, 2026.
5. Publication of information about the selection by the Finalists is possible only from the moment of the official announcement of the selection by the Organizer (i.e. from August 31, 2026). The decisions of the Selection Committee are final and indisputable. The Selection Committee is under no obligation to explain its decisions.
6. The international Main Jury will consist of filmmakers and film critics, including winners of previous editions of the Competition.
7. The Main Jury is tasked with selecting two winning films from among the Finalists - Best Short “Live Action” (Feature Film, Documentary, Experimental) and Best Short (Animated).
8. The Main Jury has the option to award special mentions in both categories.
9. The organizer provides for the appointment of additional jury compositions,
10. The additional jury panels will indicate from among the Finalists one best film each, without division into categories.
11. Screenings of films will be held stationary on October 22-25, 2026 and will be shown in special competition blocks.
12. The announcement of the Jury's verdict in the Competition will take place on October 25, 2026, i.e. during the Closing of the Festival. In the event of the absence of the Winner or its representative, the Organizers will inform about the awarded prizes and possible awards by e-mail.

§ 9.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CONTEST COPY

1. Screening copies for the Competition, should requirements:
    a. for stationary screenings:
        - DCP: 2K (Interop or SMPT), 24 fps, 25 fps,
        - subtitles embedded (hardsub).
    b. for online screenings:
        - H264 file, minimum resolution 1080p, 8mbit bitrate video, audio stereo, maximum size of the file: 3 GB.
        - subtitles embedded (hardub).

    The copy for the online screenings will only be used for the winning films.
2. If the display copy is encrypted, the rights holder is obliged to:
    a. issuing KDM for testing (valid for a minimum of 7 days from the date of receipt of the DCP by the Organizer),
    b. staging KDM valid for the entire duration of the Festival (August 22–25, 2026).
3. The display copy should reach the Organizer by September 30, 2026 at the latest.
4. The copy must be provided in one of the following ways:
    a. using one of the services, e.g. WeTransfer / Dropbox / FileMail,
    b. on a physical medium to the address indicated by the Organizer. The costs of transporting the copy (both ways) are borne by the Competition Participant.

§ 10.

PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

The finalist of the Competition is obliged to provide:

1. promotional materials of the film, i.e .:
   a. obligatory: minimum 1 film frame, short film description (max. 100 characters with spaces),
   b. optional: movie poster and movie trailer.
2. promotional materials presenting the profile of the Director / Creators, i.e .:
   a. a short biographical note (max. 500 characters with spaces),
   b. actual photo,
   c. a promo video: short video recordings with answers to the questions sent by the Organizer and a preview of the film. Recordings made vertically, with care regarding film aesthetics, not exceeding 60 s in length. The recording will be used in the Organiser's social media for promotional purposes of the Competition (not necessary).

The materials will be used by the Festival Organizer to promote the film before and during the Festival, as well as after its end.

§ 11.

AWARDS

1. The announcement of the verdict will take place on the last day of the Festival, i.e. on October 25, 2026, during the Closing Ceremony.
2. The Main Prize is awarded in each category: for the Best Short “Live Action” (Feature Film, Documentary, Experimental) and Best Short (Animated).
3. The Main Jury may award special distinctions in both categories.

4. There will be one Audience Award, no split into categories.
5. Prizes of other juries may be awarded, if the Organizer appoints such juries.
6. The Main Prize in the Competition is:
    - PLN 2.000 cash prize in the category of the Best Short “Live Action” (Feature Film, Documentary, Experimental) (award for the director of the film),
    - PLN 2.000 cash prize in the Best Short (Animated) (award for the director of the film).
7. The cash prize will be paid to the indicated bank account of the Recipient (in the case of the Recipient staying in Poland) or to the indicated international account established in the EU (in the case of the Recipient residing in the EU). In other cases, to your PayPal account.
8. The Organizer may also provide material prizes.
9. Prizes will be presented to the winners or their authorized representatives present at the Closing Ceremony of the Festival.
10. Each Competition Finalists (creator working on the film) will receive a free pass to the 17th "Camera Action" Film Critics Festival.
11. The Organizer provides the Laureate (with an accompanying person) one-night stay One night's stay on October 24/25, 2026 or October 25/26, 2026, as well as an additional Festival pass for an accompanying person.
12. The Organizer does not cover the costs of transport of the Laureate.
13. The organizer provides for a Q&A session after selected competition blocks.
14. The Organizer plans to do special workshops for the Competition Finalists. The Competition Coordinator will inform about the exact date and subject of the workshops.

§ 12.

FINAL REMARKS

1. The Organizer reserves the right to amend the Regulations.
2. In all matters not covered by the Regulations, the Festival Organizers decide.
3. For questions about the Regulations and the International Competition Authors Spotlight, please get in touch with the coordinator - Agnieszka Hawryluk - at the address: konkurs@kameraakcja.com.pl or aga@kameraakcja.com.pl.