

FESTIVAL STATUS

I. BASIC INFORMATION

Zlín Film Festival – International Film Festival for Children and Youth

The mission and goal of the Zlín Film Festival is the presentation of contemporary world film for children and youth in the Czech Republic as well as an exhibition of Czech films. An important aspect of the festival is not only the effort to entertain young audiences, but to also – through film – to educate, expand their awareness of the outside world, and develop esthetic, social and moral perceptions.

Zlín Film Festival – International Film Festival for Children and Youth is being organized by the FILMFEST, s.r.o., registered at Filmová 174, 760 01 Zlín, Czech Republic.

66th International Film Festival for Children and Youth will take place in Zlín from May 28 to June 3, 2026.

II. PROGRAMME SECTIONS

A) *Competitions:*

International Competition of Feature Films in the Children's Category

International Competition of Feature Films in the Junior Category (over 11 years of age)

International Competition of Feature Films in the Youth Category (over 15 years of age)

International Competition of Short Animations for Children (up to 12 year of age)

Competition of European Feature Documentaries for Young Audience

International Competition of Student Films Zlín Dog

B) *Non-competitive sections:*

World Children's Film Panorama

Beyond the Childhood Horizon

Festival Laurels from around the World

New Czech Films and TV Programmes

European Series for Teenagers

Top Teen Ten

Neighbourhood

Virtual Reality

Retrospective and Profile Sections

III. CONDITIONS FOR SUBMITTERS

Only films completed after January 1, 2024 will be allowed to participate in the competitive sections. Animations of up to a maximum of 15 minutes in length may participate in the short animations for children competition.

Festival doesn't accept short live-action films (with exception of student films).

In order to have a film screened at the Festival it is necessary to fill in the application form at <https://www.zlinfest.cz/-en/> and send an preview screener with English subtitles by no later than March 1, 2026. The organizer will inform the applicants of their acceptance in writing by no later than April 1, 2026.

IV. TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Required formats for films in competitions are DCP. The festival may grant exceptions. Short animated films and student films included in competition are accepted also in the formats Quicktime H.264 HD that can be uploaded at the online application. The Festival strongly prefers receiving non-encrypted DCP. For any encrypted DCP the festival will require a KDM for all playback servers in use at the Festival from May 23 to June 4, 2026.

V. LANGUAGE VERSIONS

Competing films must be provided with English subtitles by the applicant. Films for children of up to 11 years of age are screened in their original version with simultaneous interpreting into the Czech language provided by the organizer. Other films are screened in their original version with English subtitles and at the same time with Czech subtitles provided by the organizer. The organizer may allow exceptions – especially in the case of historical and archival films.

VI. SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

Copies of invited films must be delivered to the organizer's address or uploaded by May 6, 2026. This deadline must be met. Unless specified otherwise, expenses relating to the transport of films, preview of films, promotional materials, and insurance from the country of origin to Zlín will be covered by the participant. Expenses relating to the transport of films, preview of films, and insurance to the country of origin are covered by the organizer. The transport of films and other materials for which the organizer is responsible are always covered directly from the organizer's bank account and it is the organizer's right to choose the transport company.

The organizer does not cover any expenses for other transport of films and promotional materials unless it is approved by the organizer. Should a copy get lost or be destroyed during the festival, the organizer will be responsible only for costs relating to the making of a new copy in accordance with current price lists for the making of a standard copy.

VII. ENTRY AND SCREENING FEES

There are no entry fees. In case of a screening fee the organizer requires to agree on a particular amount ahead of time. The invoice must be sent to the organizer by June 30, 2026. After this date any other invoices won't be taken into account – they won't be paid by the organizer.

VIII. VIDEO LIBRARY

Unless otherwise stipulated, acceptance of the invitation to the festival program shall constitute the participant's consent to the inclusion of their film in the video library, which is accessible exclusively to accredited film professionals and members of the press.

IX. DELEGATIONS

In the case of competitive feature films, a delegation of up to two members is invited for a period of 4 days (3 nights). In the case of other films participating in the festival, a delegation of two members may be invited for a period of 3 days (2 nights). The organizer will cover accommodation. Only the festival management can make exceptions to these rules. If a single producer is going to present more than one film, the number of delegation members will be negotiated individually with the festival organizers. If the organizer covers the travel expenses of guests, it will be covered by the organizer only and according to the travel company chosen by the organizer. The organizer does not cover other travel expenses unless it is approved by the organizer.

X. JURIES

Competing films will be judged by the following juries:

Statutory juries:

- a. International Expert Jury for Feature Films in the Children's Category
- b. International Expert Jury for Feature Films in the Junior and Youth Category
- c. International Expert Jury for Short Animations for Children
- d. International Expert Jury for Student Films Zlín Dog
- e. Children's Jury for Feature Films in the Children's Category
- f. European Youth Jury for Feature Films in the Junior and Youth Category
- g. Children's Jury for Short Animations for Children

Non-statutory juries:

- h. European Children's Film Association Jury
- i. Ecumenical Jury

The organizer reserves the right to appoint other expert juries.

XI. FESTIVAL PRIZES

1. Prizes awarded by the statutory juries:

International Expert Jury for Feature Films in the Children's Category

Golden Slipper for Best Feature Film in the Children's Category
Karel Zeman Award for Best Visual Concept in a Feature Film in the Children's Category

International Expert Jury for Feature Films in the Junior and Youth Category

Golden Slipper for Best Feature Film in the Junior Category
Golden Slipper for Best Feature Film in the Youth Category
Special Jury Award for a Feature Film in the Junior and Youth Category

International Expert Jury for Short Animations for Children

Golden Slipper for Best Short Animation for Children
Hermína Týrlová Award for Best Short Animation for Children up to 6 Years of Age

Children's Jury for Feature Films in the Children's Category

Children's Jury Award for Best Feature Film in the Children's Category

European Youth Jury for Feature Films for Youth

Youth Jury Award for Best Feature Film in the Junior and Youth Category

Children's Jury for Short Animations for Children

Children's Jury Award for Best Short Animation for Children

International Expert Jury for Student Films Zlín Dog

Zlín Dog Award for Best Student Film (with prize money of EUR 1000)

Jury Award in the Animated Films Category
Jury Award in the Live-Action Films Category

Jury Award in the Documentary Films Category

2. Prizes awarded by non-statutory juries:

European Children's Film Association Jury

ECFA Doc Award for Best European Feature Documentary for Young Audience

Ecumenical Jury

Ecumenical Jury Award for Best Feature Film in the Junior and Youth Category

3. Audience awards:

Golden Apple – the City of Zlín Audience Award for Best Feature Film

ČT: D Audience Award for Best Short Animation for Children

4. Prizes awarded by the FILMFEST company:

Festival President's Award for a significant contribution in the children's and youth cinema

XII. CONCLUSION

The organizer pledges to show the films only within the scope of the festival including selected cities in the Czech Republic that are part of the festival programme.

By submitting the application, the applicant consents to the use of photographs and parts of competing films or their trailers free of charge, and for their use as part of festival promotional material, on any Czech TV station, festival TV and on the internet. The trailers must not exceed three minutes for feature films and two minutes for animated films.

Participants of all selected films are required to use the logo of the Zlín Film Festival / festival laurels in their film's publicity and promotional materials.

By submitting an application to the festival, participants express their consent to these Festival Regulations and commit themselves to comply with their provisions. In unclear or unaccounted-for cases, decisions will be made by the artistic director of the festival.

Markéta Pášmová, Artistic Director, 66th Zlín Film Festival