



PALENA FILM FESTIVAL - COMPETITION ANNOUNCEMENT 2026

The 15th edition 2026 of the Palena Film Festival invites you to submit your short film, animation or music video.

The Palena Film Festival is a four-day competition that will take place in Palena (CH) - Italy from 6th to 8th August 2026.

The prize-giving night will take place at the Aventino Theatre "Ettore Maria Margadonna" in Palena, on 8th August 2026 (21:30 local time).

Founded in 2008 by the cultural association of Palena (Associazione Culturale Palenese) and recognized as one of the most important short film festivals in the world, the Palena Film Festival (previously known as "Premio Cinematografico Palena" since its inception nine years ago) has received over 10800 short films, animations and music videos from more than 125 countries of all 5 continents through the years in the past 14 editions.

The Palena Film Festival is open to any director and/or screenwriter together with their own, recently made productions of all kind of styles and subjects. Each director can submit short films, animations or music videos (entry fee for each project).

The running time of the films must not exceed 20 minutes (opening and closing credits included).

The Palena Film Festival celebrates two eminent representatives of the community of Palena: the Italian screenwriter Ettore Maria Margadonna (received Academy nomination and Nastro d'Argento Italian Film Award; worked in "Bread, Love and Dreams" of Luigi Comencini with Vittorio De Sica and Gina Lollobrigida; "Bread, Love and Jealousy" of Luigi Comencini with

Vittorio De Sica and Gina Lollobrigida; "Scandal in Sorrento" of Dino Risi with Vittorio De Sica, Sophia Loren and Tina Pica; "Bread, Love and Andalusia" of Javier Setó with Vittorio De Sica, Carmen Sevilla and Vicente Parra; actor in "The White Sheik" of Federico Fellini with Alberto Sordi and Giulietta Masina) and the American singer and television personality Perry Como (Grammy Award, known for popular songs such as "Magic Moments", "Papa loves

mambo”, “Caterina”, “Here we come a-Caroling”, “It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas”; worked with Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin, also known for popular television shows such as “The Perry Como Show” and “The Perry Como’s Kraft Music Hall).

The Palena Film Festival enhances and promotes Palena, its territory and its cultural vocation which, during the years, has identified itself through this distinctive event.

Local history, heritage and artistic compositions all complement to make the right background to visual and musical means of expression.

The festival also presents a range of special events included film workshops, retrospectives and non-competitive feature films screening that are attended by the whole town, its city authorities, tourists and keen filmgoers.

The Palena Film Festival is promoted by the cultural association of Palena (Associazione Culturale Palenese), the Region of Abruzzo, the Municipality of Palena, Province of Chieti, Chamber of commerce of Chieti and Abruzzo Tourism Promotion.

JURY

President the jury is Prof. Marta Fontana

The jury, nominated by the cultural association of Palena, consists of engineers, artists and representatives of the world of culture, film, performing arts and music.

JURY

The Palena Film Festival offers trophies in the main competitive categories:

BEST SHORT FILM

“Il corto.eu” Prize

BEST DIRECTION

“Associazione Culturale Palenese” Prize

BEST SCREENPLAY

“Regione Abruzzo - Ettore Maria Margadonna” Prize

BEST SOUNDTRACK

“Comune di Palena - Perry Como” Prize

BEST ANIMATION

“Abruzzo Tourism Promotion” Prize

BEST MUSIC VIDEO

“Associazione Culturale Palenese - FlashSound” Prize

REQUIREMENTS

VIDEO RULES

Short Films, animations and music videos are accepted. All genres are accepted.

The running time of the films must not exceed 20 minutes (opening and closing credits included).

JURY

Short films, animations and music videos are selected by the Palena Film Festival jury.

The jury decides the number of short films, animations and music videos selected for the screening.

The decisions of the jury are final.

Admission to the competition is subject to the unconditional acceptance of the above rules.

DEADLINES

HOW TO SUBMIT

ELECTRONICALLY IN ONE STEP

via filmfreeway – clickforfestivals - festhome:

<https://clickforfestivals.com>

filmfreeway:

<https://filmfreeway.com/palenafilm>

festhome:

<https://festhome.com/palenafilm>

1. SENDING THE VIDEO

sending a streaming link or download link of the video

via email:

palenafilm@gmail.com

or via facebook:

facebook.com/palenafilmfestival (writing a private message or in the messenger chat)

OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED

Each project must be accompanied by the following information:
title of the short film, animation or music video
year of production
full name of the director
date of birth of the director
place of birth of the director
address of the director
mobile number of the director
email of the director
video length
brief synopsis (synthetic description of the contents and aim of the video)
subject and screenplay of main characters
full name of the original music composer
full name of the screenwriter

Information required can be sent:

via email:

palenafilm@gmail.com

or via facebook:

[facebook.com/palenafilmfestival](https://www.facebook.com/palenafilmfestival) (writing a private message or in the messenger chat)

OTHER INFORMATION REQUIRED

GENERAL CONDITIONS

The Festival reserves the right to complete any information not supplied by the filmmaker from whatever source available and will not be responsible if incorrect information is entered.

The Palena Film Festival has the right to add, alter, change, or delete any portion of the guidelines at anytime without notice.

The Palena Film Festival will provide the best quality projection possible but will not be held liable for any failure in the technical quality of the projection, nor will fees be refunded in any such case.

If accepted directors grant without reservations, to the Palena Film Festival, the right to use footage, stills and/or titles, and information from the short film, animation or music video for promotional purposes.

The Palena Film Festival reserves the right to modify or suspend the event.

The Palena Film Festival participation implies understanding and acceptance of above regulations.

The Palena Film Festival declare that any personal data provided will be used in accordance with the Law No. 675/1996, the Legislative Decree No. 196/2003 as subsequently amended and will be processed exclusively for the purposes of the Festival.

