

International Feature Film Competition

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

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The prize is endowed with €15,000. The prize money will be divided as follows: a sum of €10,000 goes to the winning director; €5,000 go to the distribution company in Germany.

The release date is contractually agreed with the distributor. Should the film fail to secure a German distributor by 31 December 2027, the €5,000 will also go to the director.

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

- It must have been directed by one or more cis women, intersex women, trans women, non-binary or genderqueer persons.
- It must be a **fictional film** intended for showing on the cinema circuit.
- It must be a **third or later** film produced for the film market (no college film, no graduation film, no debut and second feature).
- It must be at least **65 minutes** in length.
- The film is to be submitted as a DCP.
- Production of the film must have been completed after **1 March 2025**.
- The film should not have taken part at any competition or national festival in Germany. Exceptions may be made for A-festivals.
- The film should not have been commercially released nor broadcast on German television.

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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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The films selected will be shown in their original language version. The copy should be subtitled in German or in English.

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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 2027**. Screening copies will be sent via a file-sharing platform (e.g. Filemail, WeTransfer, Dropbox, Google Drive, etc.) or other transfer methods (e.g. FTP, IBM Aspera, Signiant App/Media Shuttle, etc.).

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A **registration fee** of €30 will be charged.

An **early bird price** of €20 applies until 31 October 2026 inclusive.

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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 stills 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 30 November 2026.

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