



RULES & REGULATIONS



ROAD MOVIE FESTIVAL RULES & REGULATIONS

ARTICLE 1 – FESTIVAL PRESENTATION

The **Road Movie Festival** is an international short film festival dedicated to celebrating the road movie genre and films exploring the themes of travel, the road and mobility.

Organiser: Auto Rétro Cinéma Association

Dates: September 17–19, 2027

Venue: La Teste-de-Buch – Arcachon Bay, France

ARTICLE 2 – FESTIVAL OBJECTIVES

The Festival aims to:

Promote contemporary short filmmaking.

Showcase films exploring the themes of travel, the road and mobility.

Encourage exchanges between filmmakers, film professionals and audiences.

Discover and reward emerging talent.

Create a major cultural event with a strong regional impact.

ARTICLE 3 – FESTIVAL SECTIONS & COMPETITIONS

3.1 Official Competition

Films competing for the **Road Movie Festival Grand Prize** and the official Festival Awards.

15 to 20 short films

Eligibility

Running time: **5 to 35 minutes** (including end credits)

Production date: films completed between

Format: all genres accepted (fiction, documentary, animation, experimental)

Language: submissions from all countries and in all languages are accepted. **French subtitles are mandatory for non-French-language films.**

Status: completed films

3.2 Special Out-of-Competition Selections

Animation Focus – Animated short films (all animation techniques)

Documentary Focus – Creative documentaries

Carte Blanche – Invitations, retrospectives and tributes

3.3 Young Audience Selection

A programme designed for families and young audiences **aged 6 and over**.

ARTICLE 4 – THEMATIC CRITERIA

The festival defines the road movie as a work built around a journey, whether geographical, inner, or both, in the course of which the character is transformed through movement, encounters, or trials.

Submitted films must explore at least one of the following themes:

- Travel and the road (by land, sea, or air)
- The car or vehicle as a character or narrative space
- Movement in all its forms (train, motorcycle, bicycle, walking, etc.)
- Escape, wandering, the search for oneself or for others
- Encounters along the way
- The relationship with territory and landscape
- The inner journey: a personal, emotional, or spiritual path leading the character from one state of being to another
- The transformation of the self, whether it arises from physical travel or from the path travelled within

The jury has sole discretion in assessing the connection between the work and these themes.

ARTICLE 5 – SUBMISSION CONDITIONS

5.1 Submission Procedure

Submission Platforms

- FilmFreeway (main platform)
- ShortFilmDepot
- Festhome
- FilmFest

Required Submission Materials

- Complete technical information about the film
- Short synopsis (maximum 100 words)
- Long synopsis (maximum 300 words)
- Director's biography (maximum 150 words)
- At least five (5) high-resolution film stills
- Film poster (if available)
- Trailer or teaser (if available)
- Secure private screening link (Vimeo, private YouTube, etc.)
- Screening copy (DCP or digital file according to accepted formats)

Accepted Technical Formats

- DCP (Digital Cinema Package) – recommended
- Video files: ProRes 422 HQ or high-quality H.264
- Minimum resolution: **1920 × 1080 (Full HD)**
- Subtitles: separate SRT file for non-French-language films

5.2 Submission Fees

French productions: **€50**

International productions: **€80**

Submission fees are **non-refundable**, regardless of the Selection Committee's decision.

5.3 Schedule

Opening of submissions: **September 2026**

Submission deadline: **June 2027**

Official Selection announcement: **July 2027**

ARTICLE 6 – SELECTION PROCESS

6.1 Selection Committee

A Selection Committee composed of **4 to 5 film professionals** will screen all submitted films and establish the Official Selection.

Indicative composition:

- Cinema owner
- Film director
- Film critic
- Distributor or producer
- Festival organisation representative

6.2 Selection Criteria

Films will be evaluated according to:

- Artistic and technical quality

- Originality of both content and form
- Relevance to the Festival's themes
- Overall consistency with the Festival programme

6.3 Notification

All filmmakers who submit a film will receive a notification by email.
The Selection Committee is **not required to justify its decisions**.
Its decisions are **final and binding**.

ARTICLE 7 – OBLIGATIONS OF SELECTED FILMS

7.1 Attendance

Directors of films selected for the Official Competition are strongly encouraged to attend the Festival in order to:

- Present their film
- Take part in Q&A sessions
- Meet audiences and industry professionals
- Attend the Awards Ceremony

Subject to the available budget, the Festival will provide the selected director with:

- Accommodation during the Festival (3 nights)
- Free access to all screenings
- Invitations to official Festival events (cocktail receptions, evening events)

7.2 Exclusivity

Selected films undertake to:

- Not be publicly screened in France between the announcement of the Official Selection and the end of the Festival
- Announce their selection on their social media channels and promotional materials
- Use the **"Road Movie Festival Official Selection"** label on all advertising and press materials relating to the selected film

7.3 Screening Materials

Selected filmmakers must provide:

- A DCP or HD screening file (MP4 format)
- Burned-in French subtitles or a separate SRT subtitle file (for non-French-language films)
- A mandatory technical verification before screening

The Festival reserves the right to withdraw from the programme any film that does not meet the required technical standards.

ARTICLE 8 – RIGHTS AND AUTHORIZATIONS

8.1 Screening Rights

By submitting a film, the director or producer guarantees that they:

- Hold all rights necessary for the public screening of the film
- Have obtained all required permissions (music, archive footage, etc.)
- Confirm that the film does not infringe any copyright, image rights or other intellectual property rights

The Festival accepts no liability for any dispute relating to these rights.

8.2 Authorisation for Use

By participating in the Festival, filmmakers grant the Festival, free of charge and without time limitation, permission to:

- Publicly screen the film during the Festival
- Use extracts of the film (maximum 3 minutes) to promote the Festival (trailers, reports, social media, etc.)
- Reproduce still images from the film in Festival communication materials

- Preserve the film in the Festival archives

This authorisation does **not** grant the Festival any commercial exploitation rights.

8.3 Post-Festival Screenings

Award-winning films authorise the Festival to organise non-commercial screenings within the framework of:

- Regional screenings during the year following the Festival
- Partner cultural events
- School and university screenings

The director will be informed in advance and retains all commercial exploitation rights.

ARTICLE 9 – JURY AND AWARDS

9.1 Composition of the Jury

The Official Jury consists of **seven members**, recognised professionals from the film industry and the arts:

- One Jury President
- Six Jury Members (director, cinematographer, editor, composer, programmer, critic, stunt performer, actor, etc.)

The Jury is sovereign.

Its deliberations are confidential, and its decisions are final.

9.2 Awards

Road Movie Festival Grand Prize – €3,000

Awarded to the Best Film, regardless of category.

Jury Prize – €1,500

Special Jury Award.

Best Director Award – €1,000

Awarded for outstanding directing.

Best Original Score / Sound Design Award – €500

Awarded for excellence in original music composition or sound design.

Nouvelle-Aquitaine Regional Award – €500

Awarded to a film produced or directed in the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region.

9.3 Awarding of Prizes

- A film may receive several awards, except that the **Grand Prize cannot be combined with the Jury Prize**
- The Jury may decide not to award a prize if no film is considered worthy of it
- The Jury may grant Special Mentions (without financial endowment)
- The winners are announced during the Closing Ceremony

9.4 Awards Ceremony

Official Awards Ceremony: **Sunday evening (final day of the Festival)**

Prize money will be paid:

- By bank transfer within 30 days after the Festival
- To the director or the production company (according to the contract)
- Subject to the submission of the recipient's bank account details

ARTICLE 10 – COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTION

10.1 Communication Materials

The Festival publishes:

- An **Official Catalogue** (printed and digital) presenting all selected films
- A Festival Programme distributed to the public
- Digital communication materials (website and social media)

Filmmakers shall provide the promotional materials (photographs, texts, etc.) required for these publications.

10.2 Media Coverage

The Festival invites:

- National and regional specialist film press
- Local general media
- Automotive and cultural media

Filmmakers may be invited to take part in interviews before, during and after the Festival.

ARTICLE 11 – ACCREDITATION

11.1 Types of Accreditation

Accreditation is subject to a fee.

Industry Professionals & Press – €30

Industry Professionals

(Distributors, producers, programmers, film critics)

Benefits:

- Free access to all screenings
- Access to professional events
- Press kit

Press

(Journalists, photographers, videographers)

Benefits:

- Free access to all screenings
- Access to the press area
- Press kit

11.2 Accreditation Requests

Applications must be submitted through the online form available on the Festival website.

Deadline: 15 days before the opening of the Festival.

ARTICLE 12 – MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

12.1 Amendments to the Rules

The Festival reserves the right to amend these Rules & Regulations.

Any amendment will be published on the official Festival website.

12.2 Cancellation

In the event of force majeure (pandemic, natural disaster, etc.), the Festival reserves the right to:

- Cancel the current edition
- Postpone the Festival dates
- Organise the Festival in a hybrid or online format

Submission fees will not be refunded.

However, selected films will retain their selection status for the following edition.

12.3 Liability

The Festival cannot be held liable for:

- Loss, theft or damage to screening copies
- Expenses incurred by filmmakers (travel, accommodation, etc.) in the event of cancellation
- Any dispute concerning film rights

12.4 Insurance

Filmmakers are strongly advised to obtain insurance covering:

- Their screening copy
- Travel and accommodation
- Public liability

12.5 Data Protection

Personal data collected during the submission process will be used exclusively for the organisation of the Festival and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Filmmakers may request access to, correction of or deletion of their personal data.

12.6 Acceptance of the Rules

The submission of a film constitutes full and unconditional acceptance of these Rules & Regulations.

ARTICLE 13 – CONTACT

**Auto Rétro Cinéma
Road Movie Festival**

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France

General enquiries contact@roadmoviefestival.fr

Film submissions selection@roadmoviefestival.fr

Press enquiries presse@roadmoviefestival.fr

Website www.roadmoviefestival.fr

ARTICLE 14 – DISPUTES

Any dispute relating to the interpretation or application of these Rules & Regulations shall be subject exclusively to the jurisdiction of the French courts.