



XVIII. MITTELAMERIKANISCHES FILMFESTIVAL WIEN 2026

XVIII Central American Film Festival – Vienna, November 2026 **XVIII. Mittelamerikanisches Filmfestival – Wien, November 2026**

PARTICIPATION REGULATIONS

From November 15 to 21, 2026, the eighteenth edition of the Central American Film Festival will take place in Vienna (Austria).

Call for Entries

Papaya Media Association, organizer of the event, invites filmmakers to submit their work for pre-selection for the 18th edition of the festival. The **deadline is July 30, 2026**, and the details for submission are set forth in these regulations.

Participation Rules

- a) Participation is free of charge (except when an intermediary platform requires a minimum fee). For the Official Competition, Central American works, as well as co-productions, completed during the years 2024, 2025, and 2026 are eligible.
- b) Having been entered, screened, or awarded at other festivals does not preclude participation in this festival. Nor does having been premiered in the country of origin.
- c) Works may be submitted for pre-selection to participate in the official competition, or to any of the non-competitive sections; in the latter case, there is no restriction regarding the year of production.
- d) The festival does not pay any form of screening fee.

Submission Requirements

Interested parties wishing to participate must submit their movies for pre-selection and send the filled out entry form to: callforentries@centroamerica.at. It is also possible to submit the movie via the platform Festhome (<http://festhome.com>). The **deadline is July 30, 2026**.

Required Documents

- a) Entry form fully and accurately completed.
- b) Accompanying materials:
 - Posters and other promotional materials for the film, if available.
 - Digital graphic material (film stills) at a minimum resolution of 300 dpi.
 - A photography of the director(s)

Festival Sections

a) Competition Categories:

- Fiction Feature Film
- Fiction Short Film
- Animated Short Film
- Documentary Feature Film
- Documentary Short Film

b) Non-Competitive Parallel Sections:

- "Pioneers of Central American Cinema"
- "Guest Film"
- "Latin American Perspective"
- "Works in Progress"
- "Bonus Films"

Selection of Works

The selection of submitted works will be carried out by the selection committee. The selection results will be published on the festival's website and through festhome till October 30, 2026. Non-selected works will not be notified. The official selection is final and not subject to appeal.

Format

The screening copy must be submitted in DCP, H264 HD, 35 mm, Digital Beta, DVD (PAL), or Blu-ray format.

Any submission of works or materials that does not comply with the technical specifications and requirements set forth in these regulations will be automatically disqualified from participation.

Subtitles

The festival is primarily aimed at a German-speaking audience; therefore, all works must be subtitled in German or English.

Official Awards

The awards will be determined by the audience voting during the screenings. The festival awards prizes in the following categories.

- Best Feature Film of the Festival
- Best Short Film of the Festival
- Best Documentary of the Festival

- Best Animation of the Festival
- Special Audience Award (second-highest rated film, regardless of category)

In the event of tied or closely contested votes, shared awards and honorable mentions may be granted. The winners will be announced shortly after the festival.

Rights of the Organization

The festival reserves the right to create a digital copy of selected works for screening in theaters, open-air venues, online platforms, and archival purposes. These copies will not be used for commercial purposes and may only be used for other educational or cultural screenings organized by the same institution, without prior notification.

Vienna is the main and central venue of the festival. A selection of works may be screened in subsequent activities that may take place in Vienna or in other Austrian or European cities, depending on the interest generated by the festival or parts thereof.

The festival, as a cultural, non-profit event, does not provide payment of screening fees, projection rights, or any analogous fees for the selection or exhibition of works.

Submission of works to the festival implies full acceptance of these regulations.

Once entered, a work may not be withdrawn from the festival for any reason.

Contact

For submissions, further information, inquiries, or suggestions, please contact:
callforentries@centroamerica.at or **visit:** www.centroamerica.at