



AGHFFF

Avant-Garde Horror & Fantasy Film Festival

REGULATIONS FOR FEATURE & SHORT FILMS

The **AVANT-GARDE HORROR & FANTASY FILM FESTIVAL** is an international film festival in Croatia dedicated to the screening and promotion of cinematographic works in the fantasy, science-fiction, thriller and other horror/fantasy sub-genres, collectively known as “genre films” and with a purpose to promote worldwide & national development of the genre film industry towards professionals and the public.

General Conditions

1. A selection committee designated by the administrative board of the festival chooses and invites the films presented in competition, out of competition and in the retrospective categories. Once a film has been submitted to the selection committee, it cannot be withdrawn.

2. The 1st AGHFFF - AVANT-GARDE HORROR & FANTASY FILM FESTIVAL will take place from the 5th till the 8th of June 2025 at **CMIK – CMC** in Novigrad - Cittanova, Istria, Croatia. The final date to enter a film for the selection is fixed for the **29th of April 2025**.

3. Selected films in competition will at least have to be **Croatian premieres**. Only in exceptional cases will the selection committee allow films that have already been shown at another festival in Croatia to be screened at the AGHFFF.

4. There is no premiere rule for non-competitive and out of competition sections, including but not limited to **AGHFFF Kids & Ex-Yu retrospective section** – with the exception that any selected films (competitive or out of competition) **must have not been publicly screened in Istria, Croatia** up to at least six (6) months prior to the date of the start of the 1st **AGHFFF** (5th of June 2025) nor will be played in Istria, Croatia anytime during the duration of AGHFFF with an ending on 8th of June 2025. This includes digital and TV play in Istria and/or the country of Croatia for the duration of AGHFFF (5-8 of June 2025).

5. Films which inscribe themselves in the fantasy, horror, thriller, science-fiction and/or hybrid fantastic genre including their sub-genres (ex. body horror, exploitation, giallo...) collectively known as “genre films” will be taken into consideration. All submitted films in the competitive categories must have been completed after the **1st of January 2022**.

6. The Duration of the films will adhere to the following:

6.1. Feature Films running time **no shorter than 60 minutes**.

6.2. Short Films with a running time which **will not surpass 25 minutes**.

7. All films will have to be in the Original Version and **subtitled in English**. If in addition to English, Italian and/or Croatian subtitles are available, we welcome them. Upon selection of films for all categories, **all films** must submit .srt & dialogue lists in English via electronic transfer **no later than May 10th 2025**. **This applies also to** Croatian and regional films from Ex-Yu territories. Titles submitted in the **AGHFFF Kids**

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section **can be dubbed in Croatian, but must also provide English subtitles** as per the above. The Festival will not return these materials, and they will be destroyed once the event ends.

8. Attention! If the film is freely available on digital distribution platforms (ex: You Tube, Vimeo etc.), and/or is currently distributed/available commercially on any free or paid platform in the country of Croatia and/or available to Croatian audiences/territory (with exception as written in Article 4.) we will be obligated to refuse your film for selection or withdraw it from the selection.

9. Registration & Submission Protocol:

I. To submit a film to the Festival, the following instructions must be followed:

9.1.1. Register the short film or feature film through the official platforms designated by the event: filmfreeway.com and festhome.com.

9.1.2. FILMS of ANY nationality, excluding Croatia & the Countries of Ex-Yu can be submitted in the following category:

a. International (Feature Films or Short Films)

Feature or Short fiction genre films with an artistic focus in all genre categories (horror, thriller, giallo, sci-fi, mystery, exploitation, commercial horror)

9.1.3. FILMS of ANY nationality, including Croatia & the Countries of Ex-Yu can be submitted in one (1) of the following categories:

b. Experimentation (Feature Films or Short Films)

Genre films with an artistic and surrealist twist/edge in hybrid, live action, experimental and/or other varying styles, excluding VR.

c. At the Stroke of Midnight (Feature Films or Short Films)

Live-action fiction genre films with stronger and more shocking content such as gore, body horror, exploitation, slasher etc.

d. Animation (Short Films ONLY)

Short animated genre films with an artistic focus in all genre styles (horror, thriller, sci-fi, fantasy, hybrid)

e. AGHFFF Kids – NON-COMPETITIVE – (Feature Films or Short Films)

Fiction & animated feature & short genre films suitable for a younger audience (5-12 years old).

9.1.4. FILMS from Croatia and/or any of the **Countries of EX-Yu** including **Co- Productions** (where the **majority producer** was from a Croatian and/or Ex-Yu territory) can be submitted in the following category:

f. National/Regional (Feature Films or Short Films)

Croatian or regional/Ex-Yu genre fiction films with an artistic focus in all genre categories (horror, thriller, giallo, sci-fi, mystery, exploitation, commercial horror)

9.1.5. You must register in only one (1) of the above described six (6) categories per the specific length of film and per length as described above in (A) General Conditions, Article 6.

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- 9.1.6. If the Festival Selection Committee finds that a submission to National/Regional category is not in compliance** with the above as stated in (9.) Registration & Submission Protocol – Article 9.1.4.- f., The Festival Selection Committee will reject the submission and refund the fee. If such a case were to occur, the Festival will accept a re-submission of the same title in the appropriate category with appropriate fee, granted it is in the **AGHFFF deadline range** and not submitted after **April 29th 2025**.
- 9.1.7.** Feature & Short films registered in any category, will be eligible and may be moved to a different section at the discretion of the Festival committee.
- 9.1.8.** Submission of work in progress (WIP) is accepted. The production status must be indicated at the time of registration by checking the appropriate box or by indicating it in parentheses after the title and film. WIP titles must guarantee completion with delivery of final screening copy to be submitted to the Festival by no later than **20th of May 2025**.
- 9.1.9.** DVD/Blu-Ray submissions will not be accepted. Likewise, viewing links received outside the official platform will not be considered.
- 9.1.10. Important:** Works are not submitted according to the festival's own sections, except in the case of wishing to participate in AGHFFF Kids section, which has programming subject to specific requirements. Participants in all other categories who are selected will receive a notification indicating the final section determined by the Festival Programming Directorate. This direction reserves the right to offer the section it considers most appropriate regardless of the registration made, if necessary.

II. Registration Fees:

- 9.2.1.** The Festival will charge a registration fee per work submitted through the screening platform.
- 9.2.2.** This fee does not include any registration fees that the platform may apply.
- 9.2.3.** Regular Deadline is by **11:59 pm CET on April 9th, 2025**
- 9.2.4.** Late Deadline is from **April 15th until 11.59 pm CET on April 29th, 2025**
- 9.2.5.** The fee set for the **2025 edition** is:
- a. Feature Films** - International, Experimentation, At the Stroke of Midnight, AGHFFF Kids sections: **€ 20** Regular Deadline, **€30** Late Deadline
 - b. Short Films** - International, Experimentation, At the Stroke of Midnight, Animation, AGHFFF Kids sections: **€ 10** Regular Deadline, **€20** Late Deadline
 - c. Feature Films – National/Regional** section only: **€ 10** Regular Deadline, **€ 20** Late Deadline
 - d. Short Films – National/Regional** section only: **€ 5** Regular Deadline, **€10** Late Deadline
- 9.2.6.** Payment will be made at the time of registration through the platform.

III. Registration Deadlines:

- 9.3.1.** The registration deadlines **for all categories** including **AGHFFF Kids** section **April 29, 2025**



9.3.2. No titles will be accepted after the official registration deadline has passed.

IV. Selection of a Work at AGHFFF – Avant-Garde Horror & Fantasy Film Festival:

9.4.1. AGHFFF will contact the producers/distributors of the selected films, who will need to complete an additional form (entry form) to formalize their participation in the event. This communication will take place (approximately) in early May.

9.4.2. If a film has not been selected, the registration platform will automatically send a notification on May 5th, 2025, to all titles that have formalized their registration through this channel.

9.4.3. By submitting to AGHFFF, you are granting AGHFFF right to usage of any excerpt of your film for promotional content.

9.4.4. A film presented in the official selection of the AGHFFF cannot be withdrawn once the rights holder has confirmed the selection.

9. Festival Awards

I. Four (4) juries consisting of a mix of three (3) international & national film industry members for each section will present the following awards respective to the section they are jurying:

10.1.1. WILD GOAT AWARD will be presented to one (1) Best Feature Film in each of the following categories:

- a) **International Competition**
- b) **National/Regional Competition**
- c) **Experimentation Competition**
- d) **At the Stroke of Midnight Competition**

10.1.2. PETIT WILD GOAT AWARD will be presented to one (1) Best Short Film in each of the following categories:

- a) **International Competition**
- b) **National/Regional Competition**
- c) **Experimentation Competition**
- d) **At the Midnight Stroke Competition**
- e) **Animation Competition**

10.1.3. SURREALIST SHOCK GOAT AWARD for Best Hybrid Artistic genre film will be chosen by all juries jointly as one (1) and presented to one (1) Feature Film and one (1) Short Film, chosen among all the feature and short film premieres presented at the Festival, regardless of presenting section, with the exception of the masterclass feature & AGHFFF Kids feature/shorts.



10.1.4. AUDIENCE GOAT AWARD will be chosen by Spectators and presented to one (1) Best Feature Film, chosen among all the feature premieres presented at the Festival, with the exception of the masterclass feature, closing feature & AGHFFF Kids feature/shorts.

10.1.5. SPECIAL JURY MENTION is **not mandatory for any competitive section** and may or may not be awarded. Awarding or not awarding Special Jury Mention in their respective competitive category is at the sole choice and discretion of each jury. The same rule applies to the SURREALIST SHOCK GOAT AWARD. The Special Jury Mention may be awarded to a maximum of 2x features films & 2x short films or one or the other or none at all in each competitive category including THE SURREALIST SHOCK GOAT AWARD.

10.1.6. Anyone who is directly linked to a film presented in one of the festival's competitions, cannot be a member of that competition jury, and will be excluded from voting for the SURREALIST SHOCK GOAT AWARD (Feature & Short).

10.1.7. The juries' decisions are final.

10.1.8. The juries' decisions will be announced at AGHFFF's closing ceremony and on the Festival's website, at aghfff.com.

11. The laureates and the film distribution companies engage themselves to use in their publicity the wording of the prizes as stated in **Article 10. Festival Awards**.

12. The Festival does not offer screening fees for selected features or shorts, nor cover other costs such as delivery, lab and/or KDM fees. The Festival will exceptionally take into consideration requests for one of the above for Feature Films ONLY on a small case-by-case basis.

13. In the event that a film is sold to a rights holder for our territory after confirmation, the conditions under which the film was accepted at the festival must be respected by the new rights holder. The festival has the right to present the film under the conditions agreed in the memo deal with the original rights holder.

14. Requested materials have to be delivered before the **15th of May 2025** and include the following:

- 1) Entry form
- 2) Promotional materials for the film (press kit, poster, stills, trailer...)
- 3) Subtitles in .srt file & dialogue list in English, and if available Croatian and Italian subtitles
- 4) Signed document granting rights to exhibit selected film publicly during AGHFFF and privately for Festival Direction/Tech/Selection Committee during tech test screening period (2-4 of May 2025)

14.2.1. The company providing the film shall provide the festival with high-quality promotional materials: photographs, posters, press kits, trailers, etc., so that the festival can adequately promote the film. The Festival reserves the right not to return these materials.

15. Technical Specifications for the screening copy:

I. FEATURE FILMS:

15.1.1. Accepted format: Unencrypted **DCP** on digital transfer ONLY or digital file with HD quality (.mov, mp4)



II. SHORT FILMS:

15.2.1. Accepted format: Unencrypted **DCP** on digital transfer ONLY or digital file with HD quality (.mov, mp4)

III. ALL SELECTED FILMS FEATURES & SHORTS:

15.3.1. Encryption: We strongly prefer unencrypted DCP's but will accept on a case-by-case basis encrypted DCP's for Feature Films ONLY. If encrypted, the company must provide Official DKDM or KDM's at no charge to the Festival and to be valid for the entire duration of the festival (**5th till 8th June 2025**) and also for testing: **2nd till 4th of June 2025**.

15.3.2. Screenings copies **must be sent digitally**, but if absolutely no other way for Feature Film DCP's ONLY, an exception can be made upon request and at the sole discretion of the Festival Administration to accept screening copy in physical form (hard drive). The latest deadline to receive any screening copies is **26th of May 2025**.

15.3.3. Feature Films ONLY: if granted approval to submit a physical copy as stated in Article 15.3.2 ONLY the transportation costs incurred by sending the physical screening copy is covered by the festival, as long as the shipping is done by the Festival's official carrier, except in cases where the copy must be sent to another film festival. If a film has to be shipped to another festival it will be at the charge of that other festival. In case of providing a screening copy in physical support, the festival commits to return this copy as soon as possible, within a maximum of 20 days after the end of the event. If the copy is damaged because of its exhibition at the festival, the owner will notify the festival within one month from the return date. The Festival's liability will not exceed the cost specified in the entry form by the company providing the film.

15.3.4. The Festival organization commits to delete all digitally received projection materials once the current edition is over.

15.3.5. The Festival will not cover potential costs of digital shipments and the (go and return) transport of the films will be at the charge, risks and perils of the director, producer, distributor, rights-holder.

15.3.6. Digital delivery: The Festival can download the film from other servers via FTP or other platforms such as We Transfer, DropBox, Aspera, Signiant Media Shuttle etc. The Festival does not have a server to upload the films.

15.3.7. DCPs need to be uploaded without zipping them.

15.3.8. We cannot accept last minute digital deliveries.

15.3.9. Please check your DCP's carefully in a screening room before you send it to us.

15.3.10. The films will have to be in possession of the festival at the latest by **26th of May 2025** digitally and on a case-by-case basis as per Article 15.3.2./15.3.3. physically at the following address: **AGHFFF** – Avant-Garde Horror Film Festival, Karla Bošnjaka 4, Ivanja Reka, 10373, Zagreb, Croatia

16. The Festival organization will decide the days and screening times of the film. No film, included in any section of the festival, will be screened more than 3 times, including the press screening, without the prior consent of the owner.



17. For promotional purposes, the organizers ask the lenders of the copies to cede distribution rights of an extract of the films to all Croatian television stations for a MAXIMUM of 10% of the film's length, and this until the end of the Festival.

18. The Festival does not take in charge transport, accommodation and sojourn expenses of the guests related to the presented films.

19. The Festival does not award cash prizes. *(subject to change at the discretion of Festival Administration)*

20. Participation at the Festival implies adherence to the present regulations. In case of dispute, only the Croatian regulations will count, and not the English translation.

More information:

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