

REGULATIONS

The 9th ANIMAFILM International Animation Festival

Founder and organizers of the festival

ANIMAFILM International Animation Festival was founded in 2018 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The organizer of the ANIMAFILM festival is the “ANIMAFILM” LLC. Since 2022 the festival is co-organized with the NGO Azerbaijan Animation Association.

Status of the festival

The 9th ANIMAFILM will be held on 13-17 May 2026 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Goals of the festival

The festival ANIMAFILM sets the following goals:

1. To promote the development of animation art in Azerbaijan.
2. To create a platform to screen animated films and exchange experiences between local and foreign animation film professionals.
3. To promote the production of new Azerbaijani animated films.
4. To promote the creation of potential international co-productions.

Organizing Committee

Management of the preparation and holding of the ANIMAFILM festival is carried out by the Organizing Committee, headed the festival director. The structure of the Organizing Committee is formed by the director of the festival.

Program

The Organizing Committee determines the program of the festival. The festival program includes a competition program, a non-competition program, a program for professionals and an accompanying program.

Competition program

The competition program includes the following categories:

National competition:

1. Best Azerbaijani Short Animated Film
2. Best project of the ANIMAFILM Pitching Competition

International competition:

3. Best Short Animated Film (up to 30 minutes) - GRAND PRIX
4. Best Animated Television Series
5. Best Short Animated Film for Children (up to 30 minutes)

Non-competition program

Non-competition program consists of the following sections:

1. Thematic screenings - this section is dedicated to the main theme of the festival.
2. Retrospectives - screenings of works by internationally renowned animation authors.
3. Children's program - this section will present national and foreign animated films provided for the children's audience.

Professional program

The professional program includes:

1. ANIMAFILM Pitching Competition
2. Business meetings on topical issues of modern animation.
3. Master classes, workshops and lectures.

Accompanying program

The accompanying program may include exhibitions, concerts, creative meetings and other events related to the art of animation films.

General Conditions

A participant can send an unlimited number of works to the festival.

The festival doesn't consider work-in-progress projects for the competition program.

The Selection Panel has the right to independently determine works submitted for the festival in a particular program, category or section, not notifying the participant in advance.

All the films of the contest program will be shown in the original language with Azerbaijani or English subtitles.

Conditions for accepting of animated films for participation in the competition program

To participate at the ANIMAFILM Festival a film should be submitted via [FilmFreeway platform](#) before March 25, 2026. The film must comply with the following conditions:

1. The film must be made after January 1, 2025.
2. More than 50% of the film must be an animation. There are no limitations in the animation techniques used in the film.
3. The participant (director, producer or other authorized person) who provides an animated film, declares that he/she is authorized to screen the film at the festival.

Copyrights

The participant of the festival (director, producer or other authorized person), sending a film to the festival, agrees that the Organizing Committee has the rights to:

1. Unlimited number of public screenings of an animated film during all ANIMAFILM festival events (only offline), as well as at other non-commercial screenings in Azerbaijan.

2. Use of parts of an animated film in the festival promos, festival website and internet platforms (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube etc.), documentary films about the festival, television reports about the festival and other audiovisual products aimed at disseminating information on the festival.
3. To publish a trailer of an animated film on the website of the festival and internet platforms (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube etc.).
4. Use of shots and characters in the festival promotional materials (festival catalog, festival website, festival promo products etc.).
5. Create Azerbaijani and English subtitles or/and dubbing for the animated film.
6. Store animated film in the archive of the festival.

Selection Panel

The Organizing Committee appoints a Selection Panel consisting of professionals working in the field of animation and arts. Members of the Organizing Committee can also serve as members of the Selection Panel. The Panel selects films for the competition and other programs among the works submitted for selection. The decisions of the Selection Panel are final. The Selection Panel reserves the right not to explain the reason for the refusal and not to comment.

Jury

The jury is elected by the Organizing Committee.

International Jury selects the best films in all categories, except Best Short Animated Film for Children.

Special Children's Jury selects the winner in the category of Best Short Animated Film for Children.

The winner of the "Audience Award" will be determined by audience, who can vote after each screening. Audience can only vote for the films that are included to the competition program. All members of the Organizing Committee, the Selection Panel, Jury, the festival team, volunteers, all festivals guests, participants and regular audience has right to vote.

The Jury cannot include members of the Organizing Committee, the Selection Panel or people, who participated in the creation of animated films, which participate in the competition program.

The Organizing Committee and Selection Panel may attend the discussions of the Jury, but they do not have the right to vote.

Awards

The awards are offered for the best film in each category:

The "Audience Award" is awarded based on the results of the audience vote. Counting of votes is carried out under the guidance of the Organizing Committee of the festival.

The ANIMAFILM Festival has the right to allow sponsors to establish their own prizes.

General Provisions

This regulation is written in Azerbaijani and English on January, 2026.

Participation in the festival ANIMAFILM implies the unconditional acceptance of the conditions and rules set out in this regulation. Any issues and disputes that arose during the preparation and holding of the festival will be decided by the organizer of the festival and in accordance with the current laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan.