



shnit worldwide shortsfestival | 24' Edition

The shnit worldwide shortsfestival is a premier platform for the exhibition and promotion of short films. The festival is a unique transnational event held simultaneously in ten cities across five continents. The festival will take place from August 20 to September 20, 2026, and consists of three main segments: [1] shnit PLAYGROUNDS*—festival cities [2] shnit EXPANDED [3] shnit FINALE—awards ceremony

All winners of the WORLDWIDE COMPETITION and INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION will be eligible for consideration for the 2027 Oscars® (via a cinematic release, in accordance with the rules of the 99th Academy Awards®).

Over the past twenty-four years, shnit has evolved into a major international short film festival, continuously reinventing itself. Originally a local initiative, it has grown into a global event that connects and inspires filmmakers and audiences from diverse cultural backgrounds. The festival promotes diversity, originality, and artistic exchange.

With its high-quality cinematic selections, shnit attracts over 30,000 visitors, making it one of the leading short film festivals worldwide.

shnit is a non-profit organization, coordinated in collaboration with festival executives. The festival operates on principles of excellence and professionalism, fostering its ongoing international expansion.

* Planned PLAYGROUNDS for 2026

The shnit worldwide shortsfestival takes place simultaneously in several cities—known as the shnit PLAYGROUNDS—across five continents.

The final lineup will be announced by August 1, 2026.

The planned PLAYGROUNDS for this year are:

- Amsterdam (The Netherlands)—shnit FINALE
- Buenos Aires (Argentina)
- Cairo (Egypt)
- Cape Town (South Africa)
- Goa (India)
- Hong Kong (China)
- Moscow (Russia)
- Sydney (Australia)
- San José (Costa Rica)
- Toronto (Canada)



Awards & Prizes

In 2026, awards will total over \$20,000 in prize money and services. All winners of the WORLDWIDE COMPETITION and INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION will be eligible for consideration for the 2027 Oscars®, via a cinematic release (Oscar®-qualifying run in 2026), in accordance with the rules of the 99th Academy Awards®.

AUDIENCE AWARDS

- shnit AUDIENCE Award—
THE FLAMING FAUN: Best film in
WORLDWIDE COMPETITION 2026
- shnit AUDIENCE Award—
THE FLAMING FAUN: Best film in
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION 2026

PRESIDENTS AWARD

- shnit PRESIDENTS Award—
THE FLAMING FAUN: Best film 2026

JURY AWARDS

- shnit JURY Award—THE FLAMING
FAUN: Best film up to 10 minutes
- shnit JURY Award—THE FLAMING
FAUN: Best film up to 20 minutes
- shnit JURY Award—THE FLAMING
FAUN: Best film up to 40 minutes

NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

- Jury Award—Defined by the relevant
shnit PLAYGROUND*
- Audience Award—Defined the relevant
shnit PLAYGROUND*

HONORABLE MENTIONS

- Best North American Short Film—
nomination Artistic Direction
- Best South American Short Film—
nomination Artistic Direction
- Best European Short Film—nomination
Artistic Direction
- Best African Short Film—nomination
Artistic Direction
- Best Asian Short Film—nomination
Artistic Direction
- Best Oceanian Short Film – nomination
Artistic Direction

The shnit juries are composed of international representatives from the professional film industry. No film shall receive more than one award within the same festival edition. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a film may receive an additional award within a national competition. Student films are not eligible to qualify for the Academy Awards® through a theatrical release. For further information regarding eligibility requirements, please refer to the official rules published by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences: [oscars.org](https://www.oscars.org) (Rules: Section II – Eligibility, A.1.)

REGULATIONS

WORLDWIDE & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

REGULAR SHORT FILM SUBMISSION

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- All genres shall be eligible for submission.
- The running time of submitted films shall not exceed 40 minutes, including credits.
- Films must have been completed on or after January 1, 2024.
- Only completed productions shall be accepted. Works in progress shall not be considered.
- Each film may be submitted only once. In the event of substantial changes, the Festival may, at its sole discretion, permit a resubmission.
- No premiere status shall be required.
- Accepted screening formats shall be Apple ProRes 422 or H.264, in 1080p or 4K UHD resolution.
- The screening copy shall be in English or include English subtitles.
- A submission fee shall apply. Submission fees are charged per project and are non-refundable under any circumstances.
- Submissions must be received no later than June 1, 2026.
- The Festival reserves the right to select and invite films directly, without payment of a submission fee. Invited filmmakers shall be notified by email or telephone.
- The submitter warrants that they hold all necessary rights, licenses, and permissions required for submission and exhibition of the film. By submitting a film, the submitter

represents and warrants that they have obtained all necessary authorizations from the filmmaker and hereby agrees, on behalf of the filmmaker, that the film shall be made available for screening at the Festival if selected.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- Submissions may be made via recognized submission platforms (including, but not limited to, Festhome, Shortfilmdepot, FilmFreeway, FilmFest, Toujiang) or directly via shortsfestival.org.
- The submitter shall upload at least one (1) still image from the film.
- The submitter is responsible for ensuring that the preview file is fully accessible and functions correctly.
- The preview file shall be in English or include English subtitles.
- The final selection shall be announced by August 1, 2026.
- Only submitters of selected films shall be notified individually.
- Submitters of selected films shall be notified prior to the public announcement of the official selection.

JURIES AND PRIZES

In 2026, awards shall total an equivalent value of over USD 20,000 in prize money and services. Unless otherwise agreed by the Festival in writing, all awards shall be granted to the director of the winning film and shall be fulfilled approximately 12–16 weeks after the official closing date of the Festival.



REGULATIONS

WORLDWIDE & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

The following awards will be presented:

- shnit AUDIENCE Award—
THE FLAMING FAUN: Best Film in the
WORLDWIDE COMPETITION 2026
- shnit AUDIENCE Award—
THE FLAMING FAUN: Best Film in the
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION 2026
- shnit PRESIDENT'S Award—
THE FLAMING FAUN: Best Film of 2026
- shnit JURY Award—THE FLAMING
FAUN: Best Film up to 10 minutes
- shnit JURY Award—THE FLAMING
FAUN: Best Film up to 20 minutes
- shnit JURY Award—THE FLAMING
FAUN: Best Film up to 40 minutes

All winners of the WORLDWIDE COMPETITION and INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION shall be eligible for consideration for the 2027 Academy Awards®, via a cinematic release (Oscar®-qualifying run in 2026), in accordance with the rules of the 99th Academy Awards®.

In addition to the awards listed above, and subject to prior approval by the Festival, external organizations and associations may present independent awards to films within the WORLDWIDE and INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS.

Any prizes (whether monetary or in-kind) awarded by the Festival are non-transferable and may not be exchanged. The Festival reserves the right to modify, add, or withdraw awards at its sole discretion, where necessary due to circumstances beyond its control or in the interest of the Festival.

IF THE FILM IS SELECTED

- All information provided in the entry form (including, but not limited to, synopsis and credits) shall be used by the Festival for marketing, promotional, and publicity purposes without further approval.
- The submitter shall ensure that the screening copy is available for delivery from June 1, 2026.
- The screening copy must be delivered no later than four (4) weeks prior to the start of the Festival.
- The screening copy shall include English subtitles (provided as a separate file) and must be identical in content to the submitted preview copy.
- The Festival reserves the right to translate and subtitle selected films into additional languages for screening purposes.
- The Festival is hereby authorized to use excerpts of selected films, not exceeding 10% of the total running time or a maximum of three (3) minutes, for the purpose of promotion, marketing, archival use, and other non-commercial activities, including dissemination via media and online platforms.
- The Festival shall grant one (1) representative per selected film complimentary access to all Festival screenings across all shnit PLAYGROUNDS*. Further details regarding guest services shall be communicated directly to the selected participants.
- The Festival shall not pay screening fees for films selected for the WORLDWIDE and INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS.



REGULATIONS

WORLDWIDE & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

- Filmmakers of nominated films are expected to be available to attend the shnit FINALE in Amsterdam on September 20, 2026, to participate in the awards ceremony.

SCREENINGS

- The shnit PLAYGROUNDS* shall take place for a maximum duration of eleven (11) days per city, within the period from August 20 to September 13, 2026.

- The shnit EXPANDED program shall run from August 20 to September 20, 2026. Within this segment:

- A selection of films from the INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION shall be presented in closed screenings at foreign country offices (including embassies and consular offices) in various cities.

- The WORLDWIDE COMPETITION shall be presented in cinemas and cultural centers outside the shnit PLAYGROUNDS* under the program “AROUND THE WORLD IN 8 FILMS.”

- The winners of the WORLDWIDE and INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS shall be screened for a period of seven (7) days in a cinema located in the United States of America (Los Angeles).

- The shnit FINALE—Awards Ceremony shall take place on September 20, 2026, in Amsterdam (The Netherlands).

SHNIT ONLINE FILM LIBRARY & BEST OF PROGRAM

Selected films shall be included in the shnit Online Film Library, accessible exclusively to accredited industry

professionals from August 20 to September 20, 2026.

During the shnit PLAYGROUNDS* period, selected films may be made available to the public for a fee via a password-protected and geo-blocked online platform (the shnit SHOWREEL).

Award-winning and nominated films may be made available online for a fee as part of the Best—of Program until September 30, 2026. Any restrictions regarding online availability must be communicated to the Festival no later than two (2) weeks prior to the start of the Festival via showreel@shortsfestival.org.

Following the Festival, selected films from the official program may be exhibited as part of BEST OF programs and special screenings in cinemas and cultural centers.

The Festival may present films with subtitles in multiple languages. For subtitle translation and educational purposes, the Festival collaborates with language institutions and may make officially selected films from the 2026 program available to students.

The Festival shall use its best reasonable efforts to inform filmmakers whose films are included in BEST OF programs of the dates and locations of such screenings; however, the Festival shall not be held liable in the event that such notification cannot be provided in all cases.



REGULATIONS

WORLDWIDE & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

NON-SPECIFIED CASES

Any matters not expressly provided for in these Regulations shall be determined by the Festival at its sole discretion, in accordance with the FIAPF International Regulations.

By submitting a film, the entrant acknowledges and confirms that they have read, understood, and accepted these Regulations without reservation, on their own behalf and on behalf of any represented parties or agents.

The awards listed herein are based on the planned structure of the 2026 shnit worldwide shortsfestival and remain subject to change at the sole discretion of the Festival.

** The shnit worldwide shortsfestival takes place simultaneously in multiple cities (the shnit PLAYGROUNDS) across five continents. The planned PLAYGROUNDS for 2026 are: Buenos Aires (Argentina), Cairo (Egypt), Cape Town (South Africa), Goa (India), Hong Kong (China), Moscow (Russia), Sydney (Australia), San José (Costa Rica), Toronto (Canada), with the shnit FINALE held in Amsterdam (The Netherlands).*

Due to ongoing uncertainties, including the aftermath of the pandemic, the Festival reserves the right to modify the planned structure and locations. The shnit FINALE in Amsterdam is held annually, subject to the continued support of partners and sponsors. The final Festival configuration shall be announced by August 1, 2026, at www.shnitsfestival.org.