



ShorTS International 21st Film Festival on the Web in 2020

*The Trieste festival to be streamed on the Web from 4 to 12 July 2020.
Online event with previews of shorts and feature films, pitching,
masterclasses with makers and film experts and the comic strip
marathon.*

ShorTS International Film Festival, organised by the association **Maremetraggio**, is in arrival from Trieste to the Web **from 4 to 12 July 2020**. The 21st Festival is to take place online thanks to technical support from **MYmovies**, leading film information website in Italy, and via the event's official channels ([Official Website](#) – [Facebook Page](#) - [Instagram](#)). Alongside the traditional competition sections dedicated to feature films and shorts, which this year the public **can enjoy free of charge on the Web after registration**, the Festival is to organise online meetings with filmmakers and other film professionals and a masterclass with the filmmaker awarded the *Cinema del Presente* prize to be announced shortly.

New features for the 2020 Festival include **Science & Society**, a new competition section, dedicated to shorts from all over the world competing for prize money of **3,000 €**, in partnership with **ESOF2020 Trieste (EuroScience Open Forum)**, the top European event focused on the debate between science, technology, society and politics, scheduled in Trieste from 2 to 6 September 2020.

Alongside *Science & Society*, ShorTS IFF will once again include the well-established competition sections **Maremetraggio**, **Shorter Kids'n'Teens** and **Nuove Impronte**.

As the traditional ShorTS competition section, curated by Francesco Ruzzier, **Maremetraggio** will see competition by those shorts that have been awarded a prize at one or more Festivals at international level in 2019. Prize money of **5,000 €** is also to be awarded this year to the best short. Also at stake in this section is the prize for the best Italian short, the **Prem1ere Film** award for the best short not distributed and the **AMC** award for best Italian editing.

Also included in the Festival is the online screening of **shorts hors concours**. After showing in previous years shorts from Kazakhstan, Japan, Hungary, India, the UK, Spain and Iceland, this year the Festival will focus on a selection of the extensive output of shorts from **Estonia**, in collaboration with the **Estonian Short Film Centre**. Participating in the **Shorter Kids'n'Teens** section are shorts of all genres dedicated to the very young, with two programmes according to age group, each with its own jury: the **Kids** part with shorts dedicated to children aged 6 to 10 and **Teens** with works for youngsters aged 11 to 15. The juries voting on the winners of the section are to be made up of the children themselves.

Another feature repeated this year is **Nuove Impronte**, the section dedicated to discovering the best long-length fiction and non-fiction films in an emerging cinema, curated by journalist and film critic Beatrice Fiorentino. This is the competition section which, also at the 21st Festival, is to turn the spotlight on newcomers or up-and-coming filmmakers who have already gained respect for their viewpoint, courage

and talent. The films in this section are to compete for the prize for **Best Film**, the **Critics' Award** from the SNCCI, the prize for **Best Production** awarded by the AGICI and the **ANAC prize** for the best screenplay.

MYmovies is instead to hand out the **Audience Award** for the work with the most online votes.

The **24 Hours ShortS Comics Marathon** organised by the Festival is instead to take place in hybrid form as a **free contest** dedicated to artists of all ages willing to take part in an artistic marathon during which, in just 24 hours, they have to produce a **comic strip short**. The winning works will be rewarded with publication of a short book, a compilation of the best Festival entrants. The jury is to be made up of four big names on the contemporary comic strip scene (and more).

Another event this year is the **ShortS Pitching Training**, a workshop organised by the Maremetraggio association alongside **Nisi Masa European Network of Young Cinema** and which is to take place entirely online with two days of training during which participants, on a world selection basis, are to learn how to pitch their shorts production projects effectively and persuasively. The lessons are to be in English, like the pitches which at the end of the workshop the participants are to give before a small and select group of producers.

"This year is an unusual one for everyone. After a great deal of thought we reached the conclusion that moving online was the only way forward for this year's Festival", said Chiara Valenti Omero, president and co-director of the Festival. "We'll work with the awareness that the difficulties are many and that this is a challenge with great responsibility, above all regarding the care needed with technical and quality standards and because ShortS hasn't forgotten that the primary objective of our Festival has to be, as always, attention not so much towards filmmakers and producers/distributors as towards our audiences. Obviously all this will take place until we can see and greet each other again in person, possibly capitalising in the future on what we're currently experiencing, which in any case will have positive results (not in the medical sense....)".

The Festival co-director **Maurizio di Rienzo** added: *"the varied nature and special features of the film genres shown in the various sections of ShortS and the talks, not only technical, with directors and actors, are still to be the cornerstone of a process of discovery, exchange and ideas, to be seen as anything but 'virtual'. A journey which is to start in Trieste, a city and civilisation of traditional crossovers and shifting boundaries, with a spectacular creative scene in these early years of the millennium expanded in fact by the new filmmaking which here is thought out, supported, created and shown".*

ShortS International Film Festival is organised with funding from: Mibact – Central Department for Cinema, Friuli Venezia Giulia regional authorities- Department of Culture, Friuli Venezia Giulia regional authorities- Department of Production and Tourism, Fondazione K. F. Casali, Fondazione CRTrieste and Trieste City Council.

2020 Image | La Furia Studio

In these equally unusual and difficult times ShortS exists via digital channels, changing the mode but not the content. This year the Web is the cinema and covers all the sites for a permanently connected audience. A mere hand becomes the primary instrument which allows the joining-up of physical and digital worlds, the link between existence and the festival. This creates the point of intersection between the lively sociability of contact, in bright red, and the light blue of infinite space representing digital sharing. Graphic and text elements inside this year's minimalist visual where the actual electronic devices are at the centre of experience of the event. With the play on words "press shorts to unlock" (the ever-present "press home to unlock" on every touchscreen), we choose to wish for a return to "normal" living to overcome the general lockdown in a positive way.

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