

International Short Film Festival Sleepwalkers

The International Short Film Festival Sleepwalkers is a festival dedicated to live-action, documentary and experimental short films, held in Tallinn, Estonia.

The 18th festival will be held between the **18th and 25th of November 2017**.

ISFF Sleepwalkers is a 'sub-festival' of the **Black Nights Film Festival**, a FIAPF accredited film festival, which runs between the 17th of November and 3rd of December 2017.

Sleepwalkers consists of:

- International Competition programme of short and medium-length films made by film or media students;
- International Competition programme of short and medium-length films;
- National Competition programme of Estonian short and medium-length films;
- Non-competitive film programmes, retrospectives and special presentations.

Films meeting the festival requirements must:

- Be short or half-length films (up to 45 minutes): fiction, documentary or experimental.
- Premiered after the 1st of January 2016 (regarding competitive programmes).
- Be presented in a HD video screening format (minimum 1920x1080px, Prores, DNxHD), DCP.
- Have English subtitles if they are not in English.
- Films submitted to the International Student Film Competition must be directed by a film or media student.

NB: Please note: Sleepwalkers DOES NOT accept animation films. Please submit such films to the [Animated Dreams](#) sub-festival.

Films produced in Estonia or are Estonian-co-productions, which have premiered previously in Estonia are also eligible.

The festival reserves the right to evaluate eligible films for the competition and assign the programme section for the film on a case-by-case basis.

1. Film submission

Applicants for competitive and non-competitive programmes are requested to **submit the film** and required supplementary **materials only via the indicated online submissions page**.

The deadline for submissions for competitive and non-competitive programmes is **4th September 2017**. The festival reserves the right to refuse late submissions.

Information about the platform and submission deadline details will be announced on the festival website (www.swff.ee) as well as on social media.

For a successful submission via the submission platform the applicant is required to:

- 1) Fill in and submit the entry form.
- 2) Provide a non-expiring screening link - with English subtitles and a password if necessary.
- 3) Upload high quality stills from the film (jpg).
- 4) Provide the film trailer as a non-expiring link or HD-resolution file.
- 5) Upload a photo of the Director (jpg).
- 6) Upload a poster of the film (jpg) (if it exists).

NB: Entries submitted by post, e-mail or any other form except the online submission form are not considered eligible for selection. The festival reserves the right to refuse late submissions.

Please acknowledge that “selected status” in the online submission form (Visitor Page) does not guarantee confirmation of the submitted film to the festival programming due to fee, print, rights availability issues at Estonian territory or any other factor.

2. Confirmation of films and reimbursements

Upon confirmation of the film, the Festival will inform the applicant no later than the **15th of October 2017**.

Upon confirmation of the film to the Festival's Competitive or Non Competitive Sections the applicant agrees to:

- Confirm participation of the film in the Festival.
- Provide all necessary information and materials (see 1. Film submission).
- Provide all missing information and materials from the original submission in the way indicated by the festival team.
- Provide the required screening copy (see 3. Technical requirements for screening copies) in the way indicated by the Festival team.
- Grant permission to include the screener in the festival's video library, reserved for jury and accredited industry members only (restricted access).
- Authorize to screen the film and/or promotional materials (stills, trailer) at the Festival and at any presentation of the Festival programmes, side and promotional events in any location if organised by/or participated in and authorized by the Festival organisation.

Confirmed titles may not be withdrawn from the festival programme after its participation has been officially confirmed and the producer or producer's authorised representative has verified confirmation of the film to the programme.

If, for exceptional reasons, the film has to be withdrawn three weeks or less before the opening of the festival, the applicant agrees to reimburse all costs to the festival related to confirmation and programming of the film including screening fee (when applicable), print delivery and handling costs as well as associated travel costs for the film delegation.

The invoices for the film rights or print loans should be issued and delivered for payment no later than two months from the end of the festival. The festival does not accept or reimburse invoices issued after that date.

3. Technical requirements for screening copies

To ensure the highest quality and presentation of confirmed films, all screening copies must be in high quality High Definition video (minimum 1920x1080px) in a low compressed format (Prores, DNxHD etc.), DCP and with English subtitles.

Damaged or dubbed copies, non-compatible DCP's and files on broken hard drives are refused.

Requirements for files:

- **File formats:** Prores, DNxHD, h264
- **File container:** mov
- **Resolution:** FullHD 1920x1080px
- **Framerate:** 24 or 25fps;
- **Field order:** None/Progressive;
- **Pixel Aspect Ratio:** Square
- **Sound:** Stereo
- **Samplerate:** 48kHz
- **Bitrate:** 16 or 24bit
- **Subtitles:** Hardcoded (if needed). If hardcoded subtitles are present, they must be on the active picture area! That means on the picture area, not on the letter box area (if present).

Requirements for DCP's: DCP's have to be provided either as Interop or SMPTE with subtitle tracks of a clearly stated DCP format, aspect ratio, subtitle and soundtrack information marked on the casing and drive (or accompanying tech sheet). If physical copies are being sent, DCP's have to be provided and shipped on industry standard and protected hard drives. Files on broken, consumer grade hard drives, memory sticks, or download formats are not permitted and the festival has the right to demand new copies (as well as KDM's) free of charge for damaged and non working DCP packages

Please note that:

- The Festival supports 2K and 4K content in all screens. However, not all screens have a 4K projector. The Festival cannot guarantee that a 4K film will be screened in a 4K resolution.
- All screens support both Flat and Scope content.
- The Festival requires all DCP's to be in XYZ colorspace encoded in JPEG2000.
- Countdown / start leaders must not be included.
- Surround content should be submitted in 6 discrete channels in the DCP.
- Hard drives must be formatted in EXT2, EXT3!

The filmmaker or film representative has to provide appropriate KDM's for the original language soundtrack and English subtitle tracks at least 72 hours prior to screenings. If the festival is provided with broken or wrongly assigned KDM's, appropriate new KDM's must be provided free of charge by the film submitter or representative to meet the minimum Festival requirements.

The festival reserves the right to demand screening copies of competition films free of charge including alternative keys to DCP copies or new DCP packages if quality standards are not being met. These include missing subtitles or wrong soundtracks. Thus, the festival has the right to refuse and withdraw the screening of a film in the competitions if the above-mentioned guidelines are not being followed.

All other formats must be confirmed by the festival technical team.

4. Delivery of materials

Costs related to the shipping of the physical screening copies to the festival are paid by the festival, unless otherwise agreed upon. Return shipping costs are the responsibility of the submitter, film representative or party appointed by them.

The copies should be sent to:

**Black Nights Film Festival
Attn: ISFF Sleepwalkers
Telliskivi 60a, 3rd floor
Tallinn 10412, Estonia**

All packages must be clearly marked with the title of the film, the sender's / submitter's name, return address and telephone number.

The festival will return or forward the screening copies within 14 days from the end of the festival unless instructed otherwise by the submitter or film representative.

The festival covers all expenses connected to the storage and insurance of the screening copies during the duration of the festival.

5. Film Delegations

The Festival may invite members of the crew of any film in any section providing travel, accommodation and/or festival accreditation.

6. Awards and Juries

The awards and juries will be announced by the Festival Director no later than during the opening press conference of the Festival. No jury member can be involved in the production or promotion of any film in the competition.

2017

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www.swff.ee

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