

MEDFILM FESTIVAL 2026

MEDITERRANEAN CINEMA IN ROME

32nd edition

5 - 15 NOVEMBER

We are pleased to announce the 32nd edition of the MEDFILM festival, which will take place **from the 5th to the 15th of November 2026**. As Rome's longest-running festival and the first Italian one dedicated to Mediterranean and Middle Eastern cinematography, this year MedFilm Festival will take place live and online.

Eleven days centred on the promotion of Mediterranean and Middle Eastern cinema, but not only. To enrich a program traditionally focused on covering current issues, the 32nd edition will showcase a number of professional meetings, university masterclasses, meeting with young talents and great masters of cinema, literature presentations, and conferences on today's most burning issues.

Established in 1995 on occasion of the Centenary of Cinema and the Barcelona Declaration, the Festival will continue to identify and promote high quality works. Particularly, in light of the war events that continue to happen in the heart of Europe and in the heart of the Mediterranean, MEDFILM tries to maintain its course, confirming itself as a welcoming place that listens, reflects and opens up a cultural and productive dialogue between Italy and the countries of the Euro-Mediterranean area.

MedFilm Festival enjoys the endorsement of the President of the Italian Republic, the Patronage of the Presidents of the European Commission and European Parliament, the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, the support of Italian Ministry of Culture, Foreign Affairs, Justice, the Lazio Region and the Municipality of Rome, IOM-nternational Organization for Migration. It is recognized and supported by the Diplomatic Offices in Italy of over 40 countries, and it is credited as a Festival of National Interest by the Italian Ministry of Culture and as Historical Event by the Municipality of Rome. It has also been recognized as a Festival of Cultural Interest by the Mediterranean Forum (9th Inter-Mediterranean Meeting of Algiers, 10-11 July 1997) and the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

Rules & Terms

1. STRUCTURE OF THE FESTIVAL

COMPETITIONS

- Official Competition Eros and Psyche Award
- International Short Film Competition Methexis Award
- International Calls for Med WIPs e MedPitching (*)

(*) Med Meetings is the industry platform of the Festival and the call will be open from 18th May to 31st August 2026.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

HIGHLIGHTS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

- The Pearls: New Italian Cinema
- Lux Film Days in Rome
- Glances From the Future
- Short Films From the Jails

SPECIAL AWARDS

- Valentina Pedicini Award - Best First and Second Feature Film
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Koiné Award
- Human Rights Award – Amnesty International Italia
- Cervantes Award Rome
- WWF Award
- Best Euro-mediterranean coproduction - first and second films Award - in collaboration with the Representation of the European Commission in Italy
- Ecumenical Award - in collaboration with the Institut Français - Centre Saint-Louis

2. DATES AND VENUES

The 32nd edition of the MedFilm Festival will take place from the **5th to the 15th of November, 2026**. Any changes in dates and/or places will be communicated no later than **September 12, 2026**.

3. AWARDS and JURIES

The awards are assigned by the International Juries appointed for each of the competitive sections. Jury decisions are unquestionable and incontrovertible.

OFFICIAL COMPETITION: Eros and Psyche Award

The Official section of the Festival is exclusively dedicated to fictional films and documentaries coming from Mediterranean and Middle Eastern countries.

They must have been realised after January 1st, 2025 and have a minimum **length of 40 minutes**.

The Jury of the official competition assigns the following prizes and awards:

- *Eros and Psyche Award for the best film (2000,00 Euro)*
- *Jury Special Award (1000,00 Euro)*
- *Artistic Expression Award*

Screening fees cannot be requested for the works selected in this section.

Thanks to the collaboration with Cineclub Internazionale Distribuzione, we are committed to release in the cinema, the most awarded film of the edition.

SHORT FILM COMPETITION: Methexis Award

The competition is open to short films coming from Mediterranean and Middle Eastern countries, **released after January 1st, 2026** and with a maximum **length of 30 minutes**.

The International Jury, made up of a selected group of graduating film students from euro-mediterranean cinema schools and a group of prisoners of an Italian Penitentiary Institution, assigns the following prizes and awards:

- *Methexis Award (1000,00 Euro)*
- *Cervantes Award Rome*

4. HIGHLIGHTS, SPECIAL EVENTS and SPECIAL AWARDS

Special Events

THE PEARLS: The new Italian cinema

Non-competitive section dedicated to independent Italian productions: long, medium and short fiction film or documentaries.

LUX FILM DAYS IN ROME

Non-competitive section dedicated to European cinema, in collaboration with the European Parliament Office in Italy.

GLANCES FROM THE FUTURE

Non-competitive section made up of the short films realized by the students of cinema that form part of the jury of the International Short Film Competition – Methexis Award.

VOICES FROM THE JAILS

Non-competitive section dedicated to short and medium length films realized by prisoners from Italian Penitentiary Institutions or realized within the context of Penitentiary Institutions.

- Special Focus : TBA

Special Awards

VALENTINA PEDICINI AWARD - Best First and Second Film

Award assigned to the best first or second film (long or medium feature film) selected out of all sections of the Festival: Official Competition, Out of Competition and The Pearls: the New Italian Cinema.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Award dedicated to a protagonist of international cinema.

KOINÉ AWARD

The Koiné Award is assigned to a representative of the world of culture, politics or entrepreneurship, who has distinguished themselves in the contribution of mutual exchange, knowledge and respect among people and cultures, giving value to the common points and shared languages between Euro-Mediterranean cultures.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

Amnesty International Italia will assign the Human Rights Award to the best film on human rights.

WWF AWARD (€1,000)

WWF Italia will assign the WWF Award to the best film (feature or short) on environmental issues.

BEST EURO-MEDITERRANEAN CO-PRODUCTION - FIRST AND SECOND FILMS AWARD (€2,000)

Organized by the Representation of the European Commission in Italy. The award aims to highlight film productions that reflect collaboration and dialogue between European and Mediterranean cultures.

ECUMENICAL AWARD BY THE INSTITUT FRANÇAIS - CENTRE SAINT-LOUIS (€1,500)

On the occasion of the Jubilee, the award will be given to the Best Film that conveys universal values such as suffering, hope, justice, and the search for meaning.

CERVANTES AWARD ROME

The Award is an expression of the collaboration between the Instituto Cervantes of Rome and MedFilm Festival, and it is assigned to the most innovative film of the Short Film Competition – Methexis Award.

5. REGISTRATIONS AND PRESELECTION

The registration to the 32nd edition of MedFilm Festival is only available through FilmFreeway (<https://filmfreeway.com/MedFilmFestival>) from the 5th of May to the 31st of July 2026, with the following prices:

20,00 euro for submission to the Official Competition – Eros and Psyche Award

10,00 euro for submission to the Short Film Competition – Methexis Award

Films must be sent in their original version with subtitles in English, French or Italian.

6. SELECTED WORKS

Selected films will be communicated by the Direction of the MedFilm by the **4th of October 2026**. The complete list of films will be published on the official MEDFILM Festival website, www.medfilmfestival.org, by the **25th of October 2026**.

In case of selection of the film, the format for the screening must be: **DCP format** together with an **H264 (1080p)** file as backup copy. Any other formats must be agreed with the screening copies coordinator.

6a. SHIPPING OF SCREENING COPY

By the **18th of October 2026**, a screening copy of the selected work **with Italian and/or English subtitles**, must be received in **DCP format**, together with an **H264 (1080p)** file as backup copy, by the MedFilm Festival's offices. Any other formats must be agreed with the Festival Direction.

The shipping costs and custom clearance of the screening copy of the selected films are to be borne by the sender.

The copy of each work must be accompanied by a document reporting the following data:

- title;
- length;
- size (if DCP);
- name of the owner and address for the pick up and return of the copy.

The copy of the film must be sent, door-to-door, to the MEDFILM Festival offices at the address that will be specified by the Shipping Coordinator, with the following indication:

"TEMPORARY IMPORT – FOR CULTURAL PURPOSE ONLY"

(symbolic declared economic value)

The Festival must be promptly informed about the shipping details.

To return the copy, the MedFilm Festival will be in charge of the shipping process from Rome to the place of destination. Whereas, after participation in the Festival, there is a request to send the copy of the film to another festival, the shipping costs will be borne by the recipient.

In any case, MedFilm Festival will cover the shipping costs of the screening copy only once (one way).

GENERAL REGULATIONS

The MedFilm Festival guarantees insurance coverage for the whole period of the event. In the case of damage or loss of a copy during the Festival, the insurance value of the film cannot in any case exceed the cost of a standard copy (€ 500.00).

6b. COMMUNICATION MATERIAL

For each selected work, the following advertising material must be sent:

- press kit (synopsis, bio-filmography, direction notes)
- three hi-res photos of the film and one of the director, posters and flyers (where available)
- trailer of the film (otherwise the Festival will edit some excerpts from the film)

7. GENERAL REMARKS

A co-production is considered as a contribution of the organisation that submits it. The consent of the other co-producers is given as implied by the Festival.

The Direction of MedFilm Festival reserves the right to refuse to screen copies that, at its sole discretion, do not respect the Regulation and the basic screening conditions.

The winning works must use the MedFilm Festival's logo and the name of the Award assigned in their advertising. Award-winners must sign, within 30 days from the communication of the competition results, the Award Specifications (if it were in cash) prepared by the MedFilm Festival. The refusal to sign the specification will be considered as the non-acceptance of the award.

The Direction of the Festival will accept complaints about copies of films only within one month from the return date.

By participating in the selection of the MedFilm Festival, the Direction is authorised to start specific educational, information and education programs through the screening of the audiovisual works received within its own institutional reference network.

Registration for the Festival implies the unconditional full acceptance of these Regulations.

The Direction, after appropriate legal counsel, will settle all questions relating to the MedFilm Festival by applying this General Regulations, also available in English and French. Should any dispute arise regarding the interpretation of these regulations, the original Italian version is to be considered binding. Any controversy that might arise with regards to the interpretation, execution or resolution of the present Regulations will be deferred exclusively to the court of Rome.

Date and Place

Signature for acknowledgement and acceptance.....