

International Competition 1st and 2nd Feature Film

Rules of Eligibility

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The Internationales Frauenfilmfestival Dortmund | Köln e. V. is the organizer of the events.

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The selection of the films entered for competition will be conducted by a selection committee chosen by the festival director.

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The prize is endowed with €10,000 and a cheque for this sum will be presented to the winning director.

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To be considered for entry in the competition, a film has to meet the following conditions:

- It must be a **fictional film**.
- It must be the 1st or 2nd feature film by a woman director and it has to be at least 65 minutes in length.
- The film should be available as a DCP.
- Production of the film must have been completed after **1 March 2024**.
- The film may have taken part at one competition or festival maximum in Germany. Exceptions may be made with participation at an A-festival.
- The films should not have been commercially released nor broadcasted on television in Germany.

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Producers, distributors and other persons who submit a film are required to obtain permission from any third parties involved on the production of the film that they, the third parties, agree to the film being screened at the festival.

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All the films selected will be shown in the original language. The original version is deemed to be that in which the film was screened at the cinema in the country of origin. The copy should be subtitled in German or, failing that, in English.

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The transport costs to and from the festival will be charged to the sender. No screening fees will be paid.

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If accepted, the actual **screening copy** of the film must arrive at the office of the IFFF Dortmund+Köln no later than **26 February 2026**.

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A **registration fee** of €30 will be charged.
An **early bird price** of €20 applies until 31 October 2025 inclusive.

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All DCPs/film copies on data media coming from outside the EU must be clearly marked with a customs declaration stating the following: "Temporary import! – for cultural purpose only – no commercial value". DCPs/film prints from non EU-countries also need to be accompanied by an invoice stating: "Pro forma invoice: Value 10 USD". The Festival will not be responsible for costs arise as for costs arise as the result of incorrect declarations. These costs will be charged to the account of the sender.

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For the duration of the festival, films on data media will be insured at copy value. Insurance protection commences with the arrival of the copy in the festival office and expires on its leaving the festival office after the festival is over.

If a copy should be damaged, then the sender must register that damage within one month of end of festival at the latest. The festival will assume the cost of repair to a maximum amount equivalent to manufacturing costs for a standard copy.

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An online screener will be sent to the festival for pre-selection.

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The festival is permitted to use clips (max. 3 min) and photos of accepted films for publicity purposes.

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If possible, preview copies are archived for later curatorial activities and academic work.

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An international jury consisting of at least three persons will decide on the awarding of the prize. The jury members and their President will be appointed by the Festival Director. Persons involved in the production or commercial exploitation of any of the competition films may not sit on the jury.

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The jury's verdict will be taken by simple majority. The members of the jury are obliged to observe strict confidentiality. The discussions and the votes will proceed in all confidentiality and must remain confidential after the festival.

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The prize may not be awarded "ex aequo" (may not be shared). The jury may "give a special mention" (single out for special praise).

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The prize-winner is expected to take part at the prize ceremony in person.

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The producer of the film awarded the prize is obliged to name the prize in full, and with reference to the name of the festival, in all of his or her publicity and advertising materials. The Internationales Frauen Film Fest Dortmund+Köln will be pleased to make the festival logo available.

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Registration for participation at the Internationales Frauen Film Fest Dortmund+Köln will be deemed to entail acceptance of these rules of entry. The Festival Director is entitled to decide on any cases not covered by the guidelines and, also, to permit exceptions in special and well-founded cases.

Submissions close 1 December 2025.

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