



CALL FOR ENTRIES

WRITTEN BY SCRIPT & FILM FESTIVAL - 1° EDITION

ORGANIZATION

The Written by Script & Film Festival is one of the first short film festivals dedicated entirely to screenwriting. It is an event organized and promoted by Stolen Film - ETS, a cultural association composed of professionals active in various sectors of the film industry.

Screenwriting at the Core

While other festivals recognize achievements in directing, cinematography, and editing, the Written by Script & Film Festival focuses on the fundamental components of cinematic writing: Best Screenplay, Best Story, Best Dialogues, and Best Plot of the selected short films, which will be screened during the festival.

The festival was born from movements aimed at enhancing and recognizing the role of screenwriters and story creators in audiovisual productions—figures often overlooked in the industry.

WHEN? WHERE?

The Written by Script & Film Festival will take place over two days, on June 7 and 8, 2025, at The Cineclub, located at Via Lidia 46, Rome—a new cultural hub for cinematic initiatives.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

The festival offers an in-depth opportunity for screenwriters through the podcast interview series "Come l'hai scritto?" ("How Did You Write It?"). During the festival, guest writers will have the chance to share their professional experiences, discussing the genesis of their projects, the unique aspects of their craft, and their personal journeys. These interviews will take place at The Cineclub in Rome.

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

Written by Script & Film Festival has two main categories:

1. COMPLETED SHORT FILMS

This category is open to short films of any theme, with a maximum duration of 20 minutes, produced from a screenplay that must be submitted along with the film file.

The evaluation will consider the shooting script used during filming, which will be physically available for consultation at the festival venue.

AWARDS FOR COMPLETED SHORT FILMS

- Best Screenplay (Trophy)
- Student Jury Award (Trophy)
- Best Story (Plaque)
- Best Dialogues (Plaque)
- Best Plot (Plaque)

2. PITCH STAGE

This category is dedicated to written but not yet produced short film projects—those still seeking production. Eligible projects must include the necessary written materials for the pitch, such as the logline, story, and screenplay.

The goal is to provide a platform for screenwriters, creating a space for interaction between the audience, aspiring writers, industry professionals, editors, and production companies.

The Pitch Stage of Written by aims to highlight the work of emerging screenwriters, offering them an opportunity to connect with industry professionals and potential collaborators.

AWARD FOR UNPRODUCED SHORT FILM PROJECTS

- Best Pitch (Plaque)

The awards will be granted at the sole discretion of the Technical Jury and the Student Jury.

Additionally, the festival's artistic direction will present a Special Award for **Best Feature Film Screenplay**, recognizing an outstanding debut feature, which will be screened during the festival's closing night.

2. RULES AND REGULATIONS

A - CATEGORY: SHORT FILMS ALREADY COMPLETED

1. Categories of Participation

The Festival accepts Original Short Films, meaning works whose subjects and scripts have been written and conceived by the author(s) registered in the Festival.

Adaptations of pre-existing literary works are also allowed, provided they are presented in the form of a short film.

2. Eligibility Requirements

Short films must have a maximum duration of 20 minutes and must be accompanied by the screenplay used during filming (shooting script).

The screenplay must be written in Italian or English and uploaded through the dedicated form indicated below (see art. A.1). Each participant may submit up to 3 completed short films to the Written by Script & Film Festival. A separate registration must be completed for each short film.

The Festival accepts fictional works from authors of all ages and backgrounds, both professionals and emerging talents. Narrative short films of any cinematic genre are allowed, including those made using animation techniques. Non-fiction works, such as music videos, documentaries, etc., are excluded.

3. Registration

The payment of the registration fee also serves as the membership fee for Stolen Film - ETS for the year 2025. Registrations will follow the deadlines below:

- 1st Early Deadline - Suso Cecchi d'Amico - March 20 - €10.00
- 2nd Medium Deadline - Tullio Pinelli - April 10 - €12.00
- 3rd Late Deadline - Mattia Torre - May 8 - €15.00

Registrations must be made through the FilmFreeway platform of the Written by Script & Film Festival at the following link:

<https://filmfreeway.com/writtenbyfestival>

4. Selection of Works

Short films will be selected by the festival's artistic committee.

Selection criteria will include originality, narrative quality, dialogue writing, screenplay structure, and the effectiveness of the adaptation to the cinematic language.

Selected works will be screened during the Written by Script & Film Festival.

5. Awards

The following awards will be assigned to completed short films:

Best Screenplay Award: for the most innovative, original, and well-structured screenplay.

Best Story Award: for the story with the highest cinematic potential, rewarding the author for the quality and impact of their idea.

Best Dialogue Award: for the screenplay with the most compelling dialogues that bring characters to life and enrich the audiovisual narrative.

Best Plot Award: for the screenplay featuring a solid and engaging narrative structure, where coherence and dramatic balance combine to create a story that captures and holds the audience's attention, going beyond mere originality of the idea.

Student Jury Award: assigned by a jury composed of students from Universities and Film Academies.

A.1 HOW TO PARTICIPATE - SECTION: COMPLETED SHORT FILMS

It is mandatory to correctly complete every section of the short film's FilmFreeway profile.

Short film submissions must be made exclusively through the FilmFreeway platform.

The Written by Script & Film Festival is entirely dedicated to writing. Therefore, authors submitting short films are required to send the screenplay used during production (shooting script).

Failure to submit the screenplay will result in exclusion from the competition.

The shooting script of the completed short film must be uploaded at the following link:

UPLOAD YOUR SHOOTING SCRIPT HERE:

<https://forms.gle/oh6dJFNmVX2KTWdPZ>

- Subsequently, only for the selected short films, the following materials will be requested:
- High-quality video file of the short film for screening
- Biography, filmography, and photo of the author
- .srt subtitle files in both Italian and English
- Film stills
- Posters and brochures
- A trailer with a maximum duration of 2 minutes

B - PITCH STAGE

1. Categories of Participation

Each participant may submit up to three (3) short film projects, where a project is understood as the collection of required writing materials (logline, synopsis, screenplay), signed by a single author or multiple authors.

A separate registration is required for each project.

2. Eligibility Requirements

Only the following projects are eligible for the Written by Pitch Stage:

Original projects, meaning works exclusively owned by the author(s);

Unpublished projects, meaning works that have not yet been published, distributed, or adapted for cinema or any other media before participation in this competition;

Adaptations from published or unpublished literary works, provided the adaptation rights are free or have already been acquired by the author(s) of the project.

Projects must be written in Italian or English.

2.1 - Fiction projects from all cinematic genres (comedy, drama, noir, horror, fantasy, science fiction, animation, etc.) are eligible for the Pitch Stage of the Written by Festival.

2.2 - Projects must be the exclusive property of the Author(s) and must not have been previously assigned to producers, institutions, or third parties.

Therefore, all projects must be registered with SIAE, or alternatively on PATAMU or WGA platforms.

The rights to the submitted or selected works remain the exclusive property of the authors.

2.3 - Projects based on or freely inspired by literary works are allowed.

However, to be accepted, it is necessary to submit a certificate proving the acquisition of adaptation rights, in addition to the other required materials (see art. B.1).

This certificate must be provided by the screenplay author or the producer of the short film and must confirm possession of the necessary rights for the creation of the cinematic work.

Without this documentation, the project cannot be admitted to the competition.

2.4 - Projects from which films and/or audiovisual products have already been made, even if still unpublished at the time of the participant's registration, are not eligible for the competition.

2.5 - Projects already in the production phase are not eligible.

3. Registration

Registrations will follow the deadlines below:

- 1st Deadline - Suso Cecchi d'Amico - March 20 - €10.00
- 2nd Deadline - Tullio Pinelli - April 10 - €12.00
- 3rd Deadline - Mattia Torre - May 8 - €15.00

4. Selection of Projects

Projects will be selected by the festival's artistic committee.

The selection criteria will include originality, narrative quality, dialogue writing, screenplay structure, and the production value of the project.

Finalist projects will be pitched by their authors during the "Written by Script & Film Festival" in front of an audience of producers, screenwriters, directors, and editors, whose names will be announced by April 2025.

5. Awards

Best Pitch Award: assigned to the most promising short film project presented in the Pitch Stage section. The award aims to recognize the originality, narrative, and production potential of the project, as well as the author's ability to present the idea effectively to the jury.

The festival does not guarantee the production of the short film. Any negotiations between authors and interested production companies will be handled privately.

The Pitch Stage section aims to foster connections between authors and production companies, screenwriters, and directors, in order to explore potential collaboration and project development opportunities.

B.1 HOW TO PARTICIPATE - PITCH STAGE SECTION

The Written by Pitch Stage is open to authors from all over the world who have written a project for the production of a short film.

Projects are theme-free and must be submitted in digital format, through a single PDF document.

Materials submitted as multiple and/or separate files will be automatically excluded from selection.

A short film project is understood as the collection of required documents for participation in the Pitch Stage section. These artistic materials—logline, synopsis, and screenplay—must enable an evaluation of the project's production potential.

The project must include in a single PDF file the following materials:

- A logline (max 300 characters)
- A short synopsis (max 1 page)
- A screenplay (max 20 pages)
- Registration number with any work deposit service (e.g., SIAE, Patamu, WGA)
- Any additional visual material (e.g., moodboards, trailers, hypothetical cast, etc.)
- A short biography of the author(s) (max 500 characters)

Selected authors must confirm their participation in the Written by Script & Film Festival.

If an author fails to confirm or cannot attend, the festival management reserves the right to select another project as a replacement.

The Pitch Stage will be held live during the festival days.

Each selected author will have 10 minutes to pitch their project in front of an audience of producers, screenwriters, directors, or editors, whose names will be announced by April 2025 through the Festival's social media channels.

UPLOAD YOUR PROJECT HERE:

<https://forms.gle/jiNUc18tyHJVC2MK8>

Below are the specifications for each document:

PLEASE NOTE: the name of the .pdf document must match exactly the project title indicated on FilmFreeway.

(e.g.: if the project title is "Project Title", the document must necessarily be named "Project Title.pdf" without any additional specifications).

a) A Logline (maximum 300 characters, including spaces): a short summary describing the main characters, the central conflict, and the setting in a concise and captivating way.

b) A Short Synopsis, with a maximum length of 1 page (1,800 characters per page), 1.5 line spacing, font size 12, in Courier New or Arial.

c) The Screenplay, with a maximum length of 20 pages.

d) The registration number with any work deposit service (e.g., SIAE, Patamu, WGA).

e) Additional materials such as a Pitch Deck in PDF format, to be attached through the form:
a concise and visually rich presentation of the project, which must include:

a clear and comprehensive synopsis highlighting the narrative structure,

a detailed profile of the main characters,

all necessary information for potential investors (e.g., talents attached to the project; potential sequels or further seasons; awards or grants already obtained),

a collage of visual elements in moodboard style to provide a clear vision of the project's tone and atmosphere.

f) All texts must be written in Italian or English.

g) A Short Biography of the authors (maximum 500 characters, including spaces).

5. SIDE EVENTS AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Responsibility and Rights

Participants retain exclusive rights to their screenplay, short film, and pitch materials but grant the Festival a non-exclusive license for the screening and promotion of the works during the Festival.

The Festival reserves the right to use short films and screenplays for promotional purposes related to the event, including, but not limited to, advertising and communication materials.

Each participant guarantees that the screenplay and short film do not infringe on the rights of third parties, including, but not limited to, copyrights and trademarks.

By submitting their project, participants agree to the following conditions:

The Written by Script & Film Festival may use excerpts of your short film for promotional purposes.

Registration fees are non-refundable.

By paying the registration fee, participants also become members of the Stolen Film - ETS association, the organizer of the festival, thereby gaining the opportunity to participate in all future initiatives promoted by the association.

Registration cannot be withdrawn after the announcement of the official selection.

Should the short film be selected for the final stage of the festival, the producer and/or author must declare that they are the sole holder of all rights related to the work and that the film does not contain any third-party rights.

The jury's decisions are final and non-negotiable.

Privacy and Data Protection

Personal data provided by participants will be processed in accordance with Italian and European privacy regulations.

Participants are responsible for the truthfulness of the information provided and are aware that violations of copyright regulations will result in exclusion from the Festival.

Stolen Film

The Stolen Film - ETS Association is non-partisan and adheres to the following principles: non-profit purpose, democratic structure, and elected social offices.

In pursuit of civic, solidarity, and social utility purposes, the Association carries out the activities of general interest outlined in Art. 5, Paragraph 1 of Legislative Decree No. 117/2017, in favor of its members, their families, and third parties.

It primarily focuses on the promotion and dissemination of culture and professions related to cinema and the audiovisual sector, organizing workshops, showcases, and festivals.

For more information and the association's statutes, please visit: www.stolenfilm.it

Final Provisions

The Festival reserves the right to modify or supplement these regulations at any time with an official communication.

Additionally, the Artistic Direction of the Festival reserves the right to make changes to the program if necessary for the success of the event.

Any dispute arising from the application of these regulations will be resolved amicably; if not possible, it will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the competent court of Rome.

The Written by Script & Film Festival is committed to giving visibility to the work of screenwriters and to creating a reference point for anyone wishing to explore, discuss, and celebrate screenwriting as the beating heart of audiovisual language.

For more information, please visit the Festival's official website:

<https://stolenfilm.it/writtenby>

or write to the official email:

writtenbyfestival@gmail.com

