



# SITGES

55<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL FANTASTIC  
FILM FESTIVAL OF CATALONIA

6<sup>TH</sup> - 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

## RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE 55<sup>TH</sup> SITGES - INTERNATIONAL FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL OF CATALONIA

### I) THE FESTIVAL

The **Sitges - International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia** is a competitive festival, specializing in fantastic genre, festival in accordance with the regulations established by the FIAPF. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Hollywood has also declared the Festival to be a "Qualified Festival" for the **Oscar® Awards**. This means that those shorts winning the awards for «Best Short Film» in the Official Fantàstic Selection and «Best Short Film» in the **Anima't** section will automatically be taken into consideration by the Selection Committee of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Hollywood for the **Oscar® Awards**.

#### COVID-19 Notification for the 55th Sitges International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia

The health crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic that has been globally affecting us for two years has led to a need for the 55th edition of the Festival to be held using a hybrid format, combining both physical in-theater screenings and online screenings of films in its line-up.

The online screenings are designed to complement the in-theater screenings in the event of any possible legally mandated seating capacity restrictions or difficulties limiting normal access for audiences.

The Festival will enable a virtual theater via a online platform. This theater's operation is based on geo-blocking (limited to the Spanish territory) and limited access to virtual tickets for each film (thereby reproducing the same conditions as in physical movie theaters).

In the event of a total lockdown, the Festival would still be held, but using the online format.

Regarding in-person screenings, they will maintain their customary format, but at all times will be subject to any and all restrictions established by public health authorities.

If the Festival were to be held exclusively online as a result of measures mandated by public health authorities due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and a production has NOT been authorized to participate in the virtual theater (online platform), the film would be excluded from the official lineup of the 55th Sitges International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia.



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## II) SECTIONS

The Festival consists of the following sections:

**Official Fantàstic In Competition / Out-of-Competition**

**Special Screenings**

**Noves Visions**

**Òrbita**

**Panorama Fantàstic**

**Anima't**

**Seven Chances**

**Midnight X-Treme**

**Brigadoon**

**Sitges Classics (retrospectives and tributes)**

**Sitges Coming Soon**

**Sitges Documenta**



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### 2. 1. Official Fantàstic In-Competition Section

Feature length films of all nationalities, previously unreleased in Spain, produced in 2021/2022 and fantasy-themed, interpreting this concept in a broad sense, while bearing in mind at all times that quality and the creation of tendencies are a priority objective.

An international jury, chosen by the Festival's Direction team, will present the following awards:

**Best Feature Length Film**

**Best Director**

**Best Actor**

**Best Actress**

**Best Screenplay**

**Best Special Effects**

**Best Photography**

**Best Music**

**Special Jury Prize**

If considered convenient, the jury reserves the possibility of awarding up to a maximum of three special mentions.

The audience will vote to decide on the **Grand Audience Award for best fantastic genre feature length film**.

The **José Luis Guarner Critics' Award** will be presented by the Associació Catalana de Crítics i Escriptors Cinematogràfics (Catalan Association of Film Critics and Writers) to the best feature length film included in the Official Fantàstic In Competition Selection. This association will also present the **Citizen Kane Award for the Best New Director** for which all filmmakers presenting their de-



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but film in the Festival's Official Fantàstic Selection are eligible.

In addition, the Carnet Jove Jury, made up of young men and women between the ages of 18 and 30, will present the **Carnet Jove Award for best fantastic genre feature length film**.

This category contains a section for films programmed in the **Official Selection Out of Competition**.

This category also includes a section for short films produced in 2021/2022, with a maximum runtime of 30 minutes and previously unreleased in Spain, which are eligible for the **Award for Best Official Fantàstic In Competition Short Film**. The winning short film will automatically be taken into consideration by the Selection Committee of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Hollywood for the **Oscars®**. The Critics' Jury is responsible for selecting the winning film.



SITGES  
SESSIONS ESPECIALS

## 2.2. Special Screenings

Films programmed as a tribute, for their suitability or other justified reasons, which don't necessarily have to be a Spanish premiere.

The Festival reserves the right to program, on an exceptional basis, serialized productions.



SITGES  
ÒRBITA

## 2.3. Òrbita Section

Feature length films of all nationalities, previously unreleased in Spain, produced in 2021/2022 and belonging to genres closely related to the fantastic genre, like thrillers, action movies, adventure or black comedy.

An international jury will present the award for best feature film.



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NOVES VISIONS

## 2.4. Noves Visions Section

Films of all nationalities, previously unreleased in Spain, produced in 2021/2022 and fantastic themed, which are committed to experimentation, new languages and formats and genre hybridization.

An international jury will present the award for **Best feature film, Best Director** and up to three special mentions. The award for **best short film Noves Visions (Small Format)** will also be presented.

On an exceptional basis, the Festival reserves the right to program films previously screened out of official competition at another Spanish Film festival.

This category contains a section for short films by Catalan film school students, grouped together under the name **Nova Autoria**. The selected shorts, in collaboration with the SGAE, compete for the following awards: **best screenplay, best director and best music**.



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## 2.5. Panorama Fantàstic Section

Films of all nationalities, previously unreleased in Spain, produced in 2021/2022 fantastic and horror themed, with an independent inclination. On an exceptional basis, the Festival reserves the right to program films previously screened out of official competition at another Spanish Film festival.

By popular vote, the audience will present an award to the **best fiction feature film** in this section.



## 2.6. Anima't Section

Animated feature films produced in 2021/2022, previously unreleased in Catalonia.

On an exceptional basis, the Festival reserves the right to program films previously screened out of official competition at another Spanish Film festival.

**Anima't** includes a section for short films produced in 2021/2022 with a maximum runtime of 30 minutes. The selected shorts must be previously unreleased in Catalonia.

The Selection Committee reserves the possibility of selecting advertising, promo or music video pieces that it considers to have sufficient artistic and cinematic value as short films, as long as they are thematically related to the Festival's area of specialization.

**The section's Jury** will present the following awards: **Award for best animated short film** (this short will automatically be taken into consideration by the Selection Committee of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Hollywood for the **Oscars®**) and **Award for best animated feature length film**.



## 2.7. Seven Chances Section

Section programmed in collaboration with the Associació Catalana de Crítics i Escriptors Cinematogràfics (Catalan Association of Film Critics and Writers). It consists of seven screenings focusing on fantastic film productions in the broadest sense, as well as genres related to the Festival (thrillers, spaghetti westerns, wu xia, etc.).

The section focuses on non-current films (preferably at least fifteen years old) whose singularity sets them apart from the official canon of the history of genre. As a result, the intention is to highlight films of interest that are worth discovering or revisiting, and which will be screened in their original format or a restored copy. The educational spirit of Seven Chances will also mean that part of the screenings will include currently produced documentaries that deal with an outstanding figure or trend in genre cinema. The films selected for Seven Chances must be premieres in Catalonia (and preferably in Spain); at least the version/copy that will be screened.



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## 2.8. Midnight X-treme Section

A selection of the best independent horror movies. By popular vote, the audience will present an award to the **best fiction feature film** in this section. This competition is limited to films produced in 2021/2022, previously unreleased in Spain.



## 2.9. Brigadoon Section

Selection of feature films, documentaries and short films, made in 2021/2022, independently produced and horror and fantastic themed. The selected works will include premieres, retrospectives, tributes and / or cult cinema. There is no need for them to be unpublished in Spain. However, works posted on the Internet will not be taken into consideration.

A jury will present the Paul Naschy Brigadoon Award for the best fantastic genre short film.



## 2.10. Sitges Classics Section

Encompasses the Festival's retrospective, particular tributes, anniversaries and collaborations.



## 2.11. Sitges Coming Soon Section

A selection of upcoming Catalan, Spanish and Latin American productions.



## 2.12. Sitges Documenta

Selection of non-fiction feature length productions, made in 2021/2022, that are thematically related to the Festival's specialization. An international jury will present the award for **best documentary**.

## III) CROSS-SECTIONAL AWARDS & LABELS

### 3.1. Focus Asia Award

All films produced by Asian production companies included in any of the Festival's sections, as long as their subject matter falls within the context of the popular genres (thriller, action, fantastic), are eligible for this award.

All films must be previously unreleased in Spain. The Festival's Selection Committee reserves the right to assess these criteria.

### 3.2 Méliès de Argent Awards

Awards presented to the best European fantastic genre feature film and short film included in any of the Festival's sections and according to the Selection Committee's nomination the winning feature length and short films will be eligible for the **Méliès d'Or** Award, organized by the EFFFF (*European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation*).



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### 3.3. Blood Window Award

All films of Latin American production included in any of the Festival's sections, as long as their subject matter falls within the context of the fantastic genre, are eligible for this award. The Festival's Selection Committee reserves the right to assess these criteria.

### 3.4. Sitges Family Label

Encompasses all films included in the Festival for children and young people, intended to be seen with family.

### 3.5. Catalan Focus Label

Encompasses all Catalan productions included in the Festival.

## IV) PROCEDURE FOR OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION IN THE EVENT OF SELECTION

**4.1.** The production company or distributor of the selected films will receive the *entry form* and a proposal from Programming Management for their approval.

The production company or distributor will then commit to fill in and send the *entry form* back to the Festival before August 19th, 2022.

In the event that the Festival has to share the print with other festivals, it must be specified on the *entry form*, indicating the print's availability during the dates of the 55<sup>th</sup> Sitges - International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia.

On the entry form, express authorization to participate in the online format will be requested from the person or company representing the film.

In the event of NOT authorizing the participation of the film in the Festival's online format, if, for COVID-19 related reasons, the Festival were to be held exclusively online, this would imply that the Film would necessarily be excluded from the Festival's lineup and would not be able to participate in the 55th edition of the SITGES INTERNATIONAL FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL OF CATALONIA

**4.2.** The company loaning the film must provide the Festival with **high quality advertising material**: stills, posters, press-books, trailers, etc., so the Festival can promote the film adequately. **The Festival reserves the right to not return this material.**

**4.3.** In the event that it is necessary to subtitle the film, the company loaning it must also provide the appropriate material: reference link, DVD or Blu-ray and dialogue and/or subtitle list. The Festival will not return this material, which will be destroyed once the Festival is over. If the film has distribution in Spain, the distribution company must provide the Festival with an original version screening print with subtitles.



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**4.4.** The screening formats for the selected films will be:

Feature length films included in the **Official Fantàstic, Special Screenings, Òrbita, Noves Visions, Panorama Fantàstic, Sitges Documenta, Anima't, Seven Chances, Midnight X-Treme and Sitges Clàssics** sections:

35 mm

DCP on physical support (hard disk) or digital transfer. In the event that they are encrypted, the Festival will not cover the charges derived from generating the DKDMs or KDMs needed to be screened at the film competition.

Short films included in the **Official Fantàstic, Noves Visions Petit Format, Anima't** sections:

Non-encrypted DCP

HD quality digital file (.mov)

Feature length and short films included in the **Brigadoon** section:

HD quality digital file (.mov) or DVD/Blu-Ray

Pieces included in the **Sitges Coming Soon and Nova Autorialia** section:

HD quality digital file (.mov)

Note: In case of seating restrictions derived from COVID-19, the Festival Organization reserves the right to present the Sitges Coming Soon section exclusively online.

**4.5.** The online screening format for the selected pieces will be, for all films and sections: an HD quality digital file (.mov or .mp4). The provided file must be the final, un-subtitled version of the film. Subtitles must be provided in separate srt format files.

**4.6.** The Festival will cover **shipping expenses** generated by the shipping of prints to be screened, except in the event that the print needs to be sent to another Festival. In this event, the other Festival will pay for shipping costs from the Sitges Film Festival's address to the address provided. The Festival will not cover the cost of shipping or returning trailers or teasers. The Festival will not cover any possible digital shipping costs.

**4.7.** In the event of providing a screening print on a hard disk, the Festival committed to returning the print as soon as possible, not more than 20 days after the end of the film competition. The Festival organization commits to eliminate all screening materials received digitally once the current edition is finished.

**4.8.** In the event that the **print gets damaged** as a consequence of its screening at the Festival, the owner must inform the Festival within one month's time, starting from the date the print is returned.

**The Festival's responsibility will not exceed the cost specified on the entry form by the company loaning the film.**



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**4.9.** The Festival organization will decide each film's screening dates and times. No film included in any of the Festival's sections will be screened more than 5 times, including press screenings, without the owner's previous consent.

**4.10.** In regard to the recording of film clips for use on television programs, the Festival will comply with the rules established in the FIAPF regulations for specialized competitive festivals.

**4.11.** The Festival accepts all F.I.A.P.F rules & regulations for specialized competitive festivals.

**4.12.** Participation in the Festival implies acceptance of the Rules & Regulations herein.

**4.13.** Any matter arising during the Festival that is not covered by these Rules & Regulations, will be decided on by the Festival Organization in accordance with international rules.