



XVI. MITTELAMERIKANISCHES FILMFESTIVAL WIEN 2024

Rules for Participating in the XVI. Central American Film Festival Vienna, Austria

The **XVI. Central American Film Festival** will take place from the **17th to the 22th of November 2024** in **Vienna, Austria**.

Papaya Media Association, organizer of the event, announces the call for submissions for the pre-selection of participants in the official competition and parallel sections for the fifteenth film festival. The submission of works for the selection process is free of charge (unless an intermediary platform requires a minimum fee) and the deadline is the **31st of July, 2024**. Details on how the works should be presented are explained below.

Only films that have been made within the last two years prior to submission for the film festival (2022/2023/2024) are qualified to participate in the main competition. Films produced before this time will be entered into the parallel sections.

As a strictly cultural event, the festival will **NOT pay any screening fees** for any reason whatsoever, whether the work is submitted directly or via a festival platform. Once submitted, a work cannot request any type of fee.

Films will be exhibited in DCP or H264 HD, 35 mm and Beta Digi formats in various indoor and/or open-air venues throughout Vienna, depending on the specific program.

General Information about the XVI. Central American Film Festival

For fifteen consecutive film festivals, the Viennese public has been consistently exposed to Central American productions. Local interest in the audio-visual production of Central America has therefore been growing. In previous festivals, a varied film program divided into feature films, documentaries, short films and animation was shown, providing the public access to the most recent productions of the region.

The enthusiasm with which the event has been received has motivated Papaya Media Association to make the festival a yearly event.

The following categories will make up the official competition:

- Fictional feature film
- Fictional short film
- Animation
- Documentary (both short and feature length)

As in previous festivals, the spectators will vote directly for their favourite film from each category, and the winning film will be presented with a certificate of recognition. The winning films may also be included in further presentations taking place in cities throughout Austria and/or Europe.

Objectives

- Allow the public to become familiar with the most recent audio-visual production of the Central American region, specifically Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Belize and the South and East of Mexico.
- Promote the production and distribution of quality audio-visual work made in Central America.
- Provide a platform for reflection and debate, give professionals the opportunity to keep in touch with current developments, and support the communication between the artists of the Central American region and Europe.
- Facilitate the understanding of cultural diversity and the establishment of a culture of tolerance by putting diverse social realities in touch with one another.
- Promote the Central American region as an area of cinematic interest.
- Promote Central American cinematic production within European interest groups.
- Encourage producers from all over the world to invest in the region, specifically in cinematic production.

The Festival will provide a platform to:

- Identify and distribute the best of Central American film and video production.
- Summon the public, attract advertising and communication media as well as institutions active in the audio-visual production sector and tourism promotion.
- Summon distinguished directors, producers, distributors, cinematic personalities and specialists, both local and international.
- Promote and encourage initiatives directed towards the development of policies and projects intended to increase, both in quantity and quality, the areas of work available to artists in the Central American region.
- Hold touring exhibitions in diverse cultural public spaces.

Regulations

1. Organization & Collaborators

The exhibition is organized by Papaya Media Association. The festival is organised in cooperation with El Festival Centroamericano de Cine y Video Icaro (Icaro Central American Film and Video Festival), independent producers and directors of the Central American region, Europe and other regions as well as with academic, public, non-governmental and private institutions and entities from various countries around the world.

2. Submission of work.

a) The submission of works is free of charge (unless an intermediary platform requires a minimum fee). Central American works and co-productions made in 2022, 2023 and the present year may qualify for participation in the official competition.

b) Works that have participated, been submitted, screened or awarded prizes in other festivals are still qualified to participate in the competition. It is also possible to participate even if the film has already debuted in its country of origin.

c) Works can be submitted for pre-selection in order to be considered for the official competition or any of the non-competitive sections. In the case of submission to a non-competitive section, there are no restrictions on the year of production.

3. Requirements for participation

Parties interested in participating in the Festival's pre-selection process should send the details of the intended works via email to **office@papayamedia.org** or by uploading the works to festhome. If you choose festhome to submit your works, you will have to accept their terms and nullify the need to submit the works directly by email. Deadline: **31st July, 2024**.

Documents and materials required:

a) Submission form, adequately filled out (to be found at centroamerica.at)

b) Attached materials:

- Digital graphic material (film stills) in a minimum resolution of **300 dpi**
- **Original letter attached to the submission form** authorizing Papaya Media Association to use the material within the festival and related events.
- Photographs from the films in **TIFF or JPG format (300 dpi)**, in case they are needed for the web page of the festival and/or in printed materials.
- Posters, movie trailer and other marketing materials (if existing) about the film

Sending the materials

The film material can be send digitally. If any material is sent by post, the participants are responsible for the postage costs of submitting the works for pre-selection.

The parcel should be sent with the following remark: "without commercial value and solely for cultural purposes."

Packages should be sent to:

Enrique Bedoya

XIV. MAFF
Brünner Strasse
31/2/34 A- 1210 Wien -
Austria

The organizers of the festival will not pay any customs costs and reserve the right not to receive those parcels which do not meet this requirement.

4. Sections of the Festival

a) Categories of the competition:

- Fictional feature film
- Fictional short film
- Animated film
- Documentaries

b) Parallel non-competitive sections:

- "Pioneers of Central American Cinema": Recognizing those creators who initiated the development of cinema in Central America and, at the same time, the search for a collective memory.
- "Guest film": Films that, according to the criteria of the festival's coordinators, are considered important to present.
- "Latin American view": Selection of audio-visual works from Latin America that give a glimpse of life in that region. **This year our guest country of honor will be Puerto Rico.**
- "Works in process": Special presentations and exhibitions will be held for distributors of works in the process of production and recent films which, without forming a part of the competitive and non-competitive selections, are available for commercialization in Central America and other countries of the world.
- "Bonus film": Films that complement part of the Festival in some way (for example, first or second episodes) or which, according to the criteria of the organizers, should be presented to the public.

5. Selection of works

The selection of submitted works will be carried out by the Selection Jury, made up of the coordinators of the festival and their advisors. The results of the selection will be announced on the festival web page and on Festhome starting from 30 September, 2024. Works that are NOT selected will not be notified by any means. All official selections are final and not subject to appeal.

6. Requirements of the copies intended for exhibition

The copies for exhibition should fulfil the following requirements:

The submitted works should be in one of the following formats: DCP, H264 HD, 35 mm, Beta Digital, DVD (PAL) or Bluray.

7. Language

The Festival is principally aimed at the German-speaking public. Therefore, works must be subtitled in German or English.

8. Official Awards

The awards will come as a result of direct voting from the public in attendance at the cinematic presentations. The Festival organizers will award the following recognitions:

- a) Best Feature Film of the Festival
- b) Best Short Film of the Festival
- c) Best Documentary of the Festival
- d) Best Animated Film of the Festival
- e) Special Viewers' Choice Award (second best rated film regardless of category)

In case of very close scores in the voting, shared prizes and special mentions will be awarded.

9. Rights of the organization

The organizers of the Festival reserve the right to make a digital copy of the selected works for the Festival archive. These copies will not be used commercially and will only be used for other exhibitions of an educational or cultural nature carried out by the organization itself and without previous notification.

The festival is based in Vienna. A selection of works could be exhibited in future activities that might be organized in Vienna and other Austrian/European cities, depending on the interest generated by the festival.

As a strictly cultural event, the festival will NOT pay any screening fees for any reason whatsoever, whether the work is submitted directly or via a festival platform. Please keep that in mind before submitting any or various works. Once submitted, a work cannot request any type of fee.

The submission of works to the festival implies the acceptance of the regulations presented in this document.

Once a submission is made, it cannot be retracted for any reason.

For submissions, more information, advice or suggestions, please contact:

Central American Film Festival Vienna, Austria
office@papayamedia.org
www.centroamerica.at