

Animatou Festival 2024 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 edition's 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 2023 to May 2024** are eligible for the competitive programmes. An exception will be made for films that were submitted to Animatou's previous edition, selected, and then withdrawn for reasons of exclusivity (see [point 5](#)*).
- B. The selection process is detailed under [point 5](#) below.
- C. Accepted screening formats: DCP and ProRes files, even H264.
- D. The screening versions of films with dialogues or on-screen text in a language other than French should come with a separate (un-etched) subtitle file. If French or English subtitles are not available, please send us a dialogue list in English with the time code. More information regarding subtitling is available [here](#).
- E. The details of the current edition vary according to the selection and therefore cannot be announced in advance. The competitions and awards are announced [on our website](#) in August, once the selection confirmations are sent. The details of the juries are published shortly before the Festival.
- F. The awards go to the directors in person.

Competitions

Animatou does not pay copyright fees for the screening of films selected in competitions.

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

A film's official origin is determined by its production entity, and indicated as such in the Festival communication tools. The admission criteria for Animatou's Swiss Competition differ in that they do not go beyond the requirement that the director or one of the production entities be either of Swiss nationality or based in Switzerland. A film may therefore be eligible for the Swiss Competition although it is not officially Swiss. It is also possible for a film to be submitted in the International Competition and then selected in the Swiss Competition, or feature in the Swiss Competition as well as other international competitions.

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 (HUG). The **honorary Artopie Award** is given by the kids from various units (Malatavie, 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.

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

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 **30th April 2024**. 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. Note that three international competitions for adults (International, Labo, and Doc'Anim) are mutually exclusive, which means that while a film may be selected for several other competitions, it can only figure in a single one of those three. Also 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.

...

...

*A few festivals in Switzerland and Europe have recently started demanding exclusivities and only accept national or even international premieres. Every year, several films selected by Animatou have to be withdrawn from the programme for this reason.

The films in question which were released in the current calendar year can be saved for the following edition without any issue. For the films that were released the previous year, which technically makes obsolete for the next edition, an exception will be made and they will therefore systematically be reprogrammed for the next edition.

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).

8. 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.**