

FANTOCHE

24TH INTERNATIONAL
ANIMATION FILM FESTIVAL
BADEN/SWITZERLAND
1–6 SEPTEMBER 2026

COMPETITION REGULATIONS 2026

1. ORGANISER

Organiser of the Fantoche International Animation Film Festival in Baden, Switzerland is the independent, non-profit association Fantoche, registered in Baden, Switzerland.

2. CRITERIA

The competitions are open to any audiovisual animation, created frame by frame, with a maximum running time of forty minutes and completed after the 31st of December 2024.

Eligible for the Swiss Competition are films by Swiss filmmakers, filmmakers living in Switzerland or with Swiss producers or co-producers.

Fantoche is an officially accredited festival for both the Academy Awards® and BAFTA, qualifying selected films for consideration.

3. REGISTRATION FOR THE COMPETITION

No entry fee is required.

Films must be submitted preferably via the FilmFreeway platform (filmfreeway.com/festival/fantoche) or alternatively via excel submission form (fantoche.ch/en/call-for-entry-2026) by the **3rd of May 2026**. The registration forms should be complete upon submission, including film credits, image material, synopsis and director's filmography.

Please note, that films with non-English dialogue must include English subtitles.

Fantoche may consider unfinished works (Work in Progress) if they are sufficiently advanced to be evaluated, and the submitter guarantees completion by the 31st of July 2026. In such cases, the title and the beginning of the film must clearly indicate that it is a Work in Progress. Please contact film@fantoche.ch if the Work in Progress copy is to be replaced by a more recent version.

4. SELECTION

Three selection committees will select the films for the International Competition, the Swiss Competition and the Kids Film Competition. The selection committee can also consider individual works for other parts of the festival, particularly the 'Panorama' or 'Music Video Darlings' programme (out of competition).

The list of selected films will be published on www.fantoche.ch on the 8th of July 2026.

5. NOTIFICATION AND INVITATION

The festival will notify the film submitter via email if their film has been selected and will also request the required materials for promotional purposes and screenings at that time. Once notified, submitters have until the 25th of June 2026 to withdraw their film from the programme. After this date, films may not be withdrawn.

If a film is not selected, Fantoche will notify the submitter via FilmFreeway by the 7th of July 2026. Along with the selection notification, invitation and accreditation forms will be provided and should be returned by 31st of July 2026.

Fantoche is pleased to welcome filmmakers whose works have been selected for Fantoche 2026. The festival offers, where possible, free accommodation and meals for one member of the film team. In some cases, a contribution towards travel expenses may also be reimbursed.

6. FILM COPIES

Selected films must be submitted in DCP format (24 fps, 25 fps or 30 fps, unencrypted) or as ProRes 422 HQ. 5.1 surround sound is recommended, otherwise stereo will suffice. They can be submitted on USB Keys, external hard disks or digitally by FTP, WeTransfer, etc. Selected works must be received by the Fantoche festival office in pristine projection condition by the **31st of July 2026** at the latest.

Please contact film@fantoche.ch for further information on postal delivery.

7. SUBTITLES

Fantoche will provide subtitles for selected films in competition. The festival will cover all costs associated with this process, provided that the submitter supplies the complete time-coded transcript of the original dialogue and/or commentary, along with an English translation. These documents will be requested if the film is selected for competition. Subtitling will be provided to the filmmaker free of charge.

8. SCREENING AT THE FESTIVAL

The festival reserves the right to screen selected films multiple times during Fantoche 2026. No screening fees will be paid for these cinema showings. For any online screenings, Fantoche will contact the filmmaker in advance to discuss and agree upon the terms and conditions.

9. COMPETITIONS, AWARDS AND JURY

International Competition

A three-person jury will award prizes in two categories: **Best Film** (CHF 10'000) and **High Risk** (CHF 5'000). The **International Audience Award** (CHF 7'000) will be chosen by the audience. The total prize fund of CHF 22'000 will be complemented by in-kind awards for Special Mentions.

Swiss Competition

An international jury of three will award prizes in the following categories: **Best Swiss Film** (CHF 10'000), **High Swiss Risk** (CHF 5'000), and **Fantastic Swiss** (in-kind). The **Swiss Audience Award** (CHF 4'000), selected by the audience, also includes a screening contract with SSR (Schweizerische Radio- und Fernsehgesellschaft) Play Swiss online platform. The total prize fund amounts to CHF 20'000, with in-kind awards for Special Mentions.

Kids Film Competition

A seven-person kids' jury will award the **Best Kids Film** (CHF 2'000). The **Kids Audience Award** (CHF 1'000) will be selected by the audience. The total prize fund amounts to CHF 3'000, with in-kind awards for Special Mentions.

Youth Award for Best New Talent

A Swiss jury of eight young cinephiles will award the **Youth Award for Best New Talent** (CHF 3'000). Eligible films for this award include those directed by first-time directors and/or student filmmakers from the International, Swiss, and Kids Competitions.

The juries' and audiences' decisions will be announced during the awards ceremony in Baden on the 6th of September 2026. Every film selected for the competition programmes will receive a certificate.

10. ARCHIVE

During the festival some submitted films will be made available for the press and attending filmmakers through access to our online film library ("Filmothek") via Filmfreeway until the end of October 2026. After the festival, selected films will be deposited in the festival archive and will be made available for academic research.

11. FESTIVAL ADVERTISING

By accepting the present regulations, the entrant authorises Fantoche to reproduce and broadcast an extract or trailer of the films selected for the Festival free of charge. These extracts are limited to a maximum of ten percent of the total running time of the film. They will only be used for the promotion of the Festival in TV and web programmes, interviews and reports.

12. AFTER THE FESTIVAL

Fantoche is entitled to screen awarded films as part of its annual activities in Switzerland between September 2026 and August 2027. Fantoche shall not pay any screening fees for these activities. For any screening abroad, Fantoche will contact the filmmaker in advance to negotiate terms and conditions. Fantoche is also entitled to provide the award-winning films in low-res on the Fantoche AR application (brochure and app) for a period of one year until September 2027.

13. RIGHTS

Each entrant declares to be the author or rights owner of the submitted film and to own all literary, dramatic and musical rights guaranteeing Fantoche against any claims, conflicts and legal action concerning the presentation of the film. The information requested, including photos, is required for electronic and paper (website and brochure) media linked to Fantoche. This information will also be used on the Internet and Fantoche's database.

14. VALIDITY OF REGULATIONS

The submitter accepts these regulations by submitting a film. In case of dispute, Fantoche is granted the right of decision. Place of jurisdiction is Baden, Switzerland.

Baden, January 2026

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