

2023 IOWF Entry Rules & Regulations



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Submission Categories

The International Online Web Fest (the "Festival"), a platform for independent cinema and creative expression in digital environments for a 360-degree entertainment experience, supports both emerging and established talents, discovers award-winning directors, curates innovative and interactive experiences, and introduces new ideas through round tables, previews, and live talks.

Projects selected from all categories will be presented to the public during the 9th edition of the IOWF Awards scheduled for December 2023 ("IOWF23"). As the submission of a project constitutes acceptance of these Access Rules and Regulations (by you), please read this regulation carefully.

Submitted projects must not have:

- Been publicly presented or exhibited in the Metropolitan Area of Milan.
- Had ANY public screening, transmission, distribution on the web, or exhibition before January 1st, 2022.*

*Not applicable to Web Series.

Web Series and Short Films:

IOWF showcases short films and web series from emerging talents and established directors with distinctive styles and bold ideas. Projects invited to participate in IOWF 2023 will be shown in the section deemed most appropriate by the Festival programmers, at their sole discretion. Web series and short films will also be considered for our online preview section debuting on our IOWF+ platform.

Eligible projects include web series (each episode less than 30 minutes), short films (less than 40 minutes), including documentaries, narratives, animations, and music videos.

IOWF+:

IOWF+ is a platform that discovers, highlights, and celebrates independent episodic work, including projects that only have a brief pilot episode (minimum 5 minutes) and longer ones (>15 minutes), of both narrative and documentary genres. Eligible projects include episodic projects created for traditional television and/or streaming, as well as web series. Projects submitted must demonstrate potential for serial growth, and short films will also be considered only if they are potentially developable into a web series.

In addition to consider as an *Official Selection** of IOWF 2023, directors submitting their work to IOWF+ will also be considered for the IOWF Plus circuit, a private screening of unreleased content held during IOWF 2023, which brings together emerging directors of short films, series, to pitch new projects and network with a wide range of industry members, including distributors, producers, financiers, and others. Interested participants must have prepared materials for the presentation (e.g. scripts, look books, etc.) prior to the event for IOWF Plus staff to review. All filmmakers chosen as Official Selections* of the IOWF+ section will receive an automatic invitation to the IOWF Plus circuit.

Eligible projects include both longer episodes (>20 minutes) and shorter episodes (<20 minutes), including TV series.

*Every project included in the *Official Selection* through IOWF+ will still be considered [OUT OF COMPETITION](#), and only in exceptional cases, they may be eligible for an award. Please refer to the Awards section at the bottom of the regulations for more information.

IOWF Storytelling Session

Recognizing the importance of audiovisual storytelling for the web (vlogs), the Festival will curate an official selection of audiovisual stories, with an emphasis on the discovery, highlighting, and celebration of independent work. The projects selected for IOWF 2023 will be reviewed by a diverse jury of established YouTubers.

Each selection will receive the official IOWF laurel and will be eligible to audition for a Talent-Show dedicated to future generations of storytellers. Independent content creators who pass the auditions will have the opportunity to participate in a live event (boot camp) where they will showcase their storytelling skills and be guided by expert coaches and tutors in the world of YouTube.

Content creators will also be considered for the IOWF Storytellers Plus circuit, a unique private sector marketplace that lasts one day and brings together top storytellers to present their projects to a wide range of industry decision-makers, including distributors, community groups, agencies, brands, and more.

Budgets and resources in the audiovisual industry vary greatly, and this year IOWF will offer greater opportunities for both established and independent creators through four separate categories: 1) Summer Sports; 2) Winter Sports; 3) Food, and 4) Travel.

In the submission form, you will apply to one of these four categories. You will also be asked to provide an approximate estimate of the production budget for the specific material submitted. We will contact you if we believe that you are not in the appropriate category. We will consider many factors on a case-by-case basis in determining this decision, including but not limited to: genre, duration, budget, production resources, and the level of marketing and distribution power behind your project.

IOWF Avant-garde Award

The IOWF Avant-garde Award is a jury prize for storytelling supported by a Brand that recognizes the blending of advertising and entertainment. The IOWF Avant-garde Award is open to all works financed with the support of a Brand in collaboration with artists or directors. The finalists will be recognized by the Festival, and a jury will award the winning selection at IOWF 2023.

Eligible Projects

Independent Filmmakers:

Independent projects may be made public on the internet at any time between April 10 and November 10. In the event of official selection, the project must not be freely available on the internet from November 11 until the close of IOWF 2023. There is no limit to the number of projects that a creator or creative team can submit. If you have questions about entry fees, please contact us at internationalonlinewebfest@gmail.com. For information on IOWF promotions or waiver codes that may be launched during the year, follow us on our social channels.

Each category will accept the following:

- The first episode (pilot) of any narrative series (2 minutes - 30 minutes in length)
- A standalone video (2 minutes - 40 minutes in length)
- A music video (1 minute - 8 minutes in length)

Optional:

- You may submit up to 3 episodes for a web series.
- You may submit the first episode of a new season of a web series, but the judgment will be based solely on the previously submitted material.

At least one of the following requirements is essential to be considered:

- The project must have won an award or been nominated in a web festival listed as qualifying for short films and/or web series. Proof of the award (or nomination) may be required after submitting the application. The list of qualifying festivals can be requested from the IOWF staff via email.
- The director and/or producer is enrolled and attending a school or university in film, TV, or web communication.

Established Filmmakers

Projects from established filmmakers must not have been publicly available prior to the IOWF Festival. Official selection does not necessarily guarantee a live event at the IOWF Festival (information about live events will be announced shortly). Nonetheless, projects must be submitted by the established deadline. There is no limit to the number of projects that a creator or creative team can submit.

Each category will accept the following:

- The first episode (pilot) of any narrative series (2 minutes - 30 minutes in length)
- A standalone video (2 minutes - 40 minutes in length)
- A music video (1 minute - 8 minutes in length)

Optional:

- Up to 3 episodes of a web series can be submitted.

- The first episode of a new season of a web series can be submitted, but the judgment will be based solely on previously submitted material.

At least one of the following requirements is essential to be considered:

- The project must have won an award or been nominated in a qualifying web festival, as specified in the list of qualifying festivals for short films and/or web series. Proof of the award may be requested after submitting the application. The list of qualifying festivals can be requested from the IOWF staff via email.
- The Producer and/or Director has already been nominated in one of the previous IOWF editions.
- One of the project's lead actors has been nominated in at least one of the last 4 IOWF editions (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022).

Reserved Rate for Students

Registration Fee: Registration fees are in the U.S. Dollars, are for each individual project, and are non-refundable. The Festival reserves the right to disqualify a submission, without any refund, if eligibility requirements are not met, including if eligibility status changes after submission.

Students: ONLY SHORT FILMS directed by students can be submitted at a discounted rate of \$ 4,00 per entry via FilmFreeway. Students must provide a scanned copy of a current and valid student ID or a letter from an accredited school verifying the contestant's enrollment. A PDF or JPG file of this scan must be submitted via the Festival's online submission form at the time of film submission to qualify. Students submitting to other categories MUST pay the applicable regular entry fees.

Eligibility

To be considered:

ALL CATEGORIES:

- (1) It is necessary to fully comply with these Rules and Participation Regulations, including all deadlines, project duration, entry materials, and other requirements.
- (2) Projects in languages other than English must have English subtitles at the time of presentation. Or, they must be accompanied by an .srt or .vtt file for activatable subtitles.
- (3) The project MUST maintain at least one "Milan Metropolitan Area" premiere status before IOWF 2023 ("Premiere"; excluding entries to the IOWF Avant-garde Award). "Milan Metropolitan Area" includes the entire urban area of Milan, which in turn includes the metropolitan city of Milan, with its 133 municipalities, and the entire province of Monza and Brianza, with 55 municipalities.
- (4) Before and during IOWF 2023 (unless otherwise expressly stated below), the project must meet the following criteria:

ONLY IOWF+:

- (1) The project must be episodic in nature or a short film ranging from 5' to 40'.
- (2) The submitted pilot episodes must demonstrate potential for serial growth, and descriptions of at least two additional episodes will be requested.

ONLY IOWF Avant-garde Award:

- (1) The project must have been made with the support of a brand in collaboration with artists or directors.
- (2) Projects must have a narrative element.

Online Screenings: In light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, for IOWF 2023, projects that premiered online in 2022 as part of a digital or online festival can still be considered for the following categories:

- Web Series
- Short Films
- IOWF+

These online screenings were only to last for a limited period as part of a festival that did not have a venue in the Lombardy region, as described above. Any project available for sale or pay-per-view in the Milan urban area is not eligible.

Music Videos can remain online indefinitely and maintain eligibility.

Contributions from independent filmmakers who have never received a nomination or award in past IOWF editions can be made publicly available at any time between April 10 and November 10 and remain eligible.

Eligibility Note: If at any time after its initial evaluation, the Festival determines that a submission no longer meets all the eligibility criteria described above, such submission will be deemed ineligible.

How to submit

Submit your project through FilmFreeway [International Online Web Fest - FilmFreeway](#). Once you have completed the online submission form, click on "Submit". Note that the online submission form will require you to send a password-protected URL that links to your project, so plan accordingly and ensure that the project has been fully uploaded to the viewing platform and that the link and password are working before completing the online submission form.

Entry Materials

All submissions must include the following:

- (1) A properly completed official IOWF 2023 online submission form.
- (2) A private and/or password-protected streaming link to the project.
- (3) Depending on the case, the submission fee(s) for the project presentation, payable ONLY by credit card (American Express, Visa, MasterCard, or PayPal). If submitting a student-made short film or web series, a student ID scan or enrollment verification must be provided at the time of submission to qualify for the discounted submission fee.

Note: it is your sole responsibility to ensure that the online submission form is successfully submitted. If submitted through FilmFreeway, ensure that the status of your project is marked as "IN CONSIDERATION", otherwise your submission is not complete with us.

It is also the user's responsibility to ensure that the streaming link is functioning and that the submitted link and password are accurate. The password-protected link must be active until at least December 10, 2023. Regardless of the submission method, all submission materials MUST be received by the Festival no later than the deadlines listed on the FilmFreeway website. The Festival reserves the right to disqualify any submission, without refund, if not completed in accordance with these Rules and Participation Regulations.

Multiple Submissions

WEB SERIES - SHORT FILMS - VLOGS

Each project must be submitted individually and accompanied by its own completed online submission form; please do not send links to multiple project entries in one online submission form, as some or all may be disqualified.

IOWF+

Each project must be submitted individually and accompanied by its own completed online submission form; please do not send links to multiple project entries in one online submission form, as some or all may be disqualified. If submitting a web series or pilot episode, you may submit multiple episodes from the same series within the same submission.

"Avant-Garde" Award

You may submit up to three (3) links to projects that fall under the same brand campaign. However, you may not submit links to multiple campaigns in the same submission. Each project must be submitted individually and accompanied by its own completed online

submission form; please do not send links to multiple projects in one online submission form, as some or all may be disqualified.

Submitting a project from previous editions

If your project has been submitted and considered for previous editions of the IOWF Festival, you may resubmit it if significant modifications have been made and all applicable eligibility requirements are met at the time of submission to IOWF 2023 (see above).

Invited Projects

The festival programmers select and invite all projects to be presented at IOWF 2023 with the Premiere status (see eligibility requirements above). Invited filmmakers will receive notification via email to the information provided in their submitted entry form. Please ensure to update the Festival with any new contact information or invitations to other festivals prior to IOWF 2023 at internationalonlinewebfest@gmail.com. If your project is invited, your Premiere status will be confirmed and locked. If you accept any other invitation to a festival that violates this commitment to Premiere status, the Festival reserves the right to cancel the invitation.

IF YOUR PROJECT IS SELECTED

If your project is selected, you must meet the following requirements by the designated dates set by the Festival:

(1) You must sign a release agreement in which you:

- (i) accept responsibility for obtaining all necessary permissions to exhibit and promote your project and any promotional materials provided by you in connection with IOWF 2023;
- (ii) warrant that you have the necessary rights for IOWF to exhibit and promote your project and use any promotional materials provided by you in connection with IOWF 2023;
- (iii) indemnify and hold harmless the Festival, its parent company, affiliates and subsidiaries, and all of their respective directors, officers, employees, and representatives from any claims arising out of the exhibition and promotion of your project in connection with IOWF 2023.

(2) If selected within IOWF Storytelling, you will also be asked to participate in our physical festival as well as our online showcase that will take place on the Festival website (<http://www.internationalonlinewebfest.com/>) and/or designated future digital exhibition platform (TBD) during and around IOWF 2023 dates.

(3) You must provide an official "Festival Information Form" for IOWF 2023, duly completed, including all press and publication resources as specified in the "Media Release Form" (the "Festival Information Form" and the "Media Release Form" will be provided by the Festival).

(4) You must provide a downloadable link of the final and completed project for the Festival archives and internal purposes.

(5) If selected for IOWF Avant-garde AWARD, at the Festival's discretion, you may be asked to provide an embeddable streaming link of your project to be exhibited on the Festival website (<http://www.internationalonlinewebfest.com/>) during IOWF 2023 dates.

Festival Sections

The projects invited to participate in IOWF 2023 will be showcased in the section deemed most appropriate by the Festival programmers, at their sole discretion. Part or all of the IOWF 2023 program may be available online on a secure streaming platform for a limited number of screenings, geographically restricted to Europe and North America. IOWF will discuss with the directors whose films are selected as official selections the possibility of including their film as part of the online component.

In Competition:

WEB SERIES

Italian Narrative and Animation Contest

- Open to Italian narrative web series that have a world premiere at IOWF 2023 (see eligibility requirements above).
- Eligible for: Best Italian Web Series, Best Animation (if applicable), Best Directing, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Male and Female Performance, Best Editing, Best Sound Design, Best Original Score.

International Narrative and Animation Contest

- Open to narrative films produced outside Italy that have at least an Italian premiere at IOWF 2023 (see eligibility requirements above).
- Eligible for: Best Web Series, Best Animation (if applicable), Best Directing, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Male and Female Performance, Best Editing, Best Sound Design, Best Original Score.

Documentary & Mockumentary Contest

- Open to documentaries from all nations, but must have an Italian premiere at IOWF 2023 (see eligibility requirements above).
- Eligible for: Best Documentary, Best Directing, Best Editing, Best Cinematography, Best Sound Design.

SHORT FILMS

Italian Narrative, Documentary, and Animated Shorts

- Open to projects from all Italian regions, but must have at least a regional premiere in Lombardy (see eligibility requirements above). Nationally premiering films have priority.
- Eligible for: Best Italian Short Film, Best Documentary (if applicable), Best Animation (if applicable), Best Directing, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Male and Female Performance, Best Editing, Best Sound Design, Best Original Score.
- Student short films must be produced through an accredited educational institution.
- Shorts will be screened in a shorts program or prior to a complete web series.

International Narrative, Documentary, and Animated Shorts

- Submissions are open to all projects produced internationally and must maintain at least an Italian Premiere status to receive any IOWF Award.

- Eligible for: Best Short Film, Best Documentary (if applicable), Best Animation (if applicable), Best Directing, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Male and Female Performance, Best Editing, Best Sound Design, Best Original Score.
- Student short films must be produced through an accredited educational institution.
- Shorts will be screened in a shorts program or prior to a complete web series.

"Avant-Garde" Award

- Finalists will be recognized by the Festival and a jury will award the winning selection at IOWF 2023.

Out of Competition:

All must have at least an urban Milan premiere unless otherwise noted. Some projects in the Out of Competition sections are eligible for awards; see AWARDS below for details:

WEB SERIES

Gala (Opening or Closing)

- Both screening programs are by invitation only and feature web series screenings and discussions with the creators after the screenings.

Points of View (IOWF Talks)

- An assortment of documentaries and narrative vlogs that offer distinctive visions from innovative voices.

SHORT FILMS

Gala (Opening or Closing)

- Both screening programs are by invitation only and feature short film screenings and discussions with the creators after the screenings.

Shorts Music Videos

- May have played online but must maintain a Milan Regional Premiere status for festivals and other public screenings.

IOWF+

- IOWF+ is a platform that discovers, highlights, and celebrates independent episodic work, including short and long form pilots/series, of both narrative and documentary genres.

IOWF+ Circuit Plus

- The IOWF Circuit Plus is a unique private sector market held during IOWF 2023, which brings together emerging storytellers of short films, episodes, and vlogs to present new projects and network with a wide range of sectors, including distributors, producers, television, financiers, and more.

IOWF TV

- A curated selection of series produced by the winners of talent shows held throughout the year.

Awards

The awards for IOWF 2023 are subject to change*

All winners will receive:

- Award accreditation on IMDb
 - Official Laurel headed
 - Screening on IOWF+ during the winners' week
 - Promotion on our social media and website.
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- Eligibility for the award is subject to any restriction or condition imposed by applicable laws and regulations, and the recipient of the award is responsible for all taxes, customs, fees, insurance, and similar applicable charges or costs (if any).
 - All new web series (except those shown only in the "Gala" or "IOWF Talks") are eligible for the "Audience Award", regardless of the section.

*The above-mentioned awards are from the IOWF Film Festival 2022 and are subject to change for IOWF 2023 at the Festival's sole discretion.