

TABACA FILM FEST 2026 RULES

3rd EDITION – INTERNATIONAL CALL

FESTIVAL DESCRIPTION

September 18–27, 2026 – Gerri de la Sal (Catalan Pyrenees)

“The fantastic emerges from reality like the moon over a misty swamp.”

The idea for the Festival was born from our passion for the Pallars Sobirà, a remote region of the Pyrenees, its stories and legends, and for cinema. Our desire to preserve the most mysterious heritage of this wild land grew into the Tabaca Film Fest – the Mythological Film Festival of the Pyrenees.

This is a land rich in its own myths and legends, but every corner of the world has its own Yeti, its own mermaid, its own werewolf, its own mountain guardian — in short, its own mythological imagination.

With the Tabaca Film Fest we bring to light these stories from the Pallars, the Pyrenees and all over the world through the art form we know best: cinema.

We believe this Festival can embody values we care deeply about: quality cinema and the preservation of mythological and historical memory, in an extraordinary natural setting.

Tabaca Film Fest accepts short films in the categories of fiction, animation, documentary, and video-dance, and includes an international open call and complementary activities.

The third edition of Tabaca Film Fest will take place in person in Gerri de la Sal from September 18 to 27, 2026.

The Festival will include an opening ceremony, screenings of the finalist films, and a closing gala with an award ceremony. In parallel, there will be a wide variety of cultural activities.

AWARDS

The competitive section will include a selection of fiction, animation, documentary and video-dance short films from around the world, no longer than 30 minutes, produced after January 1, 2023, in any digital format and any language.

The third edition of the Festival will bring together fiction, animation, documentary and video-dance short films from the international scene, with a maximum duration of 30 minutes, produced after January 1, 2023, in all digital formats and in all languages.

The short films will compete for the following awards:

- ✧ Tabaca Award, endowed with €1,000 and the Festival trophy, for Best National Short Film.
- ✧ Biterna Award, endowed with €1,000 and the Festival trophy, for Best Short Film inspired by mythological characters or places of the Pyrenees, or that includes local dialectal and/or identity features.

- ✖ Gea Award, endowed with €1,000 and the Festival trophy, for Best International Short Film (non-Spanish).
- ✖ Ofita Award, endowed with €500 and the Festival trophy, for Best National (Spain) Short Film, aimed at emerging creators, students, and debut works, with a fresh perspective on mythology.
- ✖ Audience Award, open to all finalist short films, endowed with €300 and a gift, awarded by popular vote among attendees at the Festival screenings.

ELIGIBILITY

All submitted short films must be inspired by the mythological world, in the broadest sense.

When we speak of mythology in film storytelling, we refer to a universe of myths, legends, fables, superstitions, premonitions, tales, traditions and family stories that define a culture, land or community. Modern reinterpretations of ancestral myths in a contemporary context are also welcome. Universal archetypes and timeless narratives are more alive than ever: the figure of the hero, the sage, the unsolved mystery, or the endless labyrinth still fascinate us.

This genre draws from many influences: fantasy, horror, folk-horror, science fiction, mystery, historical cinema, epic drama, road movies, westerns, nature documentaries, ethnographic films, spiritual and philosophical works...

Ultimately, myth can manifest in the most unexpected places and can be seen in every gaze.

DEADLINES & NOTIFICATIONS

- ✖ Deadline for submissions: May 29
- ✖ Finalists notified: August 1, 2026 by email
- ✖ Winners announced: Live during the Festival's closing ceremony

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSIONS

- ✖ Films must be inspired by the mythological world in the broadest sense.
- ✖ Films can be made in any digital format and any language.
- ✖ Films must be submitted in original version.
- ✖ Maximum duration: 30 minutes
- ✖ Eligible short films must be produced on or after January 1, 2023.
- ✖ Films that have already been released commercially in the Pallars Sobirà or published online for public viewing will not be accepted.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Submission implies providing:

- ✖ A synopsis
- ✖ An artistic and technical dossier
- ✖ A functioning viewing link
- ✖ Up-to-date contact details

Participants must ensure that passwords for YouTube, Vimeo, or other platforms remain active and unchanged until the end of the Festival.

A symbolic €1 submission fee is required.

As part of its commitment to equality, and to support the visibility of women, gender-diverse, and racialized people in film production, the Festival may ask participants to optionally provide their gender identity (female, male, non-binary, other) and whether they identify as non-white, in order to compile accurate diversity statistics for the audiovisual sector.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SELECTED SHORT FILMS

- ✖ Additional materials and screening copies must be submitted by August 15, 2026
- ✖ These materials include:
 - ✖ Director's photo
 - ✖ Stills from the film
 - ✖ Posters
 - ✖ Trailers and other promotional materials
- ✖ Screening copies must be sent in HD format
- ✖ Subtitles in Catalan or Spanish are required if the film is not in either of these languages.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR WINNING SHORT FILMS

- ✖ Award winners agree to include the mention of the prize received at Tabaca Film Fest in all future screenings of the film.
- ✖ Winners authorize the Festival to use all submitted promotional materials to promote the Festival across all physical and digital media, including the Festival's social networks and partner platforms.

JURY

The Festival Direction will appoint the jury.
All jury decisions will be final and unappealable.
No awards will be left unawarded.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

- ✖ Filmmakers guarantee that their works do not infringe the rights of third parties. The Festival accepts no liability in this regard.
- ✖ By submitting, participants grant the Festival the right to project and exhibit their film, in full or in part, exclusively for Festival promotion purposes (no commercial or non-promotional use is permitted).
- ✖ Submitted works will become part of the Tabaca Film Fest archive, authorized to screen them for one year after the end of the Festival as part of its cultural activities.
- ✖ Submission implies full acceptance of the present rules.
- ✖ The Festival will make every reasonable effort to facilitate the attendance of filmmakers whose works are selected.
- ✖ The Festival reserves the right to program works that do not fully meet these requirements for artistic reasons.
- ✖ The Festival reserves the right to group films by theme for screenings.
- ✖ All Festival decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

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