

**Singapore³⁷TH
International
Film Festival**

**2026 Call For Entries:
Asian Feature Films &
Southeast Asian Short Films**

- **SUBMISSION GUIDELINES**
- **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Entry Fees

Asian Feature Films

All feature film submissions will be subject to a fee of **USD35**, applicable throughout the submission period from 9 April to 9 June 2026.

Southeast Asian Short Films

9 April - 9 May 2026:

Complimentary early bird submission (Free)

10 May - 9 June 2026:

All short film submissions will be subject to a fee of **USD15** from 10 May 2026. This fee is non-refundable under any circumstances.

Your fee directly contributes to the sustainability of SGIFF's mission and helps us maintain a fair and thorough selection process. With limited resources as a non-profit organisation, this fee supports the careful review of each film and ensures we can continue to provide a platform for diverse, independent voices from Asia and beyond.

We appreciate your understanding and support.

Deadline

All film submissions must complete the Online Submission Form no later than Tuesday, 9 June 2026, 11.59pm (GMT+8).

Any submissions received after the deadline will not be accepted.

Eligibility

Feature film entries must be from Asia.

Short film entries must be from Southeast Asia.

Films must not have premiered earlier than 1 November 2025.

Films must at least be a Singapore premiere, meaning entries must not have been broadcasted on TV, made available on the Internet or screened publicly in Singapore in any way prior to the Festival.

Priority will be given to World, International and Asian premieres.

Submission Form

All submissions must complete the Online Film Submission Form.

A password protected online screener or preview link is required. Please ensure that the online link/download is accessible till mid-September 2026.

Films in any other language other than English must have English subtitles.

Definitions

A feature film is defined as a work of fiction or non-fiction that equals or exceeds 60 minutes in length including opening and end credits.

A short film is defined as a work of fiction or non-fiction that is 30 minutes or less in length including opening and end credits.

A World premiere is defined as the first public screening of the film.

An International premiere is defined as the first public screening of the film outside its country of production. An Asian premiere is defined as the first public screening of the film in Asia (in the case whereby the film has been previously screened outside Asia).

Southeast Asia is defined as Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Brunei, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Asia is defined as Abkhazia, Afghanistan, Armenia, Artsakh, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China, Cyprus, Egypt, Georgia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Lebanon, Macau, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, North Cyprus, North Korea, Oman, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Korea, South Ossetia, Sri Lanka, Syria, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Turkmenistan, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Yemen.

Categories

Submitted entries may be selected for the following categories:

Out-of-Competition: Mid-length and Feature Films must be from Asia, and short films must be from Singapore and Southeast Asia.

In-Competition: Feature films must be directed by a filmmaker of Asian nationality or origin, or have at least one Asian country listed as a country of production to be eligible for the Asian Feature Film Competition. Short films must be directed by a filmmaker of Southeast Asian nationality or origin, or have at least one Southeast Asian country listed as a country of production to be eligible for the Southeast Asian Short Film Competition.

The Festival reserves the right to decide which section the selected films will participate in.

In-Competition

The 37th SGIFF awards ceremony will be held during the Festival, with the aim of recognising and creating awareness of remarkable filmmaking talents throughout Asia.

The winning films will be announced during the awards ceremony.

Please note that the following list of awards is not exhaustive and may be subject to changes at our discretion.

Films within the Asian Feature Film Competition will be eligible for the following awards: Best Asian Feature Film, Best Director, and Best Performance.

Short Films within the Southeast Asian Short Film Competition will be eligible for the following awards: Best Southeast Asian Short Film, Best Director, Best Performance, and Best Singapore Short Film.

SGIFF is a qualifying festival for the Short Film Awards of the Academy Awards®. The recipient of SGIFF's Best Southeast Asian Short Film will be eligible for consideration in the Animated Short Film/Live Action Short Film category of the Academy Awards® without the standard theatrical run, provided the film otherwise complies with the Academy rules.

Audience Choice Award

All selected Singapore feature films and short film programmes are eligible. This means that Singapore has to be listed as a country of production.

Audiences will be able to cast their vote at the end of each screening.

The film with the highest audience votes will receive the Audience Choice Award and will be re-screened at the end of the Festival.

Award Screenings

The recipients of Best Asian Feature Film, Best Southeast Asian Short Film, Best Singapore Short Film, and Audience Choice Award will be screened again at the end of the Festival.

Entrants of the above mentioned winning films must agree to this additional screening.

Copyright Indemnity

The entrant is responsible for all necessary copyright clearances for material used in their submitted works, and shall fully indemnify the Festival from any damage resulting from copyright infringement lawsuits from other parties.

Selected Films

Selection Results

The Festival will notify entrants on the selection results by mid-September 2026.

The entrant must reply to The Festival no later than one week of notification to acknowledge acceptance of selection.

The Festival does not provide explanation on the non-selection of a film.

Once a film is selected, the entrant will not be able to withdraw nor change the Premiere status of the film at any given time before it is screened at the Festival.

Screening Formats

Should the film be selected, please indicate the screening format/s available:

- ① DCP
- ② For digital movie files: Apple ProRes or h.264

Please note that the preferred screening format is DCP. If the film is in any other screening format, it will be limited to certain screening venues and timeslots.

Shipment and Returning of Screening Copies

The entrant is responsible for the timely shipment of the screening copy of their selected film to The Festival. The Festival will provide entrants on shipping instructions upon notification of acceptance.

Incoming Shipment: The Festival will bear the cost of an incoming shipment if the screening copy is being shipped from another festival or directly from the entrant or distributor.

Return Shipment: The cost of the return shipment is to be borne by the recipient if it is being shipped to another festival. The Festival will bear the cost of the return shipment in the case where the screening copy is to be returned directly to the entrant or distributor.

All screening copies will be returned to the entrants within 3 weeks after the Festival ends.

Selected Films

Programming

The screening time and venue of selected films are entirely at the discretion of the Festival.

Copywriting and Use of Publicity Materials

All synopses and other forms of writing on selected films, and the use of submitted publicity materials are entirely at the discretion of the Festival.

Use of Promotional Material

If the entrant's film is selected, the entrant grants the Festival permission to use and reproduce the submitted publicity materials in Festival publications and platforms, and other external media platforms for the purpose of publicity (this includes the use of selected clips from submitted screeners for the Festival video trailer).

Selected Films

If your submitted film is selected, the following items must be sent to the Festival within a week of notification of selection. The Festival reserves the right to disqualify a selected film if the mentioned items are not received by the deadline.

Screener for Film Classification Purposes

The screener will be submitted to the Infocomm Media Development Authority for rating/classification purposes. This is a requirement for all public film screenings held in Singapore.

The screener must be the final version of the selected film (with opening and ending credits), identical to the actual screening copy.

The screener must contain English subtitles if the film is in a language other than English.

Acceptable format/s include: a downloadable link of the film or two physical DVD / Blu-Ray screeners.

Please refer to film classification guidelines on the Infocomm Media Development Authority website.

Film Excerpt

Entrant is to provide a 60-second film clean excerpt (no subtitles, no watermark, not a trailer), for the presentation of their film for use in SGIFF Promotional Trailer and Public Relations Activities.

Frequently Asked
Questions

When will the Singapore International Film Festival be held this year?

The 37th Singapore International Film Festival will be held from 21 October to 1 November 2026.

May I request a deadline extension?

Only in rare exceptional cases with valid reasons will a submission be granted a deadline extension. Please contact the Festival in advance before the submission deadline for such cases. Any requests received after the submission deadline will not be granted.

Will I receive a confirmation that the Festival has received my submission?

You will receive a confirmation email once your submission has been registered in the Festival's submission database.

Can I submit more than one film?

Yes. Please make an individual submission for each film.

Can I submit my film to other festivals?

Yes, but we encourage you to submit to the Singapore International Film Festival only if you are keen on showcasing your film in our Festival and if you fulfil the eligibility requirements. If your film is submitted, you will have the option of accepting or declining our offer to screen your film.

What film formats does the Festival accept for submission?

The Festival only accepts online streaming links and online downloads. Submissions in any other format will not be reviewed by the Festival.

My film is still in post-production. Can I submit a rough-cut?

Yes. Please indicate in your submission that the film is still a rough-cut and list down the incomplete components of the film. Please note that rough-cuts must be close to completion and not previews of the film.

Does the Festival screen works-in-progress/incomplete films?

The Festival only screens completed films. If you submit a rough-cut for consideration, please note that in most cases, the film must be completed by 5 August 2026 to qualify for selection. Only in rare cases will a film be selected if it is still in-progress on 5 August 2026.

Frequently Asked
Questions**Can I re-submit a film that was submitted but not selected last year?**

It is possible to re-submit a film for consideration. However, it is very unlikely that a resubmitted film will be selected. We recommend resubmissions only if the film has been reworked and is significantly different from the previous submission. It is also crucial that the film still meets all the submission regulations.

Why is the Festival limiting its submissions to Asian Feature Films?

Since its beginnings, the Festival's aim was to recognise and create awareness of remarkable filmmaking talents throughout Asia, hence its focus on Asian filmmakers. In an effort to strengthen this focus and bring to our audience a tighter programme, we are now only accepting Feature Film entries directed by a filmmaker of Asian nationality or origin. The Festival will continue to present international titles curated by our Programming Team.

Why is the Festival limiting its submissions to short films directed by filmmaker of Southeast Asian nationality or origin?

Since 2014, the Short Film category has been focused exclusively on Southeast Asia. This decision reflects both the vast output of short films across Asia and SGIFF's aim to take a more concentrated regional approach, highlighting the richness, diversity and creative voices emerging from Southeast Asia.

Can I make changes to my submission details?

You will not be able to edit the submission form once it has been submitted. If there are any changes to the film's production details, please email the Festival at programme@sgiff.com to notify us on the changes.

Can I submit a film if copyright clearances for material used in the film are not fully obtained?

Yes, it is understood that copyright clearances might still be in process at the point of submission. However, all copyright clearances must be obtained before 20 August 2026. Please note that the entrant is responsible for all necessary copyright clearances for material used in their submitted works, and shall fully indemnify the Festival from any damage resulting from copyright infringement lawsuits from other parties.

Frequently Asked
Questions

What is the purpose of sending a screener for film classification?

Prior to public screenings in Singapore, the Infocomm Media Development Authority requires the review of films in advance for the purpose of classification into film ratings. Films are classified into the following ratings: G (Suitable for all ages), PG (Suitable for all but parents should guide their young), PG13 (Suitable for persons aged 13 and above but parental guidance is advised for children below 13), NC16 (Suitable for persons aged 16 and above), M18 (Suitable for persons aged 18 and above), R21 (Suitable for adults aged 21 and above), and NAR (Not Allowed for All Ratings).

Will the Festival screen my film in its entirety?

Yes, the Festival will only screen films that can be shown in its entirety as intended by the filmmaker. As the Festival maintains a no-edit policy, films that require edits to meet classification guidelines will be withdrawn from screening.

Can I choose which section I would like my film to be presented in?

The Festival reserves the right to decide which section selected films will participate in.

When will I be notified of the selection results?

All entrants will receive an email notification by mid-September 2026. If you have not heard from the Festival by this date, please contact programme@sgiff.com.

If my film is selected, is there a deadline for my confirmation of acceptance?

The entrant must reply the Festival within a week of receipt of notification to acknowledge acceptance/decline of selection.