



## shnit worldwide shortsfestival | 23' Edition

The *shnit worldwide shortsfestival* is a premier platform for the exhibition and promotion of short films. This festival is a unique trans-national event held simultaneously in ten cities across five continents. The festival consists of three main segments:

- *shnit PLAYGROUNDS\**  
Running until August 31st, 2025
- *shnit EXPANDED*  
Running until September 30th, 2025
- *shnit FINALE*  
Amsterdam – September 30th, 2025

The winner of the *WORLDWIDE COMPETITION*, as well as the *shnit* audience-nominated films of the *WORLDWIDE & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION*, will become eligible to enter the 2026 Oscars® in accordance with the rules of the 98th Academy Awards® [Cinematic release].

Over the past twenty-three years, *shnit* has evolved into a major international short film festival, continuously reinventing itself. Originally a local initiative, it is now a global event connecting and inspiring filmmakers and audiences from different 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 international expansion.

\* Planned *PLAYGROUNDS* 2025

*shnit worldwide shortsfestival* takes place simultaneously in the several cities, the *shnit PLAYGROUNDS*, on five continents.

The planned *PLAYGROUNDS* 2025 are:

- *shnit PLAYGROUNDS*  
Buenos Aires [Argentina]  
Cairo [Egypt]  
Cape Town [South Africa]  
Goa [India]  
Hong Kong [China]  
Moscow [Russia]  
Sydney [Australia]  
San José [Costa Rica]  
Toronto [Canada]
- *shnit OPENING*  
Bern [Switzerland]
- *shnit FINALE*  
Amsterdam [The Netherlands]



## Awards & Prizes

The winners of the *WORLDWIDE COMPETITION* and three audience-nominated films from the *WORLDWIDE & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION* will be eligible to enter the 2026 Oscars® (Cinematic release | in accordance with the rules of the 98th Oscars®).

### *WORLDWIDE COMPETITION*

- Jury President's Award – *THE FLAMING FAUN*: \$5,000 for the best film in competition
- Audience Award – *THE FLAMING FAUN*

### *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION*

- Jury Award – *THE FLAMING FAUN*: \$2,500 for the best film up to 10 minutes
- Jury Award – *THE FLAMING FAUN*: \$2,500 for the best film up to 20 minutes
- Jury Award – *THE FLAMING FAUN*: \$2,500 for the best film up to 40 minutes
- Audience Award – *THE FLAMING FAUN*

### *NATIONAL COMPETITIONS*

- Jury Award – Defined by the relevant *shnit PLAYGROUND\**
- Audience Award – Defined the relevant *shnit PLAYGROUND\**

### *HONORABLE MENTIONS*

- Best North American short film  
*shnit TRIBUTE* nomination
- Best South American short film  
*shnit TRIBUTE* nomination
- Best European short film  
*shnit TRIBUTE* nomination
- Best African short film  
*shnit TRIBUTE* nomination
- Best Asian short film  
*shnit TRIBUTE* nomination
- Best Oceanian short film  
*shnit TRIBUTE* nomination



## Regulations – *WORLDWIDE & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION*

### REGULAR short film submission

#### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- All genres are accepted
- Maximum length: 40 minutes (including credits)
- Film produced after January 1st, 2023
- Only completed productions are accepted (no work-in-progress previews)
- A film may only be submitted once
- No premiere requirement
- Accepted digital screening formats: Apple ProRes 422 or H.264 (1080p)
- The screening copy must be in English or have English subtitles
- Paid entry fee
- Submitting before the Deadline June 1st, 2025
- The submitter is responsible for all copyrights. By submitting the film, you commit the film to be screened if it is selected and the selection of the film has been accepted by the filmmaker

#### HOW TO SUBMIT

- Submissions can be made via Festhome, Shortfilmdepot, Filmfreeway or on *shortsfestival.org*
- Upload at least one still photo from the film
- Ensure the preview file is working correctly
- The preview file must be in English or have English subtitles
- The final selection will be announced by August 1st, 2025, at *shortsfestival.org*
- Only submitters of selected films will be notified personally

### JURIES & PRIZES

#### *WORLDWIDE COMPETITION*

The festival will invite a jury president. The *shnit TRIBUTE* nominates three films to present to the jury president to elect the winner of the *WORLDWIDE COMPETITION*. The following prizes will be given to the director of the awarded films:

- Jury presidents Award – *THE FLAMING FAUN*: \$5.000 for the best film
- Audience Award – *THE FLAMING FAUN*

The winner of the *WORLDWIDE COMPETITION* as well as the three *shnit* audience nominated films of the *WORLDWIDE COMPETITION* will all become eligible to enter the Oscars® 2026 [Cinematic release | in accordance with the rules of the 98th Oscars®].

#### *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION*

The festival will nominate an international jury consisting of three members. *shnit TRIBUTE* nominates in each jury-category three films to present to the jury. The following prizes will be given to the director of the awarded films:

- Jury Award – *THE FLAMING FAUN*: \$2.500 for the best film under 10 minutes
- Jury Award – *THE FLAMING FAUN*: \$2.500 for the best film under 20 minutes
- Jury Award – *THE FLAMING FAUN*: \$2.500 for the best film under 40 minutes
- Audience Award – *THE FLAMING FAUN*





## Regulations – *WORLDWIDE & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION*

The three *shnit* audience nominated films of the *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION* will all become eligible to enter the Oscars® 2026 [Cinematic release | in accordance with the rules of the 98th Oscars®].

In addition to the prizes mentioned above and with the approval of the festival, it is also possible for other organisations and associations to award films in the *WORLDWIDE & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION*. Any prizes (cash or in-kind prizes) awarded by *shnit* are not transferable or exchangeable. The festival reserves the right to change, add or suppress awards according to circumstances.

### IF THE FILM IS SELECTED

- Information given in the entry form (synopsis, credits etc.) will be used as such in marketing and publicity.
- Please have your screening copy ready for sending in from June 1st 2025.
- Screening copy must be delivered at least four (4) weeks before the festival.
- Screening copy must have English subtitles (extra file | separate from film file) and be identical to the preview copy.
- Films will be subtitled in the needed language for the screenings.
- The festival is authorized to make excerpts not exceeding 10% or max. 3 minutes of the total running time of the selected films to be used in promoting the festival in various media and the Internet and for promotional (incl. *shnit*-postcards), archival and other non-commercial purposes.

- The festival offers the representative of the film (1 person) free festival access to all screenings in all *PLAYGROUNDS\**. More information about guest services will be provided personally to successful applicants.
- Festival will not pay screening fees for films selected for the *WORLDWIDE & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION*.
- Please ensure that nominated filmmakers are ready to travel to the *shnit FINALE* in Amsterdam (September 30th 2025) to be part of the award ceremony.

### SCREENINGS

- *shnit PLAYGROUNDS\** Screenings: August 21st – August 31st, 2025.
- *shnit EXPANDED* screenings until September 30th, 2025: Films of the *WORLDWIDE COMPETITION* will be offered for closed screening in foreign country offices (embassies / consular offices) in various cities. A small selection of films of the *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION* will be presented in cinemas and cultural centers in the program «*life is shorts*» outside *shnit PLAYGROUNDS\**. The winners of the *WORLDWIDE COMPETITION* and three audience-nominated films from the *WORLDWIDE & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION* will be screened for seven days in a cinema in USA (NY).
- *shnit FINALE* Award Ceremony: September 30th, 2025, in Amsterdam, [The Netherlands].

## Regulations – *WORLDWIDE & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION*

### SHNIT ONLINE FILM LIBRARY & BEST OF PROGRAM

Selected films will be included in *shnit*'s online film library, accessible only to accredited professionals from August 21st – August 31st, 2025. During the *shnit PLAYGROUNDS\** period, selected short films may be made available for a fee on a password-protected, geo-blocked *shnit* platform (*shnit SHOWREEL*). Any restrictions on online screenings must be communicated at least two weeks before the festival via [showreel@shortsfestival.org](mailto:showreel@shortsfestival.org).

After the festival, a few films from the official selection may be screened as a *BEST OF* program and in special programs in cinemas and cultural centers. *shnit* presents its programs with subtitles in several languages. To translate subtitles and to learn about languages *shnit* collaborates with language schools and can make officially selected films of the program 2025 available for students. Best efforts will be made to ensure that filmmakers whose films are being screened as *BEST OF* will be informed about the place(s) and date(s) of the screening(s).

### NON-SPECIFIED CASES

Any cases not covered by these regulations will be subject to the festival's discretion (in accordance with FIAPF International Regulations). By submitting a film, the entrant acknowledges that they have read, understood, and accepted the regulations without reservation.

*\* shnit worldwide shortsfestival takes place simultaneously in the several cities, the shnit PLAYGROUNDS, on five continents. The planned PLAYGROUNDS 2025 are: Buenos Aires [Argentina], Cairo [Egypt], Cape Town [South Africa], Goa [India], Hong Kong [China], Moscow [Russia], Sidney [Australia], San José [Costa Rica], Toronto [Canada], the shnit OPENING in Bern [Switzerland] and the shnit FINALE in Amsterdam [The Netherlands]. Affected by the aftermath of the pandemic, there may be changes in this planning. The shnit FINALE in Amsterdam is held annually, as long as the contributions of the partners and sponsors make this possible. The final festival setup will be announced on August 1st, 2025, at [shortsfestival.org](http://shortsfestival.org).*



## Regulations – *WORLDWIDE & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION*

### PRO ENTRY short film submission

#### PRO ENTRY – FEEDBACK

With the PRO ENTRY, the festival offers a unique feedback system within the scope of film festivals. The goal is to provide filmmakers with valuable insights to enhance their artistic potential for future projects and festival submissions. Most festivals do not offer substantial or personalized feedback.

#### PRO ENTRY Benefits:

- Short-list Pre-Selection: Your film is placed on the final round of selection for the artistic director(s)
- Personalized Feedback: Receive individual feedback for every film you submit, provided by the artistic director(s)
- Festival Access: One representative of the film gets free access to all screenings in all *PLAYGROUNDS\**

#### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- All genres are accepted
- Maximum length: 40 minutes (including credits)
- Eligibility: Films must have been completed on or after January 1, 2023
- Only completed productions are accepted (no work-in-progress previews)
- Each film may only be submitted once
- No premiere requirement
- Accepted digital screening formats: Apple ProRes 422 or H.264 (1080p)
- The screening copy must be in English or have English subtitles

- Submission deadline: June 1, 2025
- The submitter is responsible for all copyrights. By submitting the film, you commit the film to be screened if it is selected and the selection of the film has been accepted by the filmmaker

#### HOW TO SUBMIT

- Submissions can be made via Festhome, Shortfilmdepot, Filmfreeway or on *shortsfestival.org*
- Upload at least one still photo from the film
- Ensure the preview file is working correctly
- The preview file must be in English or have English subtitles
- The final selection will be announced by August 1st, 2025, at *shortsfestival.org*
- Only submitters of selected films will be notified personally
- The submitters of the selected films will be notified prior to the public announcement

#### JURIES & PRIZES

##### *WORLDWIDE COMPETITION*

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## Regulations – *WORLDWIDE & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION*

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In addition to the prizes mentioned above and with the approval of the festival, it is also possible for other organisations and associations to award films in the *WORLDWIDE & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION*. Any prizes (cash or in-kind prizes) awarded by *shnit* are not transferable or exchangeable. The festival reserves the right to change, add or suppress awards according to circumstances.

### IF THE FILM IS SELECTED

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- Please have your screening copy ready for sending in from June 1st 2025.
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- The festival is authorized to make excerpts not exceeding 10% or max. 3 minutes of the total running time of the selected films to be used in promoting the festival in various media and the Internet and for promotional (incl. *shnit*-postcards), archival and other non-commercial purposes.

- The festival offers the representative of the film (1 person) free festival access to all screenings in all *PLAYGROUNDS\**. More information about guest services will be provided personally to successful applicants.
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## Regulations – NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

### REGULAR short film submission

Submissions to a *NATIONAL COMPETITION* automatically qualify for the *WORLDWIDE & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION*. A double submission is not required.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- The short film's origin (production country | directors origin) must be from one of the *PLAYGROUND\** countries
- All genres are accepted
- Maximum length: 40 minutes (including credits)
- Films must have been completed on or after January 1, 2023
- Only completed productions are accepted (no work-in-progress previews)
- Each film may only be submitted once
- No premiere requirement
- Accepted digital screening formats: Apple ProRes 422 or H.264 (1080p)
- The screening copy must be in English or have English subtitles
- Submission fee must be paid, or a valid waiver code must be provided
- Submission deadline: June 1, 2025
- The submitter is responsible for all copyrights. By submitting the film, you commit the film to be screened if it is selected and the selection of the film has been accepted by the filmmaker

### HOW TO SUBMIT

- Submissions can be made via Festhome, Shortfilmdepot, Filmfreeway or on *shortsfestival.org*

- Upload at least one still photo from the film
- Ensure the preview file is working correctly
- The preview file must be in English or have English subtitles
- The final selection will be announced by August 1st, 2025, at *shortsfestival.org*
- Only submitters of selected films will be notified personally
- The submitters of the selected films will be notified prior to the public announcement

### JURIES AND PRIZES

The festival will appoint a jury consisting of three members. The following prizes will be awarded to the directors of the winning films:

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

In addition to the prizes mentioned above, and with the festival's approval, other organizations and associations may also award prizes to films in the *NATIONAL COMPETITION*. Any prizes (cash or in-kind) awarded by *shnit* are non-transferable and non-exchangeable. The festival reserves the right to modify, add, or remove awards as circumstances dictate.

### IF THE FILM IS SELECTED

- The information provided in the entry form (synopsis, credits, etc.) will be used for marketing and publicity purposes.
- Please have your screening copy ready for submission starting June 1, 2025.



## Regulations – NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

- The screening copy must be delivered at least four (4) weeks before the festival.
- The screening copy must be identical to the preview copy.
- The festival is authorized to make excerpts not exceeding 10% or 3 minutes of the total running time of selected films for promotional purposes, including media, the internet, *shnit*-postcards, archival, and other non-commercial purposes.
- The festival offers the representative of the film (1 person) free festival access to all screenings in the valid *PLAYGROUND*\*. More information about guest services will be provided personally to successful applicants.
- Festival will not pay screening fees for films selected for a *NATIONAL COMPETITION*.
- *shnit PLAYGROUNDS*\* Screenings: August 21st – August 31st, 2025.

- *MADE IN INDIA*  
*PLAYGROUND Goa*
- *MADE IN CHINA*  
*PLAYGROUND Hong Kong*
- *MADE IN RUSSIA*  
*PLAYGROUND Moscow*
- *MADE IN AUSTRALIA*  
*PLAYGROUND Sydney*
- *MADE IN COSTA RICA*  
*PLAYGROUND San José*
- *MADE IN CANADA*  
*PLAYGROUND Toronto*

The final selection will be announced on August 1st, 2025, at [shortsfestival.org](https://shortsfestival.org).

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\*The planned *NATIONAL COMPETITIONS* 2025 are:

- *MADE IN ARGENTINA*  
*PLAYGROUND Buenos Aires*
- *MADE IN EGYPT*  
*PLAYGROUND Cairo*
- *MADE IN SOUTH AFRICA*  
*PLAYGROUND Cape Town*

## Regulations – NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

### PRO ENTRY short film submission

Submissions to a *NATIONAL COMPETITION* automatically qualify for the *WORLDWIDE & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION*. A double submission is not required.

### PRO ENTRY – FEEDBACK

With the PRO ENTRY, the festival offers a unique feedback system that sets it apart from other film festivals. The goal is to provide filmmakers with valuable feedback on their work to enhance their artistic potential for future projects and other festival submissions. Unlike most festivals, which typically do not offer substantial or personal feedback, this system aims to offer a more tailored and insightful evaluation.

### PRO ENTRY Benefits:

- Short-list Pre-Selection: Your film is placed on the final round of selection for the artistic director(s)
- Personalized Feedback: Receive individual feedback for every film you submit, provided by the artistic director(s)
- The festival offers one representative of the film free access to all screenings in the valid *PLAYGROUND\**

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- The origin (production county | directors origin) of the short film is out of one of the *PLAYGROUND\** countries
- All genres are accepted
- Maximum length: 40 minutes (including credits)

- Eligibility: Films must have been completed on or after January 1, 2023
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The festival will appoint a jury consisting of three members. The following prizes will be awarded to the directors of the winning films:





## Regulations – NATIONAL COMPETITIONS

- Jury Award – Defined by the relevant *shnit PLAYGROUND*
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- *shnit PLAYGROUNDS*\* Screenings: August 21st – August 31st, 2025.

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\*The planned *NATIONAL COMPETITIONS 2025* are:

- *MADE IN ARGENTINA PLAYGROUND Buenos Aires*
- *MADE IN EGYPT PLAYGROUND Cairo*
- *MADE IN SOUTH AFRICA PLAYGROUND Cape Town*
- *MADE IN INDIA PLAYGROUND Goa*
- *MADE IN CHINA PLAYGROUND Hong Kong*
- *MADE IN RUSSIA PLAYGROUND Moscow*
- *MADE IN AUSTRALIA PLAYGROUND Sydney*
- *MADE IN COSTA RICA PLAYGROUND San José*
- *MADE IN CANADA PLAYGROUND Toronto*

The final selection will be announced on August 1st, 2025, at [shortsfestival.org](https://shortsfestival.org).