

Animatou Festival 2023 Edition

Terms & Conditions of Participation

Animatou was founded in 2006 in Geneva, Switzerland, to promote Swiss and international animation cinema. The Association is active all year round, proposing a wide range of events for all ages and all audiences. The highlight of the year comes in early October with the Geneva Animation Film Festival.

The Festival film programme is made up of two parts:

- The competitive sections bring together animated shorts released in the preceding two calendar years. The films are selected by a committee of animation cinema professionals.
- Out-of-competition programmes include screenings dedicated to Swiss premieres for feature films, series, student films, programmes dedicated to the country of honour, and various carte blanche or thematic programmes.

1. COMPETITIVE SECTIONS AND AWARDS

Conditions for participation

- A. All short animated films released **from January 2022 to May 2023** are eligible for the competitive programmes. An exception will be made for films that were submitted to Animatou the previous year, selected, and then withdrawn for reasons of exclusivity (see [point 5*](#)).
- B. Accepted screening formats: DCP and ProRes files, or H264 if no better format is available.
- C. Films with dialogues or on-screen text in a language other than French should be subtitled in French or English for screening, preferably un-etched. If the correct subtitles are not available, a time code and dialogue list in English will be required for translation into French.
- D. All awards are given to the directors in person.
The details of the competitions AND awards are announced [on our website](#) in July, when the selection confirmation are sent.
- E. See [point 5](#) below for details on the selection process.

Competitions

The details of this edition's competitions and awards is available on our website: www.animatou.com/prix-jurys-2023. Only the honorific competitions are detailed here.

International Competition

Animated shorts of all origins, which are not classified as documentary or experimental.

Doc'Anim International Competition

Animated documentary shorts of all origins.

Labo International Competition

Experimental animated shorts of all origins.

Swiss Competition

Swiss animated shorts*.

*Note on the Swiss origin: a film's official origin is determined by its production entity, and indicated as such in the Festival communication tools. However, the admission criteria for Animatou's Swiss Competition do not go beyond requiring that the director or one of the production entities be either of Swiss nationality or based in Switzerland. A film can therefore be submitted for the International Competition and selected in the Swiss Competition, or feature in the Swiss Competition as well as one or more other international ones.

Caramel & Pistachio Competitions

Selections of animated shorts from all over the world and of all genres and styles for toddlers and younger audiences (from 3 to 8 years old). These films can also be included in other competitions.

Competitions for Swiss Schools

These five programmes are dedicated to primary and secondary school kids in Canton Geneva, as well as higher education students from the whole of Switzerland. A choice of films from the current year's selection is made on the basis of age groups representing all school year levels, ranging from 4 years old to Higher Education (16+). The five ***honorary Swiss Schools Awards*** are given by vote of the students after a debate. The teachers do not participate in the vote.

Artopie Competition

This programme is put together specifically for the teenagers in the [Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Division](#) of the Geneva University Hospital. ***The honorary Artopie Award*** is given by the kids from various units (Malattie, Salève, Hôpital de jour, and Médecine A2 hospitalisation) who are present at the private screening which takes place during the Festival. Adult accompanying staff members do not participate in the vote.

2. REPEAT SHOWING FOR AWARD-WINNING FILMS

La nuit la plus longue pour des primés

In order to give the Geneva audience a chance to see or watch again all the award-winning films of the year on the big screen, Animatou showcases [a free, single programme](#) around the winter solstice. This one-off screening takes place at [Cinéma Spoutnik](#), a 70-seat independent cinema.

Entry and participation in Animatou's competitions implies acceptance of this point by the copyright holders.

School Competitions

After the vote which closes each school screening, students and teachers often ask how they may be able to watch some of the films again. This audience is highly committed as most kids take the responsibility of their vote quite seriously; the teachers also like being able to use film works as a basis for discussion, or to expand on previous conversations. Whenever such a request is made, Animatou will contact the right-holders of the relevant films to reach an agreement regarding a single screening in class after the Festival.

3. OUT-OF-COMPETITION PROGRAMME: CONDITIONS FOR PARTICIPATION

This programme showcases animated feature films or shorts made for television or cinema, which may or may not be distributed in Geneva or Switzerland. The year of production is irrelevant. A copyright fee will be discussed. Accepted formats: DCP, Blu-ray, and ProRes. Subtitles in French are required for films with dialogues or on-screen text in another language.

4. USE OF FILM EXCERPTS FOR PROMOTIONAL PURPOSES

Participation implies consent to the use of sound and video extracts from the selected films (not exceeding 10% of each film's total running time) for promotional trailers broadcast on social media or television, or shown in the Festival cinemas or on our official sponsors' screens.

5. FILM SUBMISSION AND SELECTION

All short films are submitted online via the Short Film Depot platform, with a deadline set to **12th May 2023**. Please go to www.shortfilmdepot.com for detailed instructions. If for whatever reason you are unable to use the platform, please contact us at prog@animatou.com.

The Selection Committee meets at regular intervals to watch the submitted films, and proceeds to the final selection during the month of June. The selected films are then arranged into competitive sections and screening programmes. Please note that a film may be selected for several competitions, but for only one of the three international competitions for adults (International, Labo, and Doc'Anim), which are mutually exclusive. On the other hand, in the spirit of fairness, the Selections Committee can only select a single film by any given director per competition within a single edition.

For each selected film, a selection confirmation email will be sent to the contact person via the platform **by the end of July** at the latest. We are usually unable to confirm all non-selected submissions on SFD before September, so please bear in mind that if no message is received by August, the film is unfortunately not selected.

See [point 6](#) below regarding the transfer of screening files.

*In recent years, some festivals in Switzerland and Europe have taken up a habit of demanding exclusivities and only accept national (and sometimes international) premieres. Every year, several films selected by Animatou are therefore withdrawn from the programme and literally taken away from our audience.

The cut out films that were released in the current calendar year will then be re-selected and shown at the following edition. But some films may have been released in the previous year, which makes them technically no longer eligible for the next edition.

Animatou will henceforward systematically re-select in the current programme all films cut out of the previous edition, no matter their release year.

6. UPLOAD, SHIPMENT AND RETURN OF SCREENING FILES

Short films

DCP and ProRes files - or H264 if no other format is available - can be provided as download links. If necessary, an FTP connection to our server can also be used for direct upload. Please refer to the selection confirmation email and contact us by reply in case you run into problems.

Feature-length films

For feature films, series, compilations, retrospectives, carte blanche programmes, or any other out-of-competition programme, please email us at: info@animatou.com. Upon agreement, DCP or Blu-ray material should be shipped with a comment including the following phrase:

No commercial value, for cultural purpose only.

Animatou Festival
Production Department
11 Rue des Grottes
1201 Geneva
Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 734 11 84

7. LIABILITY IN CASE OF LOSS OF OR DAMAGE TO FILM SUPPORT

Costs in case of loss or damage incurred between the receipt and the return of film copies are covered by Animatou. The Festival is only liable for the replacement of lost or damaged hardware (USB key, hard drive, etc).

9. VIDEO LIBRARY

The Animatou Association aims to contribute to the promotion of Swiss and international animation cinema. To that end, a video library was created to serve as an archive for the films selected for the Festival. This video library is not directly accessible by the public and serves as a basis for thematic educational programmes which are put together by the Festival team upon request from local institutions (schools, museums, libraries, hospitals, public parks, day care institutions, prisons, etc.). Copyright holders are free to accept or reject the agreement at the time of film submission, and will be contacted directly by Animatou if necessary.

For more information: <https://animatou.com/documentation-videotheque-video-library-documents>

For direct contact and queries: info@animatou.com

9. UNSPECIFIED CASES AND DISPUTES

The Festival team will settle cases not provided for in the present Terms and Conditions. Exemptions from the above dispositions are possible for specific, legitimate requests.

Entry and participation in the Animatou Festival implies unconditional acceptance of the present rules and regulations.