

CALL FOR ENTRY- 43rd TISFF

The Tehran International Short Film Festival (TISFF) stands as one of Asia's most prestigious and widely recognized platforms for short films, celebrated for its dedication to creative excellence, innovation, and the promotion of diverse voices in cinema. Over the course of its illustrious history, TISFF has evolved into a vibrant hub for global storytelling, attracting thousands of submissions from filmmakers worldwide—a reflection of its unparalleled reputation as a cornerstone for emerging talent and visionary cinematic voices.

Organized by the Iranian Youth Cinema Society (IYCS), a leading organization in short film production and education, TISFF benefits from an extensive infrastructure comprising 58 branches across Iran and a thriving network of filmmakers and alumni. The IYCS supports the production of countless short films annually and trains aspiring filmmakers each year. Many of its graduates have risen to prominence as some of the most celebrated filmmakers in international cinema, reinforcing its profound influence on the global filmmaking stage.

An OSCARS®-qualifying festival, TISFF is renowned for embracing innovation while celebrating cinematic tradition. For its 43rd edition, TISFF proudly showcases its established categories of fiction, documentary, animation, and experimental films—genres that have long been at the heart of its commitment to cinematic excellence, with the Grand Prize winner becoming eligible for Academy Awards® consideration. In addition, the festival continues its AI Competition Program, highlighting the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence in redefining storytelling and artistic expression, reflecting TISFF's vision for the future of filmmaking.

Following its successful introduction last year, the Emerging Horizons Award will continue as part of TISFF's policy to spotlight emerging talent. Each year, this category will be dedicated to debut short fiction and documentary films from a selected geographical region, providing a platform for fresh and visionary voices. For this edition, the Emerging Horizons Award will focus on filmmakers from the Silk Road countries, celebrating creativity and innovation from this historic cultural crossroads.

As ever, TISFF remains a global platform for filmmakers to present their work, fostering the evolution of short film as a compelling artistic and cultural medium. We warmly invite you to join us in vibrant and culturally rich Tehran this autumn for the 43rd edition of TISFF.

Awards & Prizes

The Tehran International Short Film Festival (TISFF) is a festival approved by the Academy Awards®, and the winner of the Grand Prize becomes eligible for the OSCARS®.

Grand Prize: Trophy + Diploma + \$3000

Best Fiction: Trophy + Diploma + \$1000

Best Documentary: Trophy + Diploma + \$1000

Best Animation: Trophy + Diploma + \$1000

Best Experimental: Trophy + Diploma + \$1000

Emerging Horizons Award (SILK ROAD Countries): Trophy + Diploma + \$500

Best AI (Artificial Intelligence): Trophy + Diploma + \$500

Rules & Terms

- Films must be completed after January 1, 2025, to qualify for competition.
- Films completed before this date will be disqualified.
- Films must not exceed 40 minutes in length.
- Selected participants will be announced by September 25 and notified via email.
- Films previously submitted to TISFF are not eligible.
- Selection committees for each category will review all submissions and make the final selection.
- If selected, the original video (without subtitles) must be submitted along with subtitles and transcripts in both the original language and English.
- Once selected, films cannot be withdrawn from the festival program.
- Films that have previously been screened, broadcast, or presented at any festival or public event within Iran are ineligible.
- Films that have been publicly released or made available online through platforms such as Vimeo, YouTube, or other similar digital platforms are ineligible.
- Iranian short films must be submitted to the national section via: <https://festival.iycs.ir/fa/>
- Iranian short films for the international section will be selected through collaboration between the National and International Selection teams.
- NOTE: By "Iranian entries," we mean films with a main producer who is an Iranian citizen or permanent resident. For clarification, contact: tehranfilmfest@gmail.com
- For AI Competition Program - Films are eligible to submit if they use AI to generate their visuals. The festival reserves the right to request proof of AI tools used in the creation of submitted works.
- Submission to TISFF implies acceptance of all the above rules and regulations.

Category	Description	Fee
Fiction	Live-action short films up to 40 minutes.	0\$
Documentary	Documentary short films up to 40 minutes.	0\$
Animation	Animated short films up to 40 minutes.	0\$
Experimental	Experimental short films up to 20 minutes.	0\$
AI Competition Program	Short films up to 40 minutes with AI-generated visuals	0\$
Emerging Horizons Award	Short Fiction or documentary films (debut works) by filmmakers from the Silk Road countries under 40 minutes	0\$

Opening Date	1 February 2026
Regular Deadline	25 March 2026
Late Deadline	5 July 2026
Notification Date	25 September 2026
Event Dates	17-22 October 2026