

Regulations

OPEN CALL 2026

Submit your videodance, documentary and animation on [FilmFreeway](#).

1. INTRODUCTION

The 18th edition of InShadow – Lisbon ScreenDance Festival will take place between the 15th of November and 15th of December 2026 in Lisbon, Portugal. **Submissions can be made** for the Videodance, Dance Documentary, Dance Animation and Photography categories with a focus on the relationship between cinema and dance.

The InShadow Festival promotes an encounter between video/cinema and dance/performance, proposing a reflection on cine-choreographic thinking, exploring new trends and innovative processes in the relationship and dialogue between cultures. It proposes an assimilation of experiences, methods and knowledge, increasing dual relations such as thought/action and creativity/innovation.

Conserveira de Lisboa continues to be one of the **official sponsors**, consolidating the relationship between art, tradition and territory, and the **festival renews its certification from EFFE – Europe for Festivals, Festivals for Europe**, which recognises the artistic quality and cultural impact of the event at European level.

2. APPLICATIONS AND CONDITIONS

INTERNATIONAL VIDEO/FILM COMPETITION

VIDEODANCE _ Videos will be selected based on the balance between creativity, theme, narrative, experimentation, and image, sound, and editing quality. The work must show as its primary concern the connection of the body choreography with the camera and sound. Each competition session will take about 80–90 minutes.

Preferably, the duration should not exceed 20 minutes.

DANCE DOCUMENTARY _ Films may address the life or work of a choreographer, a dance company, aspects of dance history, as well as creative processes and artistic experiences related to the body, dance, performance and technology. Full choreography records will not be accepted.

Preferably, the duration should not exceed 90 minutes.

DANCE ANIMATION _ Films should address an audience of children and young adolescents (5-15 years). When submitting, the age group for which the film is intended must be indicated, and the festival may choose not to select the film due to age restrictions. The selection will be based on the theme, narrative, quality and technique of animation, sound and editing. Special relevance will be given to films that explore the relationship between dance or body movement (including objects) and technology, in conjunction with the proposed technique. Each competition session will take about 20-30 minutes.

Preferably, the duration should not exceed 7 minutes.

The submitted film files must have the following characteristics:

- Resolution 1080p or higher;
- Codec: ProRes 422 (preferred) or file in H264 (minimum bitrate of 20-25 Mbps);
- Frame rate: original frame rate;
- Mono or stereo sound;
- No embedded subtitles;
- Subtitles in .srt files, in English and, when available, in Portuguese.

› If projection copies are submitted with different specifications, conversions may be made to ensure that the sessions run smoothly without technical problems.

3. SUBMISSION AND SELECTION

The submission to the festival in the areas of Videodance, Dance Documentary and Dance Animation is to be made through FilmFreeway (<https://filmfreeway.com/inshadow>) until the 30th of April, 2026.

VIDEODANCE AND DOCUMENTARY:

- **Early Deadline** (until 31st December): 25\$, Student: 15\$
- **Regular Deadline** (until 28th February): 30\$, Student: 20\$
- **Final Deadline** (until 30th April): 35\$, Student: 25\$

ANIMATION:

- **Early Deadline** (until 31st December): 12\$, Student: 9\$
- **Regular Deadline** (until 28th February): 15\$, Student: 10\$
- **Final Deadline** (until 30th April): 20\$, Student: 17\$

Being a Gold Festival, discounts will be given to Gold members.

- No monetary value is foreseen for the exhibition of films in Competition, Video Installation or selection for special Exhibitions. It is also not foreseen the return of registration fees for unselected works.

- If the project has been submitted and considered in previous editions of InShadow, it may be resubmitted, provided it has undergone significant changes and meets all eligibility requirements at the time of the new submission. Any work re-enrolled in subsequent editions must re-pay the application fee.
- A video submitted to the Competitions may be selected to integrate another area of the festival, such as a video installation in partner galleries, if the festival's curatorship considers it relevant. If this happens, the exhibition of the work will depend on the acceptance of its author, who will be contacted to validate it. These projections are alternative and usually have an installation regime, which does not require the payment of any extra amount.
- The awarded films will be included in the Shadow in Motion sessions, an extension of the InShadow Festival that remains in circulation until the next edition in partner festivals and national and international cultural spaces, with the knowledge and authorization of the authors. InShadow extensions do not imply any payment to authors.
- The work may be submitted by any person or entity on behalf of the author, and, in case of selection, the authorization form of the author (s) or copyright holder(s), in particular the music, must be completed, signed and sent for exhibition at the InShadow Festival and respective screenings at the Shadow in Motion sessions.
- Each candidate can register an unlimited number of works per edition. Distributors, producers or duly identified agencies, may contact the festival at the email address inshadowfestival@gmail.com in order to have a special value when registering 10 or more works.
- The work must be sent for viewing through an online link, with the respective password, if applicable. The festival accepts submissions of works in progress, it will be the responsibility of the submitter to notify InShadow at the email inshadowfestival@gmail.com
- To submit the works, it is necessary to add on the FilmFreeway platform:
 - 2 photographs of the work, in good resolution, for catalogue printing and digital placement, PNG or JPG format, with minimum recommended dimensions of 1920x1080 pixels (300 dpi) and indicating the respective credits (mandatory).
 - 1 photograph of the director/author, preferably a frontal, passport photo, for catalogue printing and digital placement, with recommended minimum dimensions of 1920x1080 pixels (300 dpi) and with the respective credits (mandatory).
- The attached materials submitted with the application will be integrated into the Vo'Arte archive and may be used within the scope of the festival's disclosures and screenings, as well as for the Shadow in Motion sessions.
- The International Competition selection results in each area (Videodance, Dance Documentary and Dance Animation) will be announced by email, in the communication media of Vo'Arte and its partners. And also notified via the FilmFreeway platform.

4. JURIES AND AWARDS

OFFICIAL JURY _ composed of three individual talents, of local or international renown, in the areas of film, dance/performance, and criticism/research.

Jorge Salavisa Award | Best Videodance | 500€

Best Choreography | 300€

Best Videography | 300€

DOCUMENTARY JURY _ composed of three elements from different generations, professionals or students in the areas of performative arts, visual arts or criticism/research.

Luna Andermatt Award | Best Documentary | 400€

SCHOOLS JURY _ composed of five students from arts and humanities schools: dance/performance, cinema/video and language/communication/education.

Territory Award – Victor Cordon Studios | Best National Director | 3.000€

(Order value for a videodance to premiere in the Territory X Program at Teatro Camões in September 2027. Accompaniment of the creative process between internationally renowned choreographers and young Portuguese dancers)

Best Interpretation | 200€

AUDIENCE JURY _ the audience present at the Videodance Competition Sessions chooses their favourite work:

Audience Award RTP | Best Videodance

ANIMATION JURY _ composed of the children and youth audience present at the Animation Competition Sessions and promoted by the festival team.

Best Animation Film

INSHADOW INCENTIVE GRANT

ETIC – Education & Inspiration for Creatives Award | National Film | 2.500€

(Training Scholarship value sponsored by ETIC to be defined within the available curriculum parameters)

AAC Award – Soudos – Rural Arts Space | International Director

(An artistic residency, at the AAC – Soudos space, focused on creating a videodance to be premiered in the next edition of InShadow. Value of accommodation and food under the responsibility of the host entity, value of travel under the responsibility of the artists.)

OTHER NOTES:

- The decision of the various juries, is sovereign, and there is no appeal.
- The prizes awarded will be communicated to the artists present at the closing ceremony of

InShadow and later by email with the respective laurels and certificate.

- Juries may not award prizes and may award honourable mentions.
- The juries may award the same prize to more than one work (ex-aequo), and in the event that the prize is a monetary value, it will be distributed equally among the winners.
- If the winning film is co-directed, the monetary value of the prize will not change, and the winners will be responsible for their division.
- The claim for prizes must be made within 60 days after the public announcement of the prizes, otherwise they will not be granted financially.
- Payment of prizes will be made exclusively through the PayPal platform.

5. COPYRIGHTS

- The exhibition of the works at the InShadow Festival requires permission to assign the copyright. The authorization is deemed granted by signing and completing the declaration of assignment of rights of the submitted work. In the event that some works integrate the Shadow in Motion extensions, the authors will be contacted in advance and warned of the exhibitions.
- Festival InShadow is not responsible for the absence of credits referring to the reproduction of the photographs, in the promotion materials, of the submitted works.
- Excerpts or frames from the selected films (up to 1 minute) may be used for promotional purposes without payment of copyright duties, for insertion on spots and trailers, use in press conferences, print and/or digital publications produced by the festival.

6. OTHER PROVISIONS

- The pre-selection, programming and distribution of the films is defined according to the criteria of the curatorial team of the InShadow Festival.
- The directors of the international films in Competition will be offered a night's stay (for 1 person), up to a maximum of €100, upon presentation of an invoice with the tax data of the Vo'Arte Association, production structure, (NIF: 504 264 400). The Vo'Arte Association is not responsible for the stays chosen or for the values practiced by the directors. Payment will be made exclusively after delivery of the invoice, and the amount will be delivered in cash during the presence in Lisbon, in the festival. This support will only be granted to the director/artist who is present to represent their film during the Competition sessions. Any unclaimed value during Festival attendance will not be assigned.
- The national directors (more than 100km from the Lisbon Metropolitan Area) of the films in Competition will be offered a night's stay (1 person) up to a maximum value of €50 upon presentation of an invoice with the tax data of the Vo'Arte Association, production structure, (NIF: 504 264 400), which is not responsible for the accommodation chosen and the prices charged. Payment will be made exclusively after delivery of the invoice, and the amount will be delivered in cash during the presence in Lisbon, in the festival. This support will only be granted to the director/artist who is present to represent their film during the Competition

sessions. Any unclaimed value during Festival attendance will not be assigned.

- The directors and authors of the works will be welcome in all the festival's programming activities, by prior appointment, and taking into account the respective capacity of the spaces.
- The festival does not provide for travel in the city of Lisbon in any case, so these are the responsibility of the authors and teams themselves.
- For billing cases related to the submission of works at the festival, it must be handled directly on the FilmFreeway platform, and Festival InShadow has no responsibility for such matter.

7. ACCEPTANCE AND OMISSIONS

- The participation in the festival requires the full knowledge and acceptance of all content of the present regulation.
- The organization of the InShadow Festival will decide on all matters omitted in this regulation.
- The festival organization reserves the amendment of this regulation without the need for prior notice.

CONTACTS

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