



28th BUSAN
International Film Festival
4 - 13 October 2023

[Official Submission and Selection Rules & Regulations]

Preamble

Busan International Film Festival is accredited by the International Federation of Film Producers' Associations (FIAPF) as belonging to the category of "Competitive Specialised Feature Film Festivals (First and Second feature films)." The following Rules and Regulations are subject to the "Regulations for International Film Festivals" published by the FIAPF.

1. Organization

Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) is presented by Busan International Film Festival.

2. Festival dates

The 28th Busan International Film Festival will take place from the 4th to the 13th of October 2023.

3. Programs

The official sections of the Busan International Film Festival are as follows:

- a. **Gala Presentation:** Influential filmmakers and actors present their films in Busan to celebrate their artistic achievements.
- b. **Icons:** A showcase of the latest films of contemporary iconic filmmakers from around the world.
- c. **Jiseok:** A competition section for established Asian filmmakers with three or more feature films. The two best films are presented with the Kim Jiseok Award. The award was created in commemoration of the late Kim Jiseok, program director who devoted his life to nurture and support Asian cinema.
- d. **A Window on Asian Cinema:** A peak into the various styles and visions within Asian cinema, highlighting the films of this year's most talented Asian filmmakers as well as the work of directors already established within the industry.
- e. **New Currents:** A competition among up-and-coming Asian filmmakers' first or second features that bestows two films with the New Currents Award. All films must be presented as a World or International Premiere.
- f. **Korean Cinema Today-Special Premiere:** This section premieres the latest and representative selections of contemporary Korean mainstream commercial films with special public attractions and status.
- g. **Korean Cinema Today-Panorama:** An introduction to the year's most significant and popular Korean films, from commercial blockbusters to art house favorites.
- h. **Korean Cinema Today-Vision:** A carefully selected lineup of Korean independent feature



films of the year and a glimpse into the future of Korean cinema.

- i. **World Cinema:** A showcase of the year's non-Asian narrative features including the latest works from well-known filmmakers and international film festival awardees.
- j. **Flash Forward:** A competition among non-Asian filmmakers' first or second features that take an innovative and original approach to cinema. The winner is selected by the audience and awarded the Flash Forward Audience Award.
- k. **Wide Angle:** A section dedicated to showing outstanding short films, documentaries and experimental films that offer broad cinematic viewpoints and a distinct vision.
- l. **Open Cinema:** A collection of new and internationally acclaimed films that offer an ideal mix of the popular with the artistic are screened at the hallmark outdoor theater.
- m. **Midnight Passion:** A collection of horror, action, and thriller films that are certain to keep diehard film fans awake throughout the night.
- n. **On Screen:** Presentation of highly anticipated or most talked about drama series of the year.
- o. **Special Program in Focus:** A special showcase of films by notable filmmakers or those working within a specific topic.

* The programs may be subject to change.

4. Awards

Details of the Awards are as follows:

- a. **New Currents Award:** The New Currents Award is given to the two best feature films selected from the first or second feature of new Asian directors introduced in the New Currents section (a competitive section of BIFF for Asian films). A grand prize of USD 30,000 is awarded to each film. The jury consists of world-renowned film experts who will choose winners to discover and encourage the hidden jewels of Asian cinema.
- b. **Kim Jiseok Award:** The Kim Jiseok Award, established in 2017, is to remember and honor the late Kim Ji-seok who devoted his whole life to discovering and supporting the growth of Asian cinema. The award is in the competition category for the most notable Asian directors' new films of the year, and two best films are selected and awarded a cash prize of USD 10,000 each.
- c. **BIFF Mecenat Award:** The BIFF Mecenat Award is granted to the best documentary from Korea and Asia in the Wide Angle competitive section. The winner will be granted KRW 10,000,000 (approx. USD 7,600) with the purpose of assisting their next production.
- d. **Sonje Award:** The Sonje Award is given to the best Korean and Asian short films in the Wide Angle section, to assist them in producing the next project by providing KRW 10,000,000 (approx. USD 7,600) to each director.



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- e. **Actor of the Year:** The Actor of the Year is the award to focus on the newcomer in the independent Korean films among the New Currents and Korean Cinema Today – Vision section. The renowned Korean actor and actress select one actor and one actress with outstanding performance. The winners will be awarded at the closing ceremony with a cash prize of KRW 5,000,000 (approx. USD 3,800) each.
- f. **KB New Currents Audience Award:** This award is given to the film that is most highly rated by festival audiences from the New Currents section. A total of KRW 20,000,000 (approx. USD 15,000) is awarded to the director.
- g. **Flash Forward Audience Award:** This award is given to the film that is most highly rated by festival audiences from the Flash Forward section. A total of KRW 10,000,000 (approx. USD 7,600) is awarded to the director.
- h. **FIPRESCI (International Federation of Film Critics) Award:** This award is given to well-made works that reflect its experimental and progressive spirit, among those presented in the New Currents section.
- i. **NETPAC Award:** The NETPAC Award is given to the best film selected by the NETPAC jury among the films screened in the New Currents section. NETPAC is an international organization founded in 1990 devoted to the expansion of Asian film distribution and screening.
- j. **DGK MEGABOX Award:** The DGK MEGABOX Award goes to two Korean films from the Korean Cinema Today-Vision section. Each winner will be granted KRW 5,000,000 (approx. USD 3,800).
- k. **CGV Award:** This award was newly created in 2011 in collaboration with CJ CGV to shed new light on the Korean Cinema Today-Vision section. The winner will receive a cash prize of KRW 10,000,000 (approx. USD 7,600).
- l. **KBS Independent Film Award:** The KBS Independent Film Award is given to support Korean independent films. One Korean film will be selected among Korean Cinema Today-Vision and New Currents sections to receive KRW 10,000,000 (approx. USD 7,600).
- m. **CGK Award:** The CGK Award, sponsored by the Cinematographers Guild of Korea, is given to one Korean film from either the New Currents or Korean Cinema Today-Vision section. The winner's cinematographer will be granted KRW 5,000,000 (approx. USD 3,800).
- n. **Critic b Award:** The Critic b Award is given to one film chosen by Busan Film Critics Association among the selections in the New Currents and the Korean Cinema Today-Vision section. The winner will receive KRW 10,000,000 (approx. USD 7,600).
- o. **Watcha Award:** This award is established to support new directors in Korean cinema. Two Korean films chosen from the New Currents and the Korean Cinema Today-Vision section and will be given a cash prize of KRW 10,000,000 (approx. USD 7,600) respectively.



- p. **Watcha Short Award:** This award is established to support short film directors in Korean cinema. A short film chosen from Wide Angle-Korean Short Competition section will be given a cash prize of KRW 5,000,000 (approx. USD 3,800).
- q. **Aurora Media Award:** This award is established to support new directors in Korean cinema. Two Korean films chosen from the New Currents and the Korean Cinema Today-Vision section and will be given a cash prize of KRW 10,000,000 (approx. USD 7,600) respectively.
- r. **Citizen Critics' Award:** Citizen critics from the Busan Cinematheque choose the best film from those screened in the Korean Cinema Today-Vision section. The winner is awarded KRW 10,000,000 (approx. USD 7,600) for supporting the director's next production.
- s. **Busan Cinephile Award:** This award is given to the best Korean and Asian documentary film presented in the Wide Angle documentary showcase section. The winner is awarded KRW 5,000,000 (approx. USD 3,800). The jury of college students, including numerous students from the cinema-related departments of six universities in the Busan region, select the winner.

* The above awards' details may be subject to change.

* For the above awards, the Festival and the awarding entity appoint juries respectively, who review the films to award the winners.

5. Submission

a. Eligibility:

- 1) The Festival accepts features, short films, documentaries and animations. The film must have been completed no earlier than October 2022, and should be completed no later than September 2023.
- 2) Films with a total running time of less than 60 minutes are classified as shorts. Films with a total running time 60 minutes or longer are classified as features.
- 3) Short Documentaries (both Asian and Non-Asian) and Non-Asian short fiction films are not open to submission.
- 4) For the Wide Angle-Korean Short Film Competition and Asian Short Film Competition sections, only films with a total running of not more than 30 minutes, and only World Premiere and International Premiere films are considered. However, in terms of a private screening, films that have been or will have been exhibited for a graduation screening or limited to certain people, the regular premiere status rule still applies.
- 5) Films submitted for previous editions of the Festival should not be resubmitted. In case of new versions due to re-shooting, re-editing and etc., exceptional cases may apply by the decision of the Selection Committee.

b. Copyrights:

- 1) Films submitted to the Busan International Film Festival are deemed to be the copyright holder's party (including the case of the agreement with co-copyright holders), or to be



submitted on behalf of the copyright holder upon the consignment.

- 2) It is the sole responsibility of the Applicant to secure authorization and permission from the copyright owner(s) of any and all copyrighted content or materials included within the submitted film. The Festival will not be held responsible for any unauthorized use of copyrighted content or materials within the submitted film, including any content or materials that are or may become the basis for any third party claims for copyright infringement.
- 3) If it is deemed that the copyright and/or portrait rights have not been cleared by the applicants, the Festival may cancel the selection and award of the film before, during or after the festival.

c. Deadlines

- Short Films: June 21st (Wed), 18:00 (KST)
- Feature Films: July 19th (Wed), 18:00 (KST)

d. Submission will be considered complete only when the required film information is registered online and the screener is uploaded by 18:00 (KST) on the deadline date.

e. Entry fee: There is no entry fee for submission to the Festival.

f. Submission Procedure:

- 1) Verify email address
Email addresses have to be verified through the official website to receive an online submission link.
- 2) Complete and submit the Online Submission Form
Once submitted, an official email will be sent to upload a screener (film file).
- 3) Submit screener - the Festival accepts the screener via online upload
 - A link for uploading the file will be provided in the official email.
 - If the film's original language is not Korean or English, or includes dialogues other than Korean or English, there must be English subtitles attached to the screener. The "original language" refers to the one in which a film is or will be exhibited in its country of origin. For pre-selection, English language films do not require subtitles.
 - The screener (film file) must be uploaded by 18:00 (KST) on the deadline date.

6. Selection

- a. The Selection Committee will choose films for the official selection after screenings. For the Wide Angle sections - Korean Short Film Competition and Asian Short Film Competition, preliminary selection juries shortlist the submitted films, and the selection committee makes the final selection.
- b. The Selection Committee will consider for inclusion in the Festival all films that have been submitted by the above deadline and in accordance with these Terms and gives priority to World (Films screened for the first time to any audience, including country of origin) or International (Films screened for the first time to an audience outside country of origin)



premieres.

- c. The Festival reserves the right to decide the section in which the selected film will participate and does not provide individual explanation on the non-selection of a film.
- d. The selected film will be notified individually, and a final selection list will be announced on the official website.
- e. The invitation of a film to participate must remain absolutely confidential until the program is announced by the Busan International Film Festival.

7. Selection Cancellation

- a. The film selection may be subject to cancellation at any time if there is any false or misleading information on the submission.
- b. Festival may request the documentary evidence for copyrights and portrait rights of the selected film before or after the Festival period. If the Applicant fails to provide evidence, the film selection or award may be subject to cancellation.
- c. If it is proved that the film or those associated with the film are involved in any type of violation of basic human rights, including but not limited to discrimination, harassment or illegal activities during the production, promotion or screening of a film, the Festival reserves the right to invalidate the selection and any award of the film.

8. Requirements for Selected Films

a. Film Materials

The films selected in the official screening section must submit the film materials requested by Festival before the deadline through the Online Registration Form.

- 1) Film information
- 2) English synopsis
- 3) Three to five high quality images of the film
- 4) Director's biography
- 5) Director's filmography
- 6) High quality photo of the director
- 7) Credits

b. Publicity Materials

The films selected in the official screening section must submit the publicity materials requested by the Festival before the deadline through the Online Registration Form or other methods.

- 1) Film screener



- 2) Promotional video clips (including trailers): If they cannot be sent, the Festival will produce a 1-2 minute video clip from the film screener
- 3) Director's Introduction clip: The selected film is required to submit a 1-2 minute short video clip to introduce its directors and its film.
- 4) Film poster and press kit (optional)

c. Subtitling Materials

Among the films selected in the official screening section, films produced in languages other than Korean must submit the following materials before the deadline requested by the Festival for creating the Korean subtitles. However, if it is difficult to provide a screener for the production of subtitles, an exhibition copy(print) must be provided within the deadline requested by the Festival.

- 1) The film screener must be provided as a file.
- 2) The film screener must be identical to the exhibition copy. If the film is not in English, the screener must be subtitled in English.
- 3) If the film is in English, an English dialogue list is required.
- 4) If the film is not in English, dialogue lists in both English and the original language are required

* Since the Busan International Film Festival is held in South Korea, Korean subtitles for a film in languages other than Korean is produced and screened by the Festival.

*** Rights for Korean Subtitles**

The Busan International film festival reserves the right to the Korean subtitles produced by the Festival. The Korean subtitles can be later provided once applicants complete the required process requested by the Festival. The applicant should state the Busan International Film Festival as a Korean subtitle provider for 3 seconds on screen.

d. Exhibition Copy (Print)

1) Format

For the Festival screening, the film must be available in either DCP (D-Cinema), 35mm (film) by early September. However, DCP format is the most flexible, while for other formats screening venues may be limited. No other formats, including DVD and Blu-ray, are compatible. In case of DCP (D-Cinema), the Festival only accepts content that is fully DCI (Digital Cinema Initiative) compliant. Additional information regarding the screening format may be requested by the Festival technicians. The screening format must be confirmed on the Registration Form when submitted.

2) Deadline

The exhibition copy must be delivered on time by September 2nd. Changes in the screening format and/or failure to provide the film on time may result in screening cancellation from the Festival.

3) Technical Guideline

- Burned-in type subtitles are encouraged.
- Encryption: We recommend DCP to be not encrypted. If the DCP is encrypted, please send DKDM to the Print Coordinator of Busan IFF. DKDM gives the film a better opportunity to arrange the screening venues.
- Sound: 5.1ch DCP recommended.



- * In case of physical print delivery
 - It shall be a 3.5" HDD or case with a USB-type interface and external power supply for DCP content storage.
 - DCP hard disks shall contain an 'MBR' partition table. It shall be formatted in NTFS or EXT2, or EXT3 format.
 - There should be no partition, nor dispensable data saved in DCP hard disks.

4) All films selected for the Festival must be available for screening in their original language with English subtitles, unless the original language is English or otherwise agreed beforehand.

5) Shipping & Insurance

- The Festival agrees to cover the cost of shipping and insurance both ways. The exception is shipment to other festivals, in which the recipient, in accordance with the regulations of the International Federation of Film Producers' Association (FIAPF), should cover the shipping cost.
- The print should be sent via the official carrier of the Festival. Our account number will be provided with the shipping instruction at a later date. However, please note the account is solely for the print traffic, and not allowed to use for any other material shipping.
- The Festival will not take responsibility for customs duty or cover the shipping cost following the import/export of those films.
- All physically delivered prints will be returned within two weeks after the Festival to the address indicated on the Registration form. If the film has to be returned to another address, the print owner should provide the Festival with the shipping instruction including the return address with the desired date of arrival in advance. All online delivered prints will be permanently destroyed after the Festival.
- The insurance coverage of films screened at the Festival follows the guidance of FIAPF. In case of damage to or loss of a print, the Festival is only responsible for the costs of making a new print according to the current laboratory rates. The Festival reserves the right to refuse any other production cost of the exhibition copy including KDM/Encryption fee.

9. Use of submitted materials

a. Film Materials and Publicity Materials

All Materials submitted may be used for publicity and promotional purposes through media outlets such as television, internet, and mobile, and are provided to assist media coverage of journalists from the local and international media from the year of selection onwards (printed media, broadcasting, online press, press agency, magazine, etc.).

b. Screener (film file) for Selected Films

The official selected films produced in languages other than Korean must submit film screeners to create Korean subtitles by the Festival.

Busan International Film Festival provides Festival Video Library and Online Market Screening services for films in the official program, available to selective film professionals



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attending the Festival. This gives the film a better opportunity to be reviewed, promoted and acquired. Access to the video library is strictly limited to press and festival official dailies, buyers, festival programmers and filmmakers. For those agreed to the above services, Festival should receive their film screeners by August.

10. Screening Scheduling

The scheduling of the film screening is at the discretion of the Festival. In accordance with the regulations of FIAPF, the Festival can schedule up to five screenings including Press & Industry screenings. The date(s), time(s) and venue(s) of the screening shall be determined by the Festival.

11. Festival Archive

a. Screener

The Festival reserves the right to preserve the selected films' screener copy at the Busan Cinema Center for archiving purposes. With the consent of the rightsholder(s), the screener copy will be converted for data preservation purpose, then be provided for viewing within the Busan Cinema Center Cinema, after the closing of the Festival's next edition.

b. Film materials and Publicity materials

All materials of selected films submitted to the Festival will be restored as part of the Festival's archive which can be viewed on the official website and the Festival's social media account and be provided only for non-profit and public interest.

12. Agreement

Entry and participation of films implies understanding and acceptance of the regulations. If any of the above articles could be an issue to presenting the film, please immediately contact the Festival. Any and all additional issues outside the scope of this document should be negotiated in good faith and agreed between both parties. In case of failure to inform any possible conflict in advance, the film invitation may be subject to cancellation at any time. The Director of the Busan International Film Festival reserves the right to rule on any cases not covered by the official Rules & Regulations herein.