

**CALL FOR  
APPLICATIONS TO  
PARTICIPATE IN THE  
DIGITAL MEDIA FEST  
COMPETITION 2023**

## Web series and Web native

### videos

The Cultural Association ANCEF (National Association of Creative People and Filmmakers) announces the call for applications for the Digital Media Fest Competition 2023. The Competition has been designed to link young Italian and foreign filmmakers with the major Italian and foreign TV and cinema production companies. The festival wants to promote a new business model aimed at bridging cinema and TV companies with authors who are active on the web.

### DIGITAL MEDIA FEST DATES:

Opening submissions: June/07/2023

Closing submissions: September /10/ 2023

Official selection list: October/15/2023

Awards Ceremony: December/6/2023

You can enter the following audiovisual works: Web Series (in various categories), pilot (web series) Short film, V/R (products of augmented and virtual reality), Vertical Video  
Entries may also be unprecedented: at the time of registration must be available for the organization's Digital Media Fest on the web, with a password, on any online distribution platform. The same works will remain accessible in the same way, on such platforms, for the duration of the contest, until the day of the ceremony. Penalty the exclusion from the competition.

It is also need to register from the filmfreeway platform.

### 1. DEFINITIONS The following definitions are applied to this announcement:

- A “**Web Series**” is a series of fiction products (made at least of 2 episodes) designed to be released on the web or displayed on mobile devices. The web series must be made of two or more episodes with the same title and brand (if any). The episodes must have a background story describing the vicissitudes of the same main characters, or they must share a common theme. All episodes have to be web-native. Previews, trailers, size reels, demo reels, advertising spots, film sequences for cinema distribution or home video release, episodes of old TV series distributed through a free TV channel, or pay TV, or cable TV of any sort, pilot

episodes of TV series that have not been sold cannot be considered web series.

- An “**episode**” is a single part of a web series with the maximum length of 25 minutes.
- “**Authors**” are natural persons resident in Italy or abroad that are at least eighteen years old. For minors a disclaimer certified by their legal guardian is necessary.
- An “**audiovisual production company**” is a company resident in Italy or abroad having as core business the production of audiovisual products.
- “**Cultural associations**” means the non-profit associations resident in Italy and abroad.
- **Pilot (web series):** it means the initial episode from which will emerge the webserial project (you can subscribe to this category only the web series that produced one episode)
- **Short films:** is a video with the maximum permitted duration is 25 minutes. The short films are used to represent the different types of film (comedy, thriller, etc.) with a dry style than the feature film.
- **Virtual reality video:** is a video in which it has been created an immersive reality completely alternative to the one around us in everyday life. This happens through the use of a viewer that isolates us completely from the surrounding environment immersing ourselves in an imaginary world, sometimes at 360 °.
- **Augmented reality video:** videos that are exploitable through AR viewers, but that they don't provide total isolation from the environment, with which the user maintains the eye contact, while the viewer takes care to superimpose all the information considered useful.
- **Vertical Video:** A vertical video is a video created either by a camera or computer that is intended for viewing in portrait mode, producing an image that is taller than it is wide.
- For "Video Category Schools", short films, pilot episodes or web series made by secondary school students, university students or professional specialization school students.

## 2. SUBJECT OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT

2.1 Winners of the most important Digital Media Fest awards will be admitted to the web series festivals twinned with the Digital Media Fest (as specified in the “Award” section on the website [www.digitalmediafest.it](http://www.digitalmediafest.it)).

## 3. APPLICATION AND REQUIREMENTS

3.1 Registration to the Digital Media Fest 2023 can be completed from 06/07/2023 to 09/10/2023

3.2 Registration can be completed exclusively online, by duly completing the forms available on the website <https://filmfreeway.com/digitalmediafest>

3.3 The videos can be registered by Italian or foreign authors, cultural associations, and audiovisual production companies. Authors must be at least 18 years old at the moment of registration; if minors, they must be authorized by their legal guardian.

3.4 In order to apply, authors and companies shall declare that they are the owners of all exploitation rights to the videos and that they accept the Disclaimer concerning

the contents of the videos. They must also declare that the video is original and that it does not violate the rights of any third party. The Digital Media Fest is discharged from any claims coming from third parties.

- 3.5** At the moment of application at least your work or if the category “web series” 2 (two) episodes of the Web series, registered in the Digital Media Fest, must be already uploaded to

YouTube, Vimeo or another verifiable web platform. which allows verification of the upload. The videos can also be uploaded to the Digital Media Fest YouTube channel before completing the registration.

**Registration in the "Short Films" category costs 29.00 Euros.**

**3.6**

**3.7** The works must not have been published on the web before 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021. Nel if the category “web series” at least one episode must be loaded from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

**3.8** For the web series category the registration to the Digital Media Fest cannot be completed before the online publication of the second episode of the series.

**3.9** Each author or company can register more than one (1) web series.

**3.10** A video can be registered only into one category. The Technical Committee of the Digital Media Fest, having checked the contents, has the undisputable right to change the category selected at the moment of registration.

**3.11** Ex aequo awards are also envisaged.

**3.12** In web series section the categories in the competition are as follows:

- Action
- Cartoon
- Comedy/sketch
- Comedy/story
- Drama
- Mokumentary
- Documentary
- Web show/tutorial
- Branded web series

- Science/fantasy
- Horror
- Other

The Management of Digital Media Fest, reserves the sole right to cancel and / or modify certain categories of awards, if any competing work proves suitable to represent one.

- 3.13 SPECIAL MENTIONS.** The special mentions were awarded prizes by the Management of Digital Media Fest at its sole discretion.
- 3.14** Each work requires an associate to register with Ancef (therefore to register more works it will be necessary to associate more people).
- 3.15** The web series shot in other language than English or Italian must be subtitled in English or Italian.
- 3.16** The Management of the Digital Media Fest reserves the unquestionable right to cancel and/or modify certain categories of prizes, in the event that no work in the competition is suitable to represent one;
- 3.17** The work will be considered admitted upon formal acceptance of the registration after verification of the regularity of the registration by the Scientific Committee of the Digital Media Fest. If irregularities in the registration are found during the voting, the work will be suspended or canceled from the competition. The regular registration will be valid only after the sending of emails and/or publication in the list of accepted works.
- 3.18** Competition registration implies accepting subscription to the Digital Media Fest newsletter and joining its organizing associations: ANCEF (National Association of Creative People and Filmmakers)
- 3.19** The list of finalist works will be published on the [Digitalmediafest.it](http://Digitalmediafest.it) website.

#### **4. BEST CHARACTER**

- a. Best Web Character Digital Media Fest are prizes awarded to web characters considered the best representatives of the category, Creator, Youtuber, Filmmaker, Gamer, Character or fashion blogger. These prize categories do not require membership. The Management of the Digital Media Fest carries out the selection of the best representatives for the nominations at its sole discretion

#### **5. CONTEST REGISTRATION**

- a. Registration for the competition takes place through the [filmfreeway](http://filmfreeway.com) portal.

#### **6. SCREENING OF THE WORKS**

- a. The finalist works that the Artistic Direction will select for the vote in the theater will be screened in one of the days of the Festival.

#### **7. PANELS OF JUDGES**

- a. The selection of finalists will be made by the Scientific Committee before 10/15/2023

(first phase) and an evaluation by a qualified (second phase Jury) which will start on 10/16/2023 and will end on 12/05/2023. Winners will be announced during the awards ceremony.

- b. The Scientific Committee is made up of: Janet De Nardis (Artistic Director of the Digital Media Fest); Mauro Di Donato (Professor of the Faculty of Letters and Philosophy of the University of Rome La Sapienza); Leandro Correa (Director of the Rio Web Fest); Luis Felipe Alvarado (Director of SWA – Series Web Award Lima).
- c. The final decision appertains to the Artistic Director of Digital Media Fest.
- d. The Jury of Experts will be composed of leading figures/illustrious exponents of the authorial world and professionals of the audiovisual industry.
- e. The Jury members will be elected from the Scientific Committee within 10/15/2023

## GENERAL ADMISSION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

- a. Italian and foreign videos will be evaluated according to the same criteria based on the following requirements: high artistic value, technical quality of the audiovisual product (intended as value of technical and technological elements of the project), potential attraction to an international audience, technical and professional skills of the authors, language innovation and web- awareness.
- b. The videos can deal with any issue as long as it is not contrary to law nor results harmful or offensive to human rights and the dignity of the person or otherwise contrary to the ethical and moral principles.
- c. A prize and an evaluation in itself will be dedicated to the works that will deal with the theme of sustainability.

## 8. PROJECTS SELECTION AND FINAL COMPETITION

The selection process will be subdivided into two steps:

- a) Admission of the projects: the Italian Scientific verify if the projects fulfil the requisites listed/described in the announcement. The authors or productions will fill in the registration request form (by joining ANCEF) via the filmfreeway platform

In the event of exclusion from the competition due to violations of the regulation, the registration fee paid (where applicable) to Ancef will not be returned. Documents (payment confirmation with reference email, identity card and release to download from the site)

**must be sent to [liberatorie@digitalmediafest.it](mailto:liberatorie@digitalmediafest.it).**

Selection phase: The finalist works will be selected by the Scientific Committee by 10/15/2023

- b. The videos that have reached the final will enter the final stage of the competition on [www.digitalmediafest.it](http://www.digitalmediafest.it) il. It will take place on 10/15/2023 (unless

extended).

- c. The finalist works will have access to the final phase of the competition which will take place during the Digital Media Fest 2023 in the days ranging from 4 to 6 December 2023. The three days of the competition may undergo a date change. Variation which will in any case be communicated by 11/15/2023
- d. The Jury of Experts will choose and announce the winning videos of the Digital Media Fest 2023 during the third day of the festival. In that occasion, the award ceremony will take place.
- e. Decisions made by the Jury of Experts are irrevocable.

#### **f. PARTICIPANTS' OBLIGATIONS**

- a. The competition participants authorize Digital Media Fest to promote and publish the registered web series on the competition website with trailer or photos. Moreover, they authorize the web series projection during the last days of the festival, as well as in other twinned competitions and events related to the Digital Media Fest.
- b. The competition participants guarantee the correct use of the registered materials and discharge Digital Media Fest from any responsibility regarding an unsuccessful or incomplete registration. Digital Media Fest is also discharged from any technical problems regarding content visualization of the videos registered or sent.
- c. In order to register any videos the participants must sign the Disclaimer. Otherwise, the videos will be excluded from the competition.
- d. The contest winners must explicitly mention that the web series has won the Digital Media Fest 2023 in their promotional and advertising materials or materials published on the internet after the competition.

#### **g. EXCLUSIONS**

- a. Applications will be rejected in the following cases:
  - If they are sent after the deadline 09/10/2023 the reference date being the day in which the application form has been filled in.
  - If they are unsigned.
  - If they do not respond to the requisites listed in this announcement.

- If the contents of the works prove contrary to law and public order, or are harmful and offensive to human rights and the dignity of the person or otherwise contrary to the ethical and moral principles.

#### **h. PARTICIPANTS' DECLARATION**

a. I accept that:

- The Festival uses my work for all purposes related to the competition.
- My work (or parts of it) is included in the promotional materials of the Digital Media Fest;

#### **i. DISAGREEMENTS**

a. The Court of Rome shall have exclusive jurisdiction on any dispute or disagreement arising out of or relating to the matters described hereof.

#### **j. PRIVACY TREATMENT OF PERSONAL DATA**

a. Participants, with the presentation of their works and the registration in the competition, consent to the treatment of their personal data for purposes pertaining to the competition, pursuant to Legislative Decree n. 196/2003. The participant authorizes the Cultural Association, "Associazione Nazionale Creativi e Filmmaker" (ANCEF), organizer of Digital Media Fest, to publish images, photographs, , trailer during the festival, on its website, in catalogues, and/or in other appropriate media, public and private outreach events, without compromising the personal dignity and decorum.

The participant also acknowledges that this authorization of rights does not in any way conflict with contractual agreements and/or rights of representative agencies, and therefore relieves UCL of any eventual third party claims in relation to this concession of rights.

The participant also authorizes the use of images and music, free of compensation or other monetary consideration. The participant, pursuant to Legislative Decree n. 196/2003, declares to be fully informed of the purposes and methods of the treatment of personal data and authorizes the storing of the material presented in the archives of Digital Media Fest. The participant declares to possess full ownership of exploitation rights, as per legislation 633/1941 as regards the audiovisual work, submitted in the Festival.

By filling in the registration form participants attest to the veracity of their statements.

Failure of any part of the regulation will cause the exclusion of the competition without the socio /excluded competitor has no right to a refund of previously paid registration fee. The selection of eligible works will be made by and at the discretion of the Director of Digital Media Fest

The act of recognition implies the understanding and acceptance of this Regulation.



## The structure of festival

### briefly PHASE A

06/07/2023 – 09/10/2023

- 1) register on the site <https://filmfreeway.com/digitalmediafest>,
- 2) fill in the Ancef registration form and make the payment if required by the registration category, then send a copy of a document, the release form (to be downloaded from the site when filling out the form), the payment receipt, the registration to Ancef, and the privacy document to [segreteria@digitalmediafest.it](mailto:segreteria@digitalmediafest.it)
- 3) Confirmation from the festival organization is awaited. Videos will be judged by a Scientific Committee. They will decide who will enter the Phase B (finalists web series).

The works will be evaluated by the scientific committee which will decide who will pass to phase B (finalist works).

### PHASE B

10/16/2023 to 12/05/1023

On 10/15/2023 will be announced the list of the finalists who will compete to win the Digital Media Fest prizes. A qualified Jury will vote to assign the prizes. The winners will be announced on December second, during the awards ceremony.

The actual date of the awards event may undergo slight variations due to logistical needs, but will be communicated in time for the organization of all participants.