



REGULATIONS OF THE ITFS 2025

32. INTERNATIONALES TRICKFILM-FESTIVAL STUTTGART –
FESTIVAL OF ANIMATED FILM
May 06–11, 2025

SHORT FILM COMPETITIONS – ENTRY DEADLINE NOVEMBER 15, 2024
INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION // STUDENT COMPETITION
TRICKSTAR NATURE AWARD // TRICKS FOR KIDS
FEATURE LENGTH FILM COMPETITION – ENTRY DEADLINE JANUARY 15, 2025
ANIMOVIE

Preliminary Remarks

The Film- und Medienfestival gGmbH (hereinafter also referred to as the “FMF”) is the organizer of the annual Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film (hereinafter referred to as the “ITFS”). The ITFS is an Oscar-qualifying festival and one of the world's largest events for animated film. With its diverse programme, various competitions and interfaces with other disciplines such as VR and AR, games and music, art and science, it has evolved into an important platform for animation art and film culture, offering filmmakers and producers as well as distribution and sales companies the opportunity to present their works to both international industry representatives and an interested broad audience.

The ITFS promotes artistic animated film and provides a platform for emerging artistic talent.

The 32st ITFS is to be held from May 06–11, 2025.

The Regulations govern the conditions for submitting films for participation in the competitions and for presenting animated films (hereinafter collectively referred to as “Animated Film”) in the competition program and, if the entrant has given his*her specific consent in the Application Form, for presentation in the supporting program.

1. Submission of entries

1.1 Terms and conditions for participation in the ITFS Competitions

Every Animated Film, including computer animations and combinations of live action and animation, that was completed after October 01, 2023 may be submitted to participate in the ITFS competitions. Only completed Animated Films can be taken into consideration in the preselection process. In case of doubt, the FMF will decide. The medium of choice for the viewing is an upload of the film. Films with dialogues that are not in English must have English subtitles. The films chosen by the preselection jury of the ITFS participate in the competitions free of charge. Only the service provider of the submission platform Shortfilmdepot charges for its service. No payment of film rental is intended for the films selected.

Only Animated Films of **up to 30 minutes in length** are admitted for entry in the **International Competition**, the **Student**, the **Trickstar Nature Award** and in the children’s film competition **Tricks for Kids**.

Any Animated Film made by students and graduates of universities of film, art and media studies and of educational institutes may be entered in the **Student Competition**. It is not possible for student films to be submitted to the International Competition.

Animated short films and series for children up to 12 years (each with no more than one episode) may be submitted to the children's film competition **Tricks for Kids**. The entry condition for submitting a series is that the episode narrative comprises self-contained stories or part stories.

Animated short films addressing the topics of climate protection, biodiversity, the environment and sustainability in a manner which is critical and informative yet also entertaining and humorous are eligible for submission to the **Trickstar Nature Award**.

The AniMovie feature-length film competition is open to **animated films of 60 minutes or longer** that have not yet been distributed commercially in Germany (cinema or VOD) by the end of the ITFS on May 11, 2025 and which are aimed at an adult audience. Animated feature-length films with a core target group of children or young people can also be submitted if they also appeal to a wider audience with an unique artistic style.

1.2 Registration and application / submission for preselection

The precondition for participation in the ITFS itself and in the ITFS preselection process is that registration has been concluded and the Application Form completed in full and sent to the FMF online. A viewing copy of the Animated Film to be submitted must be sent in digital form in compliance with the FMF's technical stipulations below via the submission platform www.shortfilmdepot.com or, if the registration and application is made by e-mail, by using the download link. The following technical stipulations must be adhered to:

Video:

Video format: mov., mp4., mv4. (HD resolution), max. 8 GB

Video codec: H264, frame rate: 24, 25 or 30 fps

Data rate: 5000 kbps, resolution: 1920x1080

Audio:

Audio codec: AAC, data rate: 320 kbps

Sample rate: 48.1 kHz

1.2.1. Registration and submission using the submission platform

First of all, the rightsholders or the legally authorized representatives of the rightsholders must register on the submission platform www.shortfilmdepot.com and create their own account there. For this they have to enter their first name and surname, their business address, contact data (telephone number, e-mail address), the name of the company they represent and their position in the company of the rightsholder. Provision of these details is mandatory for effective submission of the Animated Film. The entrants are then sent an e-mail with the access data (user name and allocated password) for their account on the submission platform. On the platform, the entrants then first create a so-called Film Card containing the essential data of the Animated Film being submitted and upload the Animated Film. Then they select that they wish to participate in the ITFS competitions and agree to the application of the Regulations and of the Application Form they have completed. Although participation in the ITFS is free of charge, the submission platform does levy a charge for its service; the amount of the charge depends on the number of Animated Films submitted. The Standard Terms and Conditions of Business and Use of the submission platform apply to the use of the platform; these are provided at: www.shortfilmdepot.com.

1.2.2. Registration and submission via e-mail

In exceptional cases, and only after conferring with the FMF, is it permissible to submit an Animated Film via e-mail. For this the entrants proceed as follows:

Entrants fully complete the Application Form provided as a PDF file on the ITFS website at: <https://www.itfs.de/en/professionals/call-for-entries/> and send this to the FMF by e-mail to the following address: printtraffic@festival-gmbh.de. The entrant then submits the Animated Film by transmitting it to the FMF by e-mail via a download link or by sending it to the FMF on a data storage medium by post.

The precondition for effective submission is that the entrants agree to the application of these Regulations, including all Annexes hereto, and agree to all the declarations in the Application Form, including the application of the [Data Privacy Statement](#), that they complete the Application Form in full and provide all the required data during registration. In particular, the following details must be provided and/or accompanying materials submitted – this also applies to an entry submitted via the submission platform:

- Brief details of the content,
- Credits,
- Filmography director,
- Dialogue list with time codes (in the original language and English),
- List of subtitles (in English),
- Stills (300 dpi, jpg),

- Press material,
- Relevant contact data,
- Declaration on the grant of rights of use.

Films submitted via e-mail cannot be included in the Animated Video Market.

1.2.3. General obligations

In accordance with the provisions of statute, all holders of copyright and of rights related to copyright [Leistungsschutzberechtigte] have to be named in full when the submission is made. Entries submitted that are incomplete or erroneous, which do not comply with the technical requirements or meet the conditions for registration/application or which have content infringing the law, cannot be given consideration and are excluded from participating in the competitions. One Application Form must be completed for each Animated Film.

Final date for receipt of the application and the submission for preselection:

November 15, 2024 (date of receipt): **Short film competitions** International Competition, Student Competition, Trickstar Nature Award and Tricks for Kids

January 15, 2025 (date of receipt): **Feature Length Film Competition** AniMovie

2. Preselection and preselection juries

The FMF management assesses whether all the entry conditions and formal requirements have been met. If the entry conditions or formal requirements have not been met, the entry will be excluded from participation in the competition. Possible deficiencies can be remedied up until the end of the time period for submission.

The preselection juries decide on the compilation of the competition programs and of the supporting programs. The FMF stipulates the criteria for the selection. The decisive criterion is the artistic quality of the Animated Film.

All entrants who have submitted an Animated Film for preselection will be notified whether their Animated Film has been included in Festival program by March 02, 2025 at the latest.

3. Jury and awards

The artistic management decides on the composition of the international juries for the various competitions. The juries decide on awarding the prizes in the relevant competition. No member of the jury may have been involved in the production or distribution of an Animated Film which he or she has to evaluate. The prize money is disbursed to the director of the Animated Film.

The following prizes are awarded (<https://www.itfs.de/en/professionals/competitions/>):

A) International Competition

Grand Prix

State of Baden-Württemberg and City of Stuttgart Grand Award for Animated Film

Lotte Reiniger Promotion Award for Animated Film

B) Student Competition

International student film competition – award for the best student film.

C) Tricks for Kids

Award for the best animated children's short film.

D) Trickstar Nature Award

Award for the best animated short film that deals with the topics of climate protection, biodiversity, the environment and sustainability.

E) AniMovie Award

Award for the best international animated feature-length film.

Prizes are subject to change, see also www.ITFS.de.

It is requested that an official representative (director, production) of the winning film attends the awards ceremony on the eve of May 11, 2025.

The ITFS also announces the following competitions and categories, for which separate application forms are available on the website:

November 2024: **German Animation Screenplay Award; Animated Games Award Germany, Work in Progress**

December 2024: **Trickstar Business Award**

4. Selected Animated Films

An official invitation will be extended to the Animated Films selected and sent by e-mail to the person indicated as entrant in the Application Form or on the submission platform. The invitation will be for one or multiple sections subject to the conditions specified in the invitation letter. The invitation is for that version of the Animated Film submitted to the selection commission for assessment. If any changes have been made to the Animated Film, these must be disclosed to the FMF which then has the possibility of retrospectively rejecting the Animated Film.

International films in the Tricks for Kids Competition as well as International feature-length films for children that are not available in German dubbing will be dubbed into German by professional voice actors live in the cinema. The original sound of the film can still be heard. The atmosphere of the film is preserved.

5. Binding declaration on selection of the Animated Films

By making the submission, the entrant makes a binding undertaking to make the Animated Film available for the official competition program of the ITFS 2025 if it is selected. Withdrawal of the Animated Film is no longer possible if it has been selected for the official competition program. Participation in the supporting programs of the ITFS 2025 is not binding and only comes about if the entrant has explicitly agreed to this in the Application Form.

6. Screening copies

A screening copy must be provided of the Animated Films that are selected. The screening copies of an Animated Film selected for presentation during the ITFS 2025 shall have the format DCP (SMPTE/DCI). In exceptional cases MOV or MP4 files can be accepted. This must be clarified with the FMF in advance. No other screening formats are permitted. The Animated Films must be uploaded to a server or provided via a download link. If the FMF should encounter any problems when downloading the Animated Film, then the film must be sent to the FMF by post on a USB storage medium (HDD or USB memory stick formatted to Ext2 or NTFS). USB 3.0 is the recommended storage medium. The screening copy must have English subtitles if it is in a language other than English. The DCPs and files will be examined and then copied to hard disks in order to be shown in various cinemas.

Final date for receipt of screening copies for the ITFS: March 10, 2025 (at address see page 7)

7. Dispatch by post, transport and insurance

If items are sent by post, the transport costs to the FMF (and costs in connection therewith e.g. customs duties etc.) and the transport risks shall be borne by the sender. The FMF shall bear the return costs. It is mandatory for screening copies from non-EU countries to be marked with the wording "Temporärer Import – Nur für kulturelle Zwecke, kein Handelswert" ("Temporary import for cultural purposes only, of no commercial value") and be accompanied by a pro forma invoice. The stated value of the goods shall not exceed 10 Euro max. as the goods have no commercial value. Screening copies from EU countries may be sent to the FMF without any additional customs-specific data.

Unless otherwise agreed, all the copies sent by post will be returned no later than two weeks after the end of the ITFS 2025. The Animated Films submitted are insured whilst they are at the FMF. The insurance covers the time period from the date of receipt of the Animated Film by post by the FMF until it is received back by the sender. In the event of any damage, the costs of material will be refunded (relating to the country of origin and after submission of an invoice). Any compensation of non-material damage is excluded.

8. Guarantee of rights and exemption from liability

8.1. Guarantee of rights

By making the submission the entrant guarantees that he*she is the holder of all copyrights, rights related to copyright, exploitation rights, rights of use, personality rights, name rights, trademark and other labelling rights and of other rights to the Animated Film submitted for participation at the ITFS 2025 or that he*she has been legally authorized by the holder of these rights to grant the rights of use described hereinbelow.

He*she further guarantees that he*she has the right of disposal with respect to the rights of use to the submitted Animated Film required for participation in the ITFS 2025 to the extent indicated in the Regulations, including all Annexes and declarations, for the purpose of participating in the competition and supporting programs of the ITFS 2025.

The FMF reserves the right to demand proof of the rights, if applicable, and, in the absence thereof, to reject the submission of the Animated Film and to thus refuse participation in the relevant competition or supporting program.

8.2. Exclusion of unlawful content and assurance that the details are correct

In addition, by making the submission, the entrant assures that the Animated Film submitted has no unlawful or unconscionable content and, in particular, no content constituting a criminal offence (e.g. criminal or pornographic content, content liable to corrupt juveniles, defamations, infringements of personality rights, copyright infringements), that no third-party rights are infringed and that all the data provided by the entrant is correct and complete.

8.3. Exemption from liability

The entrant indemnifies the FMF from all claims made by third parties due to possible rights infringements, in particular copyright infringements, by the Animated Film submitted and the accompanying materials (exemption from liability). The exemption from liability also includes reimbursement of all costs already incurred or to be incurred by the FMF on prosecuting rights and in defending rights (in particular attorney fees, court costs, costs of experts, compensation of witnesses, travel expenses and other expenditures and outlays) except insofar as these are refunded by third parties. The entrant shall notify the FMF without undue delay of any possible impairments to exercising the rights of use granted which he/she becomes aware of. The FMF has the right to take action itself in order to avert such claims and prosecute its rights. The entrant will coordinate with the FMF in advance on corresponding action of its own and provide the FMF with comprehensive support in defending the rights.

9. Grant of rights of use

9.1. Participation in the ITFS and archives

The exclusive rights of use to the Animated Film submitted remain with the beneficial owner.

By participating in the competition and supporting programs of the ITFS 2025, the entrant grants to the FMF the non-exclusive (simple) rights to the Animated Film submitted by him/her, to use the Animated Film for a limited period of time for the purpose of conducting and preparing the ITFS 2025 and for the purpose of publicizing the competitions and the award winners, in connection with the awards ceremony and the publicity work of the ITFS 2025. This applies with the exception of the archives right which is granted for an unlimited period of time.

In particular the FMF has the right to

- present the selected Animated Film during a period of time limited to May 06–11, 2025 on the premises of the city centre cinemas participating in the ITFS and at other event locations in Stuttgart and surrounding areas – also in the context of open-air events at select venues in Stuttgart and surrounding areas, i.e. to make it perceivable for the general public by means of technical equipment (**Right of Presentation**);

- make the submitted Animated Film available to the members of the preselection commission and the jury with password protection online by means of streaming for a limited period of time from the start of the preselection until the end of the ITFS 2025 for the purpose of viewing the Animated Film and preparing the decision, or to hand over the Animated Film stored on a data medium to them for viewing on the FMF premises during the preselection process and the meeting of the jury. After the viewing, the data medium shall be returned to the FMF (**Right of Viewing**);

- make the selected Animated Film available to the festival hosts and presenters with password protection online by means of streaming for a limited period of time from the date of the selection for the official festival program until the end of the ITFS 2025 for the purpose of viewing and preparing the program presentation, or to hand over the animated film stored on a data carrier to them for viewing on the premises of FMF. After the viewing, the data medium shall be returned to the FMF (**Right of Viewing**);

- make the selected Animated Film available – unless otherwise agreed – to press representatives (print, radio, TV, online media incl. social media, the Internet, Apps, multimedia and podcasting) with password protection online by means of streaming for a limited period of time from the date of notification of the Festival program up until the end of the Festival for the purpose of reporting (**Right of the Press**);

- reproduce quotation-sized parts of the Animated Film provided by the entrant as well as film stills, screenshots and the video and text material provided, including any teasers and trailers, to distribute them to press representatives from the fields of radio, TV, print and online media (incl. social media, the Internet, Apps, multimedia and podcasting) for the purpose of editorial reporting and publication, including making the same available and broadcasting them to the public, or to publish the same in any other way, in particular to make them available to the public and to use them for all Festival-related print and online publications and for advertising and publicity materials of the FMF. This right also encompasses the authorization to use, for such purposes, illustrations, names and biographies of the persons collaborating in the Animated Film and other elements such as titles, trade marks and protected business designations. On request by the FMF, the entrant undertakes to make suitable material available in accordance with the technical stipulations of the FMF. The film excerpts used by the FMF in this respect may not be longer than 59 seconds in length (**Right to Excerpts, Advertising Right**);

- also reproduce the Animated Film on storage media other than those originally used if this is absolutely essential for the purpose of the aforementioned use (**Reproduction Right**);

- file the submission copy and one reproduction of the screening copy of the Animated Film submitted – unless otherwise agreed with the rightsholder – in the non-public FMF archives and to store them there for an unlimited period of time and with no restriction on location. The archives are used by the FMF solely for internal purposes, notably to document the activities of the FMF and the ITFS and for research. (**Archives Right**).

If an Animated Film is made available in whole or in excerpts by means of streaming with restricted access, it can, at most, be stored briefly in the interim storage on the user's storage media, but there is no storage of the whole work. The entire work is not downloaded in connection with streaming.

No further transfer of the rights or licensing is permitted unless this is absolutely essential in connection with and for the purpose of the afore-stated use. The licensing of film material is only possible directly by the rightsholder. If inquiries are made, the FMF will arrange for contact with the rightsholder.

More far-reaching usages to the extent described in sub-sections 9.2. to 9.4. below are only permitted if the entrants have given their explicit consent. The entrant can choose to do so and make a selection in the Application Form. Agreement is signified by clicking or making a cross where indicated.

9.2. Participation in the supporting program

During the ITFS 2025, the FMF organizes non-competitive, curated supporting programs which can also partially draw on older Animated Films as well as current film submissions. These can also be films which were not selected to participate in the competitions. If the entrant has provided his*her consent by making a cross in the respective box in the Application Form, the Animated Film submitted can also be used in the supporting program to the extent described in sub-section 9.1.

9.3. Participation in the Animated Video Market

If the entrant declares that he*she is in agreement, a reproduction of the Animated Film and the Credits will be recorded in the so-called **Animated Video Market on Shortfilmdepot** and stored there.

The Animated Video Market is a database which is made available to the accredited industry visitors to the ITFS 2025 by password protected access for a period of time limited to the duration of the Festival and for three months after the end of the Festival (up to and including August 06, 2025) by means of streaming using digital or other storage and transmission technology in such a way as to enable the Animated Film to be received on individual demand on a smartphone, tablet, PC, television set or other device. This is intended to enable the industry visitors to view and research the Animated Films submitted and, if applicable, to establish contact with the rightsholder(s) for the purpose of envisaged exploitation or with a view to future projects. The Animated Films will solely be made available by streaming via the platform Shortfilmdepot. Access is not subject to a territorial restriction.

During the Festival, the Animated Films submitted can be viewed with password protection at two viewing desks in the ITFS press lounge and the filmmakers lounge.

The entrant may withdraw his*her agreement to the use of the Animated Film submitted, and of the data/credits made available, on the Animated Video Market at any time with effect for the future. The requirement for this is for a declaration to be made to the FMF in writing. In this case, the copy of the Animated Film submitted and all data/credits will be deleted from the databases without undue delay after receipt of this declaration. All other usages in accordance with sub-section 9.1. and the use in the past are still deemed agreed.

9.4. Extended Archives Right for research purposes by third parties

If the entrant explicitly declares in the Application Form that he*she is in agreement, the FMF may permit members of the audience of specialists (e.g. journalists, curators, academics, students etc.) who make a respective request in writing to access the internal ITFS archives on the premises of the FMF for research purposes and to thus view the Animated Film submitted. This declaration of consent may also be revoked with future effect at any time.

10. Accredited industry visitors

10.1 The term accredited industry visitors includes the accredited members of the audience of specialists pursuant to sub-section 10.2., the accredited press representatives pursuant to sub-section 10.3. and the accredited sponsors pursuant to sub-section 10.4.

10.2 The precondition for accreditation as a member of the audience of specialists is a professional occupation in the film and media sector, in particular as a representative in the film, cinema, TV, gaming, VFX and festival industry, as film makers (e.g. production, direction, camera, screenplay, sound design, publisher), as sales agent and representative of an enterprise in the field of film distribution and sales, as the representative of an association (e.g. professional associations for film, TV, cinema, gaming), representative of a film institute or film promotion or a person studying, teaching or conducting research on a course of studies in film or media studies at a university.

10.3 The requirement for accreditation as a press representative is a current occupation for a press medium in the field of print, broadcasting, TV, radio or online-media incl. social media, the Internet, Apps, multimedia and podcasting.

10.4 In an individual case based on a contract agreed with the FMF, sponsors of the ITFS are entitled to have representatives from their companies or institutes accredited.

10.5 Compliance with the requirements shall be examined by the FMF and, unless this is evidently known or sufficiently documented, this has to be proven by uploading suitable documents. If the evidence is inadequate, the FMF can request additional documents.

10.6 The FMF reserves the right to decide on accreditations.

10.7 Accreditations are not transferable.

11. Remuneration

In addition to participating in the ITFS 2025 competitions, the rights holder benefits from the popularity of the ITFS and the ITFS as a platform to promote their animated films and their company to a wider audience.

No remuneration will therefore be paid for the usages described pursuant to section 9. This applies subject to statutory claims for remuneration being asserted by collecting societies against the institutions using the rights. The FMF operates solely on a non-commercial basis and does not make any profits through the grant of the rights of use.

12. Regulation on the limitation of liability

The FMF has unlimited liability for damage – for whatever legal reason – insofar as the cause of the damage is based on an intentional or negligent violation of duty by the FMF, its statutory representatives or persons engaged in the performance of an obligation of the FMF [Erfüllungsgehilf*innen]. In the event of slightly negligent conduct [leicht fahrlässiges Verhalten], the FMF is liable in the event of violations of a duty, the performance of which enables the contract to be properly executed and which the entrant may regularly rely on compliance with (so-called cardinal obligation) [Kardinalpflicht]. In such cases, the amount of damages is limited to compensation for the damage that was typical and foreseeable when the contract was entered into. In all other respects liability is also excluded for vicarious agents and persons engaged in the performance of an obligation [Erfüllungs- und Verrichtungsgehilf*innen]. This limitation of liability does not apply to damage resulting from injury to life, limb or health, from giving a guarantee of quality [Beschaffensgarantie] or if a defect is fraudulently concealed by the FMF.

13. Acknowledgement of the Regulations and final declaration

The Regulations and the Application Form, including all Annexes and linked information, constitute the entry conditions for the competitions and – subject to the entrants' agreement for the supporting programs and the Animated Video Market – for the ITFS 2025. By submitting an Animated Film to one or several ITFS 2025 competitions or for the purpose of being used in the supporting program and by attaching all the documents, the entrant declares that he*she is in agreement with the application of these Regulations as conditions of entry, including all Annexes and documents attached, and with the Data Privacy Statement <https://www.itfs.de/en/privacy-policy/>. All the declarations for the grant of the rights of use to the Animated Film submitted are included in the Application Form in connection with these Regulations. You are advised that the FMF decides on all special cases and questions of doubt which are not explicitly covered by these Regulations.

The documents for submission of the Animated Film for the ITFS can be stored and printed out by the entrant.

14. Contact data of the FMF, the organizer of the ITFS

Film- und Medienfestival gGmbH, Stephanstraße 33, 70173 Stuttgart
E-mail: itfs@festival-gmbh.de | Tel.: +49 711 92546-0

Please approach the ITFS program management at the address below if you have any inquiries concerning the Festival Regulations:

Andrea Bauer
E-mail: bauer@festival-gmbh.de | Tel.: +49 711 92546-115



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