



DOTS
festival

Documenting
Our True Stories

DOTS International
Documentary Film Festival

Submission Guidelines

General Description

Dots Festival seeks short, human-centered stories from around the globe. We welcome documentary films that explore, question, and illuminate aspects of the human experience in contemporary contexts.

Categories

Social Issues, Personal Stories, Identity & Culture, Human & Environment, Mental & Physical Health, Migration & Displacement, Community & Relationships, Work & Daily Life.

Eligibility

- Maximum duration: **30 minutes**.
 - Films must have hardcoded **English** subtitles.
 - The submitted film must be **completed**; works-in-progress will not be considered.
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Submission Period

- **Opens:** Dec 10, 2025
 - **Closes:** March 10, 2026
 - Late submissions will not be accepted.
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How to Submit

- All submissions must be made exclusively via FilmFreeway through the Festival's official profile.
 - Early bird : **€7 per entry**.
 - Submission fee: **€9 per entry**.
 - Participants must ensure all information on FilmFreeway is accurate and complete.
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Technical Requirements

- **File format:** .mp4
 - **Encoding:** H.264
 - **Resolution:** 1920×1080
 - **Aspect ratio:** 16:9
 - **Scan type:** Progressive
 - **Video bitrate:** 10–12 Mbps
 - **Frame rate:** 25 or 30 fps
 - **Audio:** AAC, 256–320 Kbps, 48 kHz
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Press Kit Requirements

- Director's short bio (3 lines)
 - Film credits and production details (contributors, country, year, duration)
 - Film summary (up to 100 words) in English
 - Film stills (high resolution)
 - Poster (vertical, high-resolution)
 - Trailer (optional, 30–90 seconds)
 - Social media presence (Instagram, facebook, website, etc)
 - All files must be compiled into a **single PDF** named after the director.
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- **Final Deadline for Materials:** Film & press kit must be submitted by **July 31, 2026**.
 - **Notification Date for shortlisted films:** Typically 4–8 weeks before the festival starts.
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Additional Terms

By submitting your film, you agree to the following terms:

- **Promotional Use:** The festival reserves the right to use excerpts of your film (video and/or audio), as well as other press materials, for promotional purposes across various media and platforms.
- **Catalogue and Website Edits:** The festival may edit the film description you provide for inclusion in the festival catalogue, website, and other promotional materials.
- **Subtitles:** If your film contains dialogue or text in a language other than English, both the preview and screening copies must include English subtitles—unless the absence of subtitles is a deliberate artistic choice.

- **Rights and Clearances:** By submitting, you confirm that you hold all necessary rights for both visuals and audio. The film must not infringe upon any third-party rights, including music, images, or other content.
- **Application Review:** The festival reserves the right to reject any application that is incomplete or missing required materials.
- **Program and Screening Authority:** The festival maintains exclusive control over the screening schedule, programming decisions, and venue assignments. Content that does not align with the festival's objectives may be declined.
- **Filming and Documentation:** Portions of the festival will be filmed for archival and promotional purposes. Attendees and participants may appear in this footage without compensation.
- **Cancellation Clause:** The DOTS Festival organizing team reserves the right to cancel the festival if circumstances require it.

Shortlisted films:

- A **copyright release declaration**, signed by the **owner**, must be submitted to the Festival organizing team.
- An excerpt from each selected film may be used in the **Festival trailer** and other **promotional materials**.
- For non-Greek films, it is mandatory to submit:
 - the film **without embedded subtitles**, and
 - a **separate, synchronized .srt file** with **English subtitles**.

Submission to the DOTS Festival implies full acceptance of these guidelines. Submissions are binding, and failure to comply with the regulations may result in disqualification.