

## REGULATIONS FOR THE 59TH SITGES - INTERNATIONAL FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL OF CATALONIA

### THE FESTIVAL

The **Sitges - International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia** (Sitges Film Festival) is a competitive festival specializing in fantastic genre films, in accordance with the regulations established by the FIAPF (The International Federation of Film Producers Associations).

The Festival has also been declared a “Qualifying Festival” by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Hollywood for the Academy Awards®. This means that those short films chosen as winners of the “Best Short Film” award in the Official Fantàstic In-Competition Selection and the “Best Short Film” award in the Anima’t category are automatically qualified to be included in the shortlist of the Academy Awards®.

The Festival is committed to filmmaking talent and the creative authorship of the pieces presented. Film productions that are created entirely with artificial intelligence, or those in which artificial intelligence has been an essential element in their concept or artistic production, will not be accepted in any of the in-competition categories. If you have any questions, please contact the Films Department.

### I. SECTIONS

The Sitges Film Festival consists of the following sections:

#### 1.1. IN-COMPETITION SECTIONS

- 1.1.1 Official Fantàstic In Competition Selection
- 1.1.2 Official Fantàstic - Sitges Collection Section
- 1.1.3 Anima’t
- 1.1.4 Brigadoon
- 1.1.5 Midnight X-Treme
- 1.1.6 Noves Visions

- 1.1.7 Òrbita
- 1.1.8 Panorama
- 1.1.9 Sitges Documenta

## 1.2. OUT-OF-COMPETITION SECTIONS

- 1.2.1 Special Screenings
- 1.2.2 Seven Chances
- 1.2.3 Sitges Clàssics
- 1.2.4 Sitges Family – *family audiences*

## 1.3 INDUSTRY-RELATED SECTIONS

- 1.3.1 Sitges Coming Soon

## 1.1 IN-COMPETITION SECTIONS

### 1.1.1. OFFICIAL FANTÀSTIC IN COMPETITION SELECTION

#### Feature Film Selection

The Official Fantastic In-Competition Selection (SOFC) is the Festival's main competitive section and presents a selection of the very best in fantastic genre films, as understood in the broadest sense. The selection process prioritizes artistic quality, innovative capacity, and the creation of new trends in genre cinema.

Feature films that meet all of the following conditions will be eligible for submission:

- Priority will be given to the European premiere, while the **Spanish premiere is required.**
- Have a minimum runtime of **60 minutes.**
- Have been **produced during the 12 months prior** to the Festival's opening date.
- **Not have been publicly screened or broadcast via streaming platforms operating in European territory**, except in cases of strictly professional use, with restricted access and for promotional or pre-selection purposes.
- **Films produced entirely in Spain that compete in the Official Fantastic In-Competition Selection must be world premieres**, without exception. These works may not have been previously screened at any festival, either nationally or



internationally, nor may they have been released, exhibited, or publicly broadcast prior to the Festival dates.

- Feature films of all nationalities are eligible to compete, provided they meet the requirements set out in these regulations.

The Festival's Programming Department reserves the right, on an exceptional basis, to admit productions that, even if they do not strictly meet all of the above requirements, are of particular artistic or cultural interest to the Official Fantastic In-Competition Selection.

The Official Fantastic In-Competition Selection is a competitive section with an international jury, chosen by the Festival's Programming committee. This jury will present the following awards:

- **Best Feature Film**
- **Special Jury Award**
- **Best Director**
- **Best Actress**
- **Best Actor**
- **Best Screenplay**
- **Best Cinematography**
- **Best Special, Visual or Makeup Effects**
- **Best Music**

Other awards in the Official Fantàstic In-Competition Selection are:

- The **Grand People's Choice Award** for best fantastic genre feature film, as voted for by audiences.
- The **José Luis Guarnier Critics' Award**, presented by a jury appointed by the Catalan Association of Film Critics and Writers for the best feature film. This organization also presents the **Citizen Kane Award for Best New Director**, an award for which all those directors presenting their debut film at the Festival in the Official Fantàstic In-Competition Selection are eligible.

### **Short Film Selection**

The Official Fantàstic In-Competition Selection also includes a selection of short films, which also complies with the criteria of quality and trend setting as a priority objective. Likewise, productions of all nationalities can compete, provided they are unreleased in Spain (although European premieres will be given preference) and have been produced between 2025 and 2026. The maximum run time for participating short films is 30 minutes.



The winning short film is automatically qualified to be included in the Hollywood Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences shortlist to compete for the Academy Awards®.

### **1.1.2. OFFICIAL FANTÀSTIC - SITGES COLLECTION SECTION**

This section includes a series of special screenings, as part of the Official Fantàstic Section, of those productions that are of special interest to audiences due to their subject matter and/or the attending guests accompanying them. Priority will be given to national premieres. This is an in-competition section, and the winner is decided by audiences' votes.

### **1.1.3. ANIMA'T**

In-Competition section that includes films of all nationalities, previously unreleased in Spain and produced between 2025 and 2026. The Festival's Programming Committee reserves the right to exceptionally program films previously screened at another Spanish film festival but not included in the official competition of said festival.

Anima't includes a competitive category for short films produced between 2025 and 2026, which must have a maximum run time of 30 minutes. The participating shorts must be previously unreleased in Catalonia.

The Programming Committee reserves the right to select advertising, promotional or music video-type works as short films if they are considered to have sufficient artistic and cinematic value, provided that they are thematically related to the Festival's specialization.

The Anima't Section's jury will present the following awards: the award for Best Animated Short Film (this production is automatically entitled to enter the shortlist of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Hollywood to compete for the Academy Awards®) and the award for Best Animated Feature Film.

### **1.1.4. BRIGADOON**

A selection of fantastic and horror genre feature films, short films, and documentaries. The section includes new releases, retrospectives, tributes, and/or cult films. A jury presents the Brigadoon Paul Naschy award for the section's Best Fantastic Genre Short Film.



#### **1.1.5. MIDNIGHT X-TREME**

A selection of the best independent horror movies. The competition includes films produced between 2025 and 2026. This is an in-competition section, and an award is presented to the best fiction feature film chosen by audiences' vote.

#### **1.1.6. NOVES VISIONS**

In-Competition section that includes films of all nationalities, previously unreleased in Spain and produced between 2025 and 2026. It features fantastic genre films that are committed to experimentation, new languages and formats and genre hybridization.

The Festival's Programming Committee reserves the right to exceptionally program films previously screened at another Spanish film festival but not included in the official competition of said festival.

This section's awards are for Best Feature Film and Best Director. There is also an award for Best Short Film in the Noves Visions Petit Format section.

This section contains a subsection for short films by students from Catalan film schools, grouped under the name Nova Aurtoria. The selected shorts (from a shortlist made by the participating schools), in collaboration with the SGAE, compete for the awards for Best Screenplay, Best Directing and Best Music.

#### **1.1.7. ORBITA**

In-Competition section including films of all nationalities, previously unreleased in Spain and produced between 2025 and 2026. It includes films from genres closely related to fantastic genre including thrillers, action films, adventure films, and black comedies.

The Festival's Programming Committee reserves the right to exceptionally program films previously screened at another Spanish film festival.

#### **1.1.8. PANORAMA**

In-Competition section including films of all nationalities, previously unreleased in Spain and produced between 2025 and 2026. The films must belong to the fantastic and/or horror genres and be independent productions. The award is given based on audiences' votes.

The Festival's Programming Committee reserves the right to exceptionally program films previously screened at another Spanish film festival.



### 1.1.9. SITGES DOCUMENTA

In-Competition section including films of all nationalities, previously unreleased in Spain and produced between 2025 and 2026, that are thematically related to the Festival's area of specialization.

## 1.2. OUT-OF-COMPETITION SECTIONS

### 1.2.1. SPECIAL SCREENINGS

This section includes screenings that are part of a gala ceremony or accompanying an event (anniversary, tribute, etc.). There are three main types:

- o Galas: Opening, Closing, or themed.
- o Special Screenings.
- o Surprise Screening.

### 1.2.2 SEVEN CHANCES

Section programmed in collaboration with the Catalan Association of Film Critics and Writers (ACCEC). It consists of seven screenings focused on fantastic genre filmmaking in its broadest sense, as well as on other genres related to the Festival (thrillers, spaghetti westerns, Wu Xia, etc.).

The section aims to showcase films of interest which are worth discovering or rediscovering, and which will be screened in their original format or with a restored print.

### 1.2.3 SITGES CLÀSSICS

This section includes productions that are part of the Festival's Retrospective, commemorative tributes, anniversaries, and/or collaborations.

### 1.2.4. SITGES FAMILY (family audiences)

A selection of productions geared towards children and young people and designed to be enjoyed as a family. Sitges Family offers a selection of films that are important for film literacy and highlights productions offering the potential for social transformation and dealing with issues that are committed to important values. **This section is out-of-competition. The Programming Committee reserves the right to include films in the Sitges Family lineup that are also featured in other sections but share the same focus on children and young people.**



## 1.3 INDUSTRY-RELATED SECTIONS

### 1.3.1 SITGES COMING SOON

A selection of upcoming feature film releases from around the world. The submitted pieces must correspond to feature films that are in the final stages of post-production. The maximum duration of the pieces presented in this category is 5 minutes. International call for submissions.

## II. CROSS-SECTIONAL AWARDS AND LABELS

### 2.1. Focus Àsia Award

All films produced by Asian companies and included in any of the Festival's sections are eligible for this award, provided that their subject matter pertains to popular genres (thriller, action, fantastic). The assessment of these criteria is the sole responsibility of the Festival's Programming Committee.

Animated films are not included. The productions must be previously unreleased in Spain. The award is given based on audiences' votes.

### 2.2. Méliès d'Argent Awards

Awards presented to the best European fantastic genre feature and short films included in any of the Festival's sections and as nominated by the Programming Committee. The winning feature film and short film will go forward to compete for the Méliès d'Or Awards, organized by the MIFF (Méliès International Festivals Federation).

### 2.3. Blood Window Award

All films produced in Latin America and included in any of the Festival's sections are eligible for this award, provided that their subject matter pertains to the fantastic genre. The assessment of these criteria is reserved for the Festival's Programming Committee.

## III. OFFICIAL PARTICIPATION PROCEDURE IN THE EVENT OF BEING SELECTED

3.1. The production company or distributor of the selected films will receive the entry form and a proposal from the Programming Committee for approval. The production or distribution company agrees to complete and send the entry form to the Festival before August 6th, 2026.



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In the event that the Festival is required to share the print with other festivals, this should be specified on the entry form, along with the availability of the print during the dates of the 59th Sitges - International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia.

3.2. The company providing the film must also deliver high-quality publicity material to the Festival: photographs, posters, press packs, trailers, etc., so that the Festival can promote the film appropriately. The Festival reserves the right to not return these materials.

3.3. In the event that the film needs to be subtitled, the company providing the film must supply the necessary material: reference link, DVD or Blu-Ray and list of dialogues and/or subtitles. The Festival will not return this material, which will be destroyed once the Festival has ended.

If the film is distributed in Spain, the distribution company must provide the Festival with a subtitled original version screening print.

Films participating in Sitges Family must necessarily be dubbed into Spanish and/or Catalan.

3.4. The screening formats for the selected works will be:

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

- 35 mm
- DCP on physical media (hard drive) or digital transfer. In the event that they are encrypted, the Festival will not cover the costs of generating DKDMs or KDMs. If the distributor and/or representing company does not have a DCP of the selected production, the Festival can provide the contact details of a production service that will be in charge of creating the DCP at the expense of the distributor and/or representing company.

Short films included in the Official Fantàstic In-Competition Selection, Noves Visions Petit Format, and Anima't sections:

- Unencrypted DCP
- HD quality digital file (.mov)

Feature films and short films included in the Brigadoon section:

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

Pieces included in the Sitges Coming Soon, Sitges Family and Nova Autoria sections:

- HD quality digital file (.mov)

3.5. Transport costs arising from the shipment of screening prints will be paid by the Festival, except in the event that the print must be sent to another film festival. In this case, the other festival will pay for transportation from the Sitges Film Festival's address to the other specified address. The Festival will not cover the costs of sending or returning trailers or teasers.

3.6. In the event of providing a screening print on a hard drive, the Festival commits to returning this copy as soon as possible, no later than 20 days after the end of the film



competition. The Festival organization commits to deleting all screening materials received in digital format once the current edition has ended.

3.7. In the event that the copy is damaged as a result 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 liability will not exceed the cost specified on the entry form by the company providing the film.**

3.8. 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 the press screening, without the owner's prior consent.

3.9. Regarding the recording of film clips for use on television programs, the Festival will comply with the regulations established in the FIAPF rules & regulations for competitive specialized festivals.

3.10. The Festival accepts all FIAPF rules & regulations for competitive specialized festivals.

3.11. Participation in the Festival implies full acceptance of all the rules and regulations herein.

3.12. Any issue or dispute arising during the course of the Festival that is not covered under these rules and regulations will be settled by the Festival Organization in accordance with international regulations.

3.13. The Festival does not award cash prizes.

However, the prizes and awards presented by the Festival may benefit from sponsorship and financial contributions that the Festival's sponsors decide to award to the directors or distribution companies of the winning feature films and short films.

In this regard, starting with the 58th edition of the Festival in 2025, SEAT, SA, in order to promote the "CUPRA" brand, is expected to award the company responsible for distributing the feature film that wins the "Best Film" award in Spain the sum of €20,000.

In accordance with the sponsorship agreement signed, this amount will be delivered directly by the Festival to the aforementioned distribution company, which will be obliged to distribute the award-winning feature film within Spain, in accordance with the specifications included in the ANNEX.

The grant amount includes all applicable taxes, as well as any other expenses or charges arising from its awarding and delivery, and therefore the winning company may not claim any additional amount for this concept.



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The grant will be paid by bank transfer to the account designated by the winning company within a maximum period of 30 calendar days from the date of receipt of the corresponding invoice, duly approved and validated in accordance with the instructions set out in the ANNEX.

The beneficiary company agrees to comply with all tax and legal obligations arising from the receipt of this amount, exempting the FOUNDATION from any liability that may arise in relation to the fulfillment of these obligations.



## **ANNEX**

### **CUPRA GRANT – SITGES, INTERNATIONAL FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL OF CATALONIA**

#### **GRANT FOR THE DISTRIBUTION IN CINEMAS OF THE WINNER OF THE BEST FILM IN THE OFFICIAL FANTASTIC SELECTION, FEATURE FILM CATEGORY**

##### **1. Purpose**

The Sitges - International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia adds to its list of awards the Cupra Grant for the distribution in Spanish commercial theaters (commercial film exhibition) of the feature film selected as the best film competing in the Official Fantastic In-Competition Selection (), feature film category.

This distribution grant is intended to encourage or support the premiere in Spanish theaters of the winning film selected by the Official Jury of SOFC each edition.

##### **2. Amount**

The grant will carry a cash prize of twenty thousand euros (€20,000).

The entire amount must be used to cover the costs of the premiere and distribution in movie theaters in Spain.

The grant money will be awarded to the distribution company that undertakes the premiere of the work, upon presentation of the distribution contract for movie theaters. In the absence of a distributor, the amount may be received by the production company that owns the rights, provided that it formally commits to guaranteeing the premiere under the conditions set forth in this ANNEX.

##### **3. Definition of Film Distribution**

For the purposes of this grant, film distribution will be understood as all activities related to the release and exploitation in commercial theaters in Spain, including, among others:

- a) Formalization of a distribution contract with an authorized company in Spain or direct undertaking by the production company.
- b) Creation of digital cinema packages (DCPs) and associated advertising materials.
- c) Theatrical release campaign, including promotional and advertising activities.
- d) Dubbing, subtitling, and technical adaptation costs necessary for the film's screening.



Mere broadcast on television, digital platforms, or at festivals is excluded, except as a complement to its theatrical release.

#### **4. Film Requirements**

Feature films selected for the Official Fantàstic In-Competition Selection (Feature Films) will be eligible for the grant, regardless of whether or not they have a distribution contract in Spain.

The Festival may request documentation from the owners to substantiate this circumstance.

#### **5. Obligations of the Beneficiary**

1. The winning film must premiere in movie theaters in Spain within a maximum period of twelve (12) months from the Festival's closing date.

2. The beneficiary of the grant must include the following specific reference in all promotional and advertising materials and copies for screening:

"Cupra Grant – Sitges, International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia", together with the corresponding logos.

3. Within a maximum period of six (6) months after the premiere, the beneficiary must submit a supporting report to the Festival, accompanied by invoices or documents proving the use of the grant for distribution purposes.

4. The beneficiary agrees to provide one free screening, attended by at least one representative of the film, for screening at Casa Seat Barcelona and Cupra's City Garage in Madrid.

#### **6. Acceptance**

Acceptance of the grant implies full compliance with the provisions of this ANNEX, which is an integral part of the Festival's General Rules.

#### **7. Invoicing**

The company awarded the grant must issue a duly certified invoice, in accordance with current tax regulations, which must include at least the following information:

- Full identification of the issuing company, including company name, tax identification number, tax address, and contact details.
- Identification of the SITGES FOUNDATION, INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL OF CATALONIA as the recipient, including its company name, tax identification number, and tax address.
- Clear and detailed description of the concept, expressly indicating that it corresponds to the grant money for the "Best Film" award, also specifying the title of the winning film,



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within the framework of the 59th edition of SITGES - International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia.

- Total amount of twenty thousand euros (€20,000), detailing the applicable taxes duly itemized.
- Date of issue and invoice number.
- The invoice must be sent in PDF format by email to the following address: [administracio@sitgesfilmfestival.com](mailto:administracio@sitgesfilmfestival.com). The payment period will begin once the invoice has been correctly received and validated by the Foundation.
- If the invoice contains errors or omissions, the Foundation will notify the issuing company so that it can be amended. In this event, the payment period will begin from the date of receipt of the corrected and validated invoice.