



ShorTS International Film Festival

24^a edition / Trieste, 1 – 8 July 2023

Entries for the 24th ShorTS International Film Festival are now open, with important new ideas announced.



Entries are now open for the competitions of the 24th **ShorTS International Film Festival** to be held in **Trieste from 1 to 8 July 2023**. The Festival, organised by Associazione Maremetraggio with its president Chiara Valenti Omero and under the artistic direction of Maurizio di Rienzo, is to continue its variegated path through the world of short films, proposing new segments for specialist and audience juries, confirming the focus on a virtual narrative and highlighting the merits of some of the leading figures, not just Italian, in feature films.

The innovations mainly concern the historic **Maremetraggio section**, which is to present **50 shorts from all over the world** of recent quality production, either not yet shown or circulated to some extent in Italy, on the evenings planned at Trieste's Giardino Pubblico, which will compete for prizes awarded by an international jury and by the public. In addition to the historic Maremetraggio, from 2023 the Festival is to combine other key points for a new journey into the world of shorts: **ShorTS Express** will host **12 shorts of a maximum length of 5'** (excluding the end credits) competing for a prize awarded by the public; **Italia in ShorTS** will include **12 Italian-made shorts** competing, among others, for the prize awarded by AMC - the Cinema Editing Association; while **Eco-ShorTS** will host **10 international shorts with an environmental theme** and a prize awarded by the public. These four key sections will be curated by Massimiliano Nardulli. There will also be a **panel-meeting** on the international panorama of short film production, distribution and aesthetics, attended by directors and producers coming to Trieste.

Another new feature: the **pre-opening** of **ShorTS IFF**, scheduled for **mid-June 2023** to coincide with the beginning of the municipal summer season of screenings at the Giardino Pubblico, will offer a non-competitive showcase of **10 EFA-European Film Academy short films**, the Academy having honoured ShorTS IFF with this prestigious collaboration for years.

Remaining in Europe, the **Focus** dedicated each year by the Festival to one country's filmmaking, after the success of the one on the Israeli shorts scene held this year, will turn the spotlight onto productions in **Greece** and will consist of two programmes: one with Greek **shorts** from the **recent past**, another with shorts from the **most recent years**, with VIP attendance to accompany these works.

As a function of the realisation of new shorts projects and the ability of makers and producers to present them to markets and pitch sessions at festivals around the world, the three-day **ShorTS Development&Pitching Training**, a workshop for five unreleased stories by directors and screenwriters, will be held in 2023, with scouting and curating by Massimiliano Nardulli.

Very young selectors and jury members of primary school age (6-10 years old) and middle school age (11-15 years old) will instead be involved in the well-established **Shorter Kids'n'Teens section** led by Manuela Morana, who will handle the choice of kids and teens, first selectors of the approximately 25 Italian shorts planned for the two competitions and later the very young jurors of this section. This enthusiastic pool of budding critics and audience members will be referred to the Trieste and Gorizia areas, with a view to Gorizia 2025 European Capital of Culture.

The area reserved **for ShorTS Virtual Reality**, a section curated by Antonio Giacomini, will be extended for a competition of **12 shorts** that can be viewed with visors to experience individual viewing in a common logistical context. The jury will be made up of the actual audience watching. A **themed panel** and a **technological apprenticeship workshop** on this new form of film viewing are also planned.

The **section** dedicated to **feature films**, curated by Massimo Causo and Beatrice Fiorentino, will be transformed into **Campolungo** to accommodate **the interaction between two makers 'in progress'** who have already directed important shorts and at least one feature film, demonstrating their process and discussing their narrative work.

New ideas also for the **ShorTS Comic Marathon** curated by Francesco Maria Cappellotto (non-competitive section) in which ad hoc drawings by comic strip artists and aspiring comic strip artists will make up a short comic strip story-marathon inspired by topical moments in historic films.

ShorTS IFF will award the **Premio Cinema del Presente** to a **director** whose career is developing through its depth and impact, also internationally (winners so far are Alessio Cremonini, Saverio Costanzo, Alice Rohrwacher, Gabriele Mainetti). The **Premio Prospettiva** for a **young actor or actress** who is coming to the attention of critics (on the list among others are Alba Rohrwacher, Luca Marinelli, Michele Riondino, Michele Alhaique, Daphne Scoccia, Luka Zunic, Aurora Giovinazzo) and the **Premio Interprete del Presente** which was introduced last year and awarded to Teresa Saponangelo). All these awards involve a **masterclass** of the prize winners.

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