



International Shibari Film Festival (ISFF)

Call for Film Submissions – 2026 Edition

Specifications – Call for Film Submissions

The International Shibari Film Festival (ISFF), organized by Atelier Mae, invites filmmakers from around the world to submit works for the 2026 edition.

The festival aims to:

- Highlight contemporary cinematic creation centered on shibari
- Support emerging and established artists
- Promote cultural diversity and inclusive representation
- Encourage cross-cultural perspectives and artistic dialogue
- Affirm shibari as an artistic language within cinema, performance, and visual arts
- Contribute to the recognition of shibari within international cultural spaces

1. Eligible Applicants

Submissions are open to:

- Directors, producers, collectives, film students, associations, and independent creators
- Participants aged 18 or older
- Applicants holding full rights to their films and performers' image rights

Conditions:

- International submissions welcome in all languages (English subtitles required)
- All genres accepted: fiction, documentary, animation, experimental, hybrid forms
- Up to two films may be submitted per applicant (one may be selected)
- Works must respect principles of consent, safety, and ethical representation

2. Ethical Framework – Consent & Respect

The ISFF places informed consent, respect, and safety at the core of its selection.

Each applicant must guarantee:

- Free and informed consent from all performers and collaborators
- Ethical working conditions during production
- Respectful and non-exploitative representation of bodies and identities

The festival reserves the right to refuse any submission if serious concerns arise regarding consent or ethical integrity.

3. Eligible Film Categories

Submitted films must fall into one of the following categories:

1. Live & Performances

Works capturing the live, performative dimension of shibari. Examples: public performance recordings, staged creations, live improvisations.

2. Cinema & Narration

Films integrating shibari within a narrative, aesthetic, or documentary approach.

3. Singular Perspectives

Experimental formats, music videos, private session recordings, hybrid or atypical artistic proposals.

Technical requirements:

- Duration: 1–15 minutes (excerpt required if longer)
- Production date: after January 1, 2010
- Accepted formats: DCP, MP4 (H264). No ProRes or MOV
- Normalized audio
- English subtitles required for all non-English works

4. Submission Requirements

Applicants must complete the online submission form and provide a private viewing link (Vimeo, unlisted YouTube, or download link without expiration).

Required materials:

- Technical information (title, duration, year, format, country)
- Synopsis (max. 500 characters)
- Director biography & filmography (max. 1,000 characters)
- Performer biographies (max. 300 characters)
- HD stills from the film
- HD photos of the director and performers
- Authorization for promotional use (up to 1 minute)
- Legal clearances if applicable

5. Selection Process

Evaluation criteria:

- Artistic originality and vision
- Technical and narrative quality
- Alignment with the festival's artistic direction
- Ethical integrity and clarity of consent
- Diversity and representativeness

Selection steps:

- Verification of submission eligibility
- Viewing by the pre-selection committee
- Final deliberation by the festival team
- Notification to applicants
- Official publication of the selection

Key dates:

- Opening of submissions: December 15, 2025
- Deadline: May 15, 2026 — 23:59 (Brussels, UTC+2)
- Notifications: May 15–30, 2026
- Official announcement: June 1, 2026
- ISFF Opening Evening: July 2, 2026 — 19:00

6. Participant Commitments

Participants confirm:

- Holding all copyright and image rights
- All contributors were adults at the time of filming
- Selected films cannot be withdrawn after official results
- Screening copies must be delivered by June 1, 2026

Participants authorize:

- Screening within the official ISFF program
- Limited promotional use of excerpts (max. 1 minute)

7. Organizer Commitments

ISFF guarantees:

- A transparent and professional selection process
- Optimal technical conditions for screenings
- Promotion of selected films through official channels
- Visibility among audiences, media, and cultural professionals

The festival may withdraw a film if ethical concerns arise after submission.

8. Awards and Prizes

Awards are determined through a combined vote of the public and the selection committee.

Category winners receive prizes offered by partners and local businesses.

The Audience Grand Prize awards between €500 and €1,000, depending on partnerships and funding, confirmed in Spring 2026.

9. Contact

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