

## **Animatou Festival 2026 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, retrospectives and programmes dedicated to a guest country or personality, as well as various carte blanche and thematic programmes.

#### **1. COMPETITIVE SECTIONS AND AWARDS**

##### **Conditions for participation**

- A. Animated shorts released in 2025 and 2026 are eligible. An exception will be made for films that were selected for Animatou's previous edition and then withdrawn for reasons of exclusivity (see [point 5\\*](#)).
- B. The selection process is detailed under [point 5](#) below.
- C. Required screening formats: DCP and ProRes, H264 if no better available.
- D. The screening versions of films with dialogue 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 upcoming edition vary according to the selection and therefore cannot be announced in advance. The competitions and awards are published [on our website](#) in August, once the selection confirmations are sent. The composition of the juries is made public in the following weeks, together with the Festival programme.
- F. The awards go to the directors in person.

##### **Competitions and Awards**

The selection criteria, the awarding process and the prize for each competitive section are specified below. Please note that these are subject to change depending on the selection. 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. The City of Geneva Award, worth CHF 5,000, is granted by the International Jury.

## Doc'Anim Competition

Animated documentary shorts of all origins. The Doc'Anim Award is worth CHF 1,000 and granted by the Doc'Anim Jury.

## Labo Competition

Experimental animated shorts of all origins. The Labo Award is worth CHF 1,000 given by the Geneva Contemporary Art Centre and granted by the Labo Jury.

## Swiss Competition

The admission criteria for Animatou's Swiss Competition follow those of the official entities related to film production in Switzerland (OFC, SwissFilms, SSA / Suissimage, etc.): a film is eligible if the director is a Swiss national, or is professionally active in Switzerland and has resided in the country for at least three years. A film may be simultaneously selected for the Swiss Competition and for one or more other competitions.

Films in the Swiss Competition compete for two awards. The SSA / Suissimage Award, worth CHF 5,000, is granted by the Swiss Jury. The Payot Bookshop Public Award, worth CHF 1,000, is granted by vote of the audience at the end of the screening.

## Caramel & Pistachio Competitions

Selections of animated shorts from around the world, of all genres and styles, for toddlers and young audiences (ages 3+ for Caramel, 5 or 6+ for Pistachio). These films can also be included in other competitions.

The Caramel Award goes to the film that gets the most votes from the kids attending daycare facilities. The screenings are private and the vote take place in official cinemas during the week prior to the Festival. The kids also get a free invitation for themselves and their family to the public screening which takes place during the Festival.

The Satigny Pistachio Award goes to the film that gets the most votes from the kids present at the screening, which takes place in the town of Satigny in the Geneva countryside.

Both awards consist in a cash prize of CHF 500 each. The vote is anonymous.

## Competitions for Schools

Six programmes dedicated to private and public primary school kids and secondary students in Canton Geneva, and higher education students from the whole of Switzerland. The aim of these sessions is to give young people the chance to have their say by debating their preferences and then expressing them in the vote to decide the winner. The age groups represent all school year levels, ranging from 4 years old to Higher Education (16+).

The corresponding Schools Awards, worth CHF 200 each, are attributed by vote of the students after the screenings. The teachers do not participate in the vote.

## Convergences Competition

This programme is put together specifically for teenagers in the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Division of the Geneva University Hospital (HUG). The screening takes place at the Maison de l'enfance et de l'adolescence, a venue offering warm and welcoming spaces for discussion around the films.

The Convergences Award, worth CHF 200, is attributed by anonymous vote of the teenagers after the discussion. Accompanying staff do not participate in the vote.

## 2. REPEAT SCREENING OF AWARD-WINNING FILMS

### La nuit la plus longue pour des primés

In order to give the Geneva audience a chance to discover or watch again all the award-winning films of the year on the big screen, Animatou showcases a free, single cinema screening in the following year featuring the edition's winners and mentions.

## 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, ProRes, or Blu-ray. 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

Short films are submitted online via the Short Film Depot platform, with a deadline set to **10<sup>th</sup> April 2026**. Please go to [shortfilmdepot.com](https://shortfilmdepot.com) for detailed instructions. If for whatever reason you are unable to use the platform, please contact us at [prog@animatou.com](mailto:prog@animatou.com).

The Selection Committee proceeds to the selection during the month of June. The selected films are then arranged into screening programmes. The three international competitions for adults (International, Labo, and Doc'Anim Competitions) are mutually exclusive, which means that while a film may be selected for several other competitions, it can only be selected for in a single one of those three. Moreover, to ensure fairness, the Selections Committee will only select a single film by any given director per competition within a single edition. Once the programme is complete, a selection confirmation email will be sent to the contact person of each selected film via the platform.

Since it is often impossible for us to confirm all non-selected submissions on SFD before September, please bear in mind that if no message is received by the end of August the film is unfortunately not selected. In order to avoid misunderstandings and delays, please also check you spam box over the summer, or you can also save these two addresses to make sure we can reach you : [prog@animatou.com](mailto:prog@animatou.com), [noreply@shortfilmdepot.com](mailto:noreply@shortfilmdepot.com).

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

\*A few festivals in Switzerland and Europe demand exclusivities and only accept premieres in their competitive sections. Every year, several films selected by Animatou have to be withdrawn from the programme for this reason. Animatou will systematically reprogram those films 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 in case you run into problems.

### **Feature-length films and other out of competition programmes**

For feature films, series, compilations, retrospectives, carte blanche programmes, or any other out-of-competition programme, please email us at: [prog@animatou.com](mailto:prog@animatou.com).

## **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, Blu-ray, 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 a database including many of the films selected for the Festival. This video library is not accessible by the public and serves only as a basis for thematic educational programmes which are put together internally 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 or later. Animatou always contacts copyright holders when a film is being considered for a out of competition programme to make sure the agreement holds and the copyright holder hasn't changed.

For more information: [animatou.com/espace-pro/videotheque-video-library](http://animatou.com/espace-pro/videotheque-video-library)

For direct contact and queries: [prod@animatou.com](mailto:prod@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 Animatou Festival implies  
unconditional acceptance of the present rules and regulations.**