

WAIFF

WORLD AI FILM FESTIVAL

Competition Rules. Edition 2026/2027

Article 1 – Competition Organizers.

The Institut Europa, an association governed by the French law of July 1, 1901, registered with the sub-prefecture of Grasse under number W061013887, with its registered office at 2000, route des Lucioles, Les Algorithmes – Building A, Thales, 06410 Biot, represented by Mr. Marco Landi, in his capacity as President, duly authorized for this purpose.

Together with STUDIO LAFFITTE, SAS, whose registered office is located at 2000, route des Lucioles, Les Algorithmes – Building A, Thales, 06410, SIRET number 949 419 907 00025, represented by its President, Mr. Julien RAOUT, holder of the operating license for the World AI Film Festival 2026 dated October 20, 2025,

And AY Yapim, as the organizer of the Turkish edition of WAIFF in Istanbul, whose registered office is located to :12 Marina View, #12-05 Asia Square Tower 2 018961 SINGAPORE (hereinafter referred to as the partner)

Article 2 – General Information.

2.1 WAIFF 2027 – Vision

The World AI Film Festival strongly supports the rights and fair treatment of content creators and talent regarding compensation and intellectual property, everywhere in the process of acting, screenwriting, animation, directing, production, and all other activities involved in film making.

The World AI Film Festival encourage open discussion regarding the utilization of AI tools and how that affects people in the industry. We honor independent and student filmmakers from very diverse communities worldwide.

The Competition emphasizes cinematic language, narrative structure, visual aesthetics, and creative methodology. Human creativity is the core component.

2.2 WAIFF 2027 – Competition Categories

The World AI Film Festival welcomes a wide range of creative approaches. Both fully AI-generated films and hybrid productions (combining live-action and AI-generated content) are eligible, provided that the use of AI is significant and meaningfully contributes to the work. This will be carefully assessed by the selection committee.

Applicants must strictly adhere to the specified formats and runtimes for each category. Submissions that do not comply with these requirements may not be considered.

FILM COMPETITION : Produced within the last 12 months

The Festival maintains a strong commitment to originality and authorship. **Works relying on deepfake technologies, or those that closely replicate or imitate existing works, styles, or identifiable creations, will not be eligible for selection.**

2.3 Event Schedule

The key stages and dates of WAIFF 2027 in Istanbul are as follows:

- Submission period: begins on **6/07/2026 at 10:00 a.m. and closes on 1/10/2026 at 11:59 p.m**
- The competition organizing teams will verify compliance with participation requirements (see Article 5) in order to validate each submission.
- Selection of finalists: from 2/10/2026 to 23/10/2026. At the end of this stage, finalists will be designated as follows:
 - Finalists selected by the WAIFF committee.
- Screening of finalist works: during WAIFF on 4/11/2026.
- Announcement of winners: November 4, 2026, during the Awards ceremony in Istanbul.

Article 3 – Conditions of Participation.

1. Eligibility

The competition is open exclusively to participants who are Turkish citizens or permanent residents of Turkey (with the exception of employees of the Organizer and Companies involved in the organization or execution of the Competition, as well as their families).

Minor participants must obtain prior parental authorization. The Organizer reserves the right to request this authorization at any time and to cancel the participation of any minor who does not meet these conditions.

2. Broadcasting and Promotional Use of Films

By participating, candidates authorize the broadcasting of their Film, in whole or in part, on the Festival Website, during public events organized or co-organized by Studio Laffitte and its partners at WAIFF, on social networks, as well as on other websites of WAIFF partners.

This authorization also includes screenings in cinemas with mention of the participant's first and last name, pseudonym (if requested), country, and age. This license is granted without financial compensation, for a duration of **18 months** from the date of submission of the work.

This authorization is granted free of charge. Consequently, the broadcasting of the Film

shall not give rise to any financial or other compensation. The decision to broadcast or not broadcast the Film, as well as the terms and frequency of such broadcasting, shall remain at the sole discretion of the Organizer.

By submitting a film to the World AI Film Festival (WAIFF), candidates retain full copyright and intellectual property rights to their work.

However, participants grant WAIFF, Studio Laffitte (holder of the operating license for the World AI Film Festival 2026/27), as well as their official partners, licensees, and sub-licensees, a non-exclusive, worldwide, royalty-free license, limited in time, for the following uses:

- Screening of the work within the framework of the festival (official selections, special screenings, ceremonies).
- Screening of the work within the framework of associated and WAIFF-labeled events, in France and internationally (public screenings, conferences, exhibitions, promotional tours).
- Use of excerpts or the entire film for the purposes of promoting and communicating about the festival (digital media, press, social networks, trailers, official compilations).
- **Any direct commercial use of the film (outside of public screenings related to the festival and its promotion, outside of its usual setting, every year in Cannes) shall remain subject to the prior express authorization of the rights holders.**

• **3.4 Team Participation**

A film may be created by several people. In such cases, a project leader must be designated with Studio Laffitte and the Competition juries. Awards are attributed to the credited director or designated representative of the work

Since the award is personal and non-transferable, only the main director will receive the award in the event of a win.

3.5 Validity of Entries

Any entry not complying with the conditions defined in these rules will not be considered. Any incomplete entry, submission outside the deadlines, or failure to comply with the general conditions defined in this document will be declared void.

3.6 Fraud and Attempted Cheating

Any fraud or attempted cheating, such as creating false identities to register multiple times, or failure to comply with the Creation Charter, may result in a permanent ban from participating in the Competition.

Article 4 – Commitments and Responsibilities of Participants.

Warranties Provided by Participants

The participant guarantees to Studio Laffitte that :

- The Film is an original creation, and all elements it contains are not copied from any third party.
- The Film complies with all applicable laws, including those relating to intellectual property, privacy, defamation, public decency, and public order.
- No element protected by intellectual property rights is included in the Film without the prior authorization of the rights holders.
- The Film contains no advertising, no element infringing the rights of third parties, and no resemblance likely to be interpreted as plagiarism.
- The participant holds all rights necessary for the broadcasting of the Film.
- The participant has obtained the necessary consents from the individuals represented in the Film, as well as from the owners of locations or property visible in the Film.
- The participant has not taken, and will not take, any action that could compromise the broadcasting of the Film under the conditions provided for in these rules.

In the event of third-party claims regarding the broadcasting of the Film, Studio Laffitte and its partners reserve the right to immediately cease broadcasting the Film, which the participant accepts unconditionally. The festival Organization will not be responsible for any legal issues related to the submitted films.

Participants retain the copyright to their works but accept that their videos may be used in the context of promotional events organized by Studio Laffitte and its partners.

Article 5 – Application Validation Criteria.

To have their application validated, each participant must follow the registration steps available on the official website, depending on the category in which they wish to compete. The validation criteria vary according to the selected category.

Criteria :

Your film should tell a cohesive and emotionally resonant

story: Clear narrative structure: beginning, middle, end

Character development

Dialogue-driven scenes or monologue arcs

Emotional impact or message clarity

Use of conflict, tension, or resolution

Story logic and internal consistency

- **Use of AI:** Eligible works must include a substantial use of AI-generated visual content as part of the filmmaking process. Both fully AI-generated and hybrid productions are accepted. The eligibility and relevance of AI integration shall be determined by the WAiFF

selection committee.

- **Format and Quality:** the Film must be submitted in digital format (.mp4 or .mov) and in High Definition.
- **Language:** The film must be in English or presented in its original language with English subtitles.
- **Required Documents:**
 - A representative still image from the Film (.jpeg)
 - A short presentation of the Film
 - A production journal detailing the use of Generative Artificial Intelligence tools in the creation of the Film
 - A biography or CV of the director
- **Submission Method:** Films and the required documents must be uploaded to the official platform: www.worldaifilmfestival.com

Article 6 – Film Selection and Winner Designation.

6.1 Evaluation of Submissions and Technical Review of Films

The organizing entity will conduct an evaluation of all submissions and a technical review of all films submitted. Applications that do not meet the eligibility requirements or selection criteria will be excluded. Likewise, films that fail to meet the required technical standards will be eliminated

6.2 Artistic Selection of Finalists

Productions that pass the technical review will be examined by juries appointed by the Europa Institute and its partners. The finalist productions will be selected following this pre-selection and then submitted to the Jury's evaluation.

6.3 Jury Evaluation Criteria

The selection criteria include:

- Overall Quality: The technical and narrative excellence of the production.
- Integration of AI: How artificial intelligence has been used to enrich the content and storytelling.
- Storytelling and Emotional Impact: The ability of the production to evoke emotions, provoke reflection, or engage the audience.
- Technical and Aesthetic Quality: The overall production quality, including editing, special effects, and visual presentation for video productions.
-

- **6.4 Designation of Winners by the Jury**

Each submission will be scored from 1 to 10 on each of the criteria mentioned above, for a maximum of 40 points per judge. The highest average score will determine the winners. The judges' decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

Article 7 – Professional Opportunities, Platform Partnership / Industry Support

WAIFF is committed to supporting creators, promoting emerging talent, and fostering ethical, transparent, and creator-respectful opportunities within the evolving AI cinema ecosystem.

These professional opportunities combine physical and digital components to address the needs of the industry, from production to promotion and distribution, within an open, inclusive, and responsible environment.

WAIFF's international industry program fosters creativity, co-production, collaboration, and the circulation of AI-driven cinematic Works.

Selected participants and award recipients may benefit from professional opportunities including:

- visibility through curated showcases, catalogs, third-party channels, collections, and exhibitions,
- introductions to production, distribution, and technology companies,
- access to streaming and AI-native content platforms,
- networking opportunities,
- promotional support.

In order to support the promotion, visibility, and circulation of selected Works, participants grant WAIFF, Studio Laffitte, and their affiliated entities a non-exclusive, worldwide right, for the duration specified in these Regulations, and without additional compensation other than the opportunities and visibility associated with participation in WAIFF, to:

- present,
- promote,
- curate,
- exhibit,
- reference,
- and propose submitted Works within official WAIFF channels, third-party showcases, catalogs, partner platforms, and curated distribution environments. Participants retain full ownership of their intellectual property rights and Works at all times.

Any commercial exploitation of a participant's Work by a third-party platform or partner shall remain subject to:

- the participant's direct acceptance of the relevant third-party terms and conditions,
- and, where applicable, the participant's direct contractual relationship with such platform or partner.

WAIFF may receive partnership fees, promotional compensation, revenue-sharing arrangements, or ecosystem participation from third-party platforms or partners in connection with the operation, promotion, or distribution of official WAIFF channels, showcases, or initiatives. Such arrangements shall not transfer ownership of participants' Works to WAIFF.

Nothing in these Regulations shall be interpreted as granting WAIFF exclusive ownership, exclusive exploitation rights, or direct control over participants' Works, unless expressly agreed through a separate written agreement.

WAIFF is committed to promoting creator-respectful and transparent partnerships within the AI cinema ecosystem.

Article 8 – Identity Verification.

Participants authorize any verification of their identity and the information provided to the Studio Laffitte. Any falsification, fraud, or inaccurate information will result in the immediate disqualification of the participant.

The Studio Laffitte declines all responsibility in the event of identity theft or fraud.

Article 9 – Protection of Personal Data.

The Organizer and its official partners are responsible for the processing of participants' personal data, in compliance with the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) No. 2016/679.

To participate in the Competition, the following personal data will be collected: first name, last name, pseudonym, date of birth, country, and email address. This data is necessary for the management of the Competition and will only be used for this purpose.

Participants' Rights:

Participants have, at any time, the right to access, rectify, transfer, and delete their personal data, as well as the right to restrict its processing. They may also object to the processing of their data on legitimate grounds.

Article 10 – Liability of the Organizer.

The Organizer and its official partners cannot be held liable in the event of malicious intervention, technical problems, or any other disruption affecting the proper conduct of the Competition. Participation in the Competition implies acceptance of the risks associated with the use of the Internet, including the risk of data misuse or hacking.

The Organizer reserves the right to modify, suspend, shorten, extend, or cancel the Competition if circumstances so require, without incurring any liability.

Article 11 – Acceptance of the Rules.

Participation in the Competition implies full and unconditional acceptance of these Rules. Any claim or dispute relating to the Competition must be submitted in writing within one month from the closing date of the Competition.

Any interpretation of the Rules will be decided by the Organizer, and its decision shall be final.

Article 12 – Availability of the Rules.

The Rules are available free of charge on the World AI Film Festival's website at the

following address: worldaifilmfestival.com. They may also be sent by email upon request to: contact@worldaifilmfestival.com

Article 13 – Contact for Information.

For any questions regarding the Competition, please contact the Organizer at the following address: contact@worldaifilmfestival.com