

International documentary competition rules

Participation in FIFOI implies unconditional acceptance of the terms of these rules.

The Indian Ocean International Film Festival (FIFOI), organized by the Hors Champs Reunion association (HCR), will take place in Reunion **from April 14 to 19, 2026**, for its third edition.

Aimed at highlighting the cinematic creativity of the Indian Ocean and the emergence of new talent, the festival invites you to participate in its international short film competition.

Article 1. Conditions of participation

Eligible films

- Documentaries (creative, experimental), either live action or animation
- Duration : from 52 minutes to 1 hour 45 minutes
- Films shot in one of the following territories : South Africa, Comoros, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mayotte, Mozambique, Reunion, Rodrigues, Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Zanzibar, French Southern and Antarctic Lands
- Films produced after January 1, 2022
- Films can be submitted by independent filmmakers, production companies, associations, or schools
- No exclusivity of premiere is required, but special attention will be given to films that have never been screened in Reunion.

Not accepted

- Works that are exclusively promotional, educational, or scientific

Article 2. Registration procedure

- Registration opens on **September 11th, 2025**
- Registration closes on **November 30th, 2025, at midnight**
- Films submitted after this date will not be considered
- Terms and conditions: Registration exclusively on DOCFILMDEPOT platform <https://www.docfilmdepot.com>
- Platform fee of 4,50€ (excluding tax) is compulsory and at your expense.

Work in progress version

The selection committee accepts work in progress versions on two mandatory conditions:

- The words "work in progress version" must appear after the title on Docfilmdepot
- The final version must be replaced on the platform **before January 10th, 2026** and inform the festival by email.

Article 3. Film selection

The festival programmer will notify rights holders by email of the selected films in the end of January 2026. If no response is received, participants may assume that their film has not been selected.

The selection of films must remain confidential until the official announcement by the festival. Once a film has been selected for competition, it can't be withdrawn by the producer or director.

Article 4. Screening copy and file management

Accepted screening formats:

- Unencrypted DCP (without KDM)
- Video file in h264 or Apple ProRes format, in 4K maximum, 2K preferred

The film must be sent by email to copie.fifoi@gmail.com before **February 15, 2026**.

Files will be checked before screening and stored securely by the festival. They will be used solely for screenings during the event and for the festival archives. Any other use requires the prior consent of the rights holders.

In the event that the festival creates a DCP or any other projection file from the film provided by the rights holder, these elements remain the exclusive property of FIFOI. Any transfer of these files to the rights holder shall be subject to a specific agreement between the festival and the rights holder.

Article 5. Subtitles

French-language films must be provided:

with English subtitles, not burned, with the subtitle file (.srt)

Non-French-language films should, if possible, be provided with French subtitles, not burned, with the subtitle file (.srt) subtitled in English, not burned, with an .srt file.

DCP subtitles must be in XML or MXF format (not burned into the image). The translation "voice-over" is not accepted.

The film's rights holders must provide the French and English subtitle files. If these files are not available, the festival may take care of the translation and creation of the subtitles. In this case, the costs incurred will be deducted from the screening fee.

The files produced will remain the exclusive property of the festival and their use will be strictly limited to its internal needs.

In the event that the rights holder wishes to obtain the subtitle files realized by the festival, their transfer shall be subject to negotiation between the festival and the rights holder.

Article 6. Juries and Awards

The juries will be composed of film professionals, high school students, and audience members.

Five awards will be awarded:

- Feature-Length Documentary Award
- Short Fiction Film Award
- Domin Award - presented by France Télévisions
- Youth Jury Award
- Audience Award

These awards include a trophy and, for some, a financial, material, or technical award, depending on confirmed partnerships.

The prizes are given to the producers of the winning films. They are distributed in accordance with the terms of the production contract. Prizes in kind are subject to the conditions set by the partners concerned.

Special mentions without awards may also be awarded by the juries.

Article 7. Communication

By participating, rights holders authorize the HCR association, free of charge, to use excerpts from the selected films as well as images, videos and interviews made during the festival for the purpose of promoting the event on any physical or digital medium (website, social media, television, press, teasers, archives, etc.). You hereby consent to the use of these images, videos, or sound recordings for non-commercial purposes by the festival.

The rights holders also agree to display the FIFOI selection laurel (provided by the organization) on all promotional material relating to their film (posters, trailers, digital visuals, etc.).

Article 8. Screening rights

For each selected film, the festival will pay a screening right for a screening directly to the film's rights holder, after a financial agreement has been negotiated between the programming manager and the rights holder.

As part of its mission to educate the public about film, the festival organizes school screenings in educational establishments during the event. The rights holder may, after mutual agreement with the programming director, grant the rights to screen their film for these screenings.

The producer or director declares that they hold the music, film, image, and text rights for the works included in the film. If this is not the case, the festival cannot be held liable.

Article 9. Invitation

The directors of the films in competition will be invited to La Réunion, with HCR covering the cost of an economy class plane ticket from one of the territories in the Indian Ocean region (South Africa, Comoros, India, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mayotte, Mozambique, Réunion, Rodrigues, Seychelles, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Zanzibar) or from Paris for guests residing outside this area.

For each film, only one director will be covered. The invitation may be transferable to a member of the film crew, subject to approval by the HCR association.

The dates of the stay will be set by HCR and cannot be changed. Any request to change, add, or remove nights will be at the director's expense. In the event of the festival being canceled in favor of an entirely online version, the invitation will be canceled.

The invited director must be present at the official screening of their film and at the Q&A session with the audience. They may also be asked to attend school screenings, meetings, or professional round tables.

Article 10. Ethical Commitment and Prevention of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

FIFOI reserves the right to cancel the selection of a film or the invitation of its director or any member of the team in the event that reprehensible actions or behavior, in particular sexual or gender-based violence, are reported in connection with the production of the film.

Article 11. Transportation and insurance

All selected film copy must be sent at the expense of the rights holder. The festival will cover the cost of returning the copy.

Article 12. Other screenings

Films selected for competition may be screened on non-commercial punctual screenings as part of activities organized by the HCR association (restorations, retrospectives, mediation, etc.) in Réunion or internationally.

In this context, the rights holders (directors, producers, distributors) undertake to provide, free of charge or subject to a specific agreement, a screening file (DCP, Apple ProRes or h264 quality).

Article 13. Dérogations & litiges

FIFOI reserves the right to use the information collected on the registration forms in accordance with the provisions of law 78.17 of January 6th, 1978 (in accordance with the Data Protection Act, all participants have the right to access and rectify any personal data concerning them. This right may be exercised by contacting the HCR association).

The board of directors of the Hors Champs Réunion association is solely authorized to settle any issues not covered by these rules. It reserves the right to postpone, cancel, or interrupt the event depending on operational requirements. No compensation of any kind will be granted to participants.

Participation in the festival implies acceptance of these regulations. Any dispute relating to their application and interpretation shall be submitted to the competent courts of Saint-Denis, Réunion island, French law being the applicable law.

Article 14. Cancellation

The organizing committee reserves the right to cancel the festival in the event of a major problem beyond its control.