

## 1. About the Festival

Founded in 1995, the Geneva International Film Festival (GIFF) is Geneva's oldest film festival and one of the first in the world to include television in its programs. A crossroads of genres and disciplines, it offers every year for ten days films, series, interactive installations, and virtual reality works to some 40,000 festivalgoers. At the heart of the Festival is the Geneva Digital Market, a unique event in Switzerland dedicated to audiovisual innovation with more than 650 participants including major players from creative industries.

The 29th edition will take place from **November 3 to 12, 2023**.

## 2. Sections

### Competitions

- **International Feature Competition**  
A selection of ten feature films that turn stylistic conventions upside down and pave the way for the cinema of tomorrow.
- **International Series Competition**  
An exclusive Swiss window on the best international TV series, which GIFF has been reporting for more than 25 years. The competition of ten hand-picked pilots, showcases the innovation potential of the most popular and dynamic format in contemporary audiovisual media.
- **International Immersive Experience Competition**  
A pioneer in the field of digital arts, since 2016 GIFF has offered an International Immersive Works Competition. An exceptional selection of XR works in virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR) and mixed reality (MR) that explores the rich connections between narrative and technology.
- **Future Is Sensible**  
A convergent and competitive section dedicated to social, ecological and technological foresight, featuring dystopian series, science-fiction movies and XR experiences and exploratory technologies that question ethical choices and their impact on the future.

### Converging Sections (Out of Competition)

Non-competitive sections such as **Highlights, Pulsation, Pop TV, Sight and Sounds** and **Tales of Swiss Innovation** are converging sections. Features, series, immersive experiences, digital installations as well as live performances can therefore be included in the same section.

- **Highlights**  
The section of all the major events of the Festival featuring numerous film previews, the most eagerly awaited series of the year, complete series by prestigious authors, world premieres of Swiss series, state-of-the-art digital installations and unique immersive works.

- **Pulsation**  
A selection of film, serial or digital projects that gauge the pulse of contemporary creation and point to the emergence of new authors or trends.
- **Sight & Sound**  
Artistic evenings and performances – linking sound and image – given by trailblazing or pioneer artists in performing and visual arts.
- **POP TV**  
At a time when people are speculating about the future of linear television, GIFF offers an unprecedented immersion in the history of the medium. Spread over several editions, Pop TV will trace – for better or for worse – the evolution of the contents that have fomented our popular culture from our living rooms. Series, movies and mythical shows will make you relive or discover the anteroom of the aesthetics that have influenced contemporary audiovisual.
- **Tales of Swiss Innovation**  
A carte blanche and a masterclass is offered to a Swiss personality who has contributed significantly to the advancement of the audiovisual industry in the fields of storytelling, imaging, production or broadcasting.

#### Tribute awards

- **Film & Beyond Award**  
Each year, the Film & Beyond Award personally recognizes an interdisciplinary artist for his or her entire career, presented in the form of a retrospective.
- **Geneva Award**  
This award recognizes the careers of personalities who have inspired their contemporaries through their artistic choices and the courage of their opinions. A tribute accompanied by a retrospective program and a public conference.

### 3. Juries and Awards

- **International Feature Competition**  
A Jury composed of a renowned filmmaker accompanied by four film students will award the Reflet d'Or for Best Feature with a cash prize donated by the City and the State of Geneva (75% of the prize money goes to the director and 25% to the rights holder who have registered the film in the Festival selection)
- **International Series Competition**  
An inclusive Jury composed of five festivalgoers rewards Best Series with the Reflet d'Or for Best Series and a cash prize donated by the City and the State of Geneva
- **International Immersive Experience Competition**  
A Jury of international experts will award the Reflet d'Or for Best immersive experience and a cash prize donated by the City and the State of Geneva

- **Future Is Sensible Award**

A Jury of three international personalities active in the audiovisual field and creative industries will award a film, series or immersive experience that stands out for its humanism, ethical dimension and positive impact on the future. This award is donated by Migros Pour-cent culturel

#### 4. Conditions for admission

All films and programs genres are accepted, across documentary, fiction and animation, apart from works deemed to be advertising a service or product. Short films are not eligible with the exception of specific initiatives by the Festival.

**a)** Works must be produced in **2022-2023** (except the tribute programs and retrospective).

**b)** For **competitive** films/series/XR experiences, a **Swiss premiere is required**. Features films, series and immersive experiences entered cannot have been shown/screened/broadcast (on non-encrypted Swiss TV channels, free access web platforms, cinemas, festivals and public events) in Switzerland before **November 13, 2023**.

**c)** The Festival guarantees to protect the confidentiality and copyright of the works submitted: documents, links and material will only be communicated to the programming team. If selected, the Festival reserves the right to use the information and promotional material for its website and in its printed communication materials, in compliance with copyright guidelines.

**d)** After confirmation of its participation to the 29th edition of the Geneva International Film Festival, a work can no longer be withdrawn from the official selection. However, the Festival reserves the right to remove a work if it fails to meet the conditions stated here and disqualify any work with unauthorized inclusion of copyrighted materials.

**e)** A selection committee composed of Swiss and international experts assists the artistic director and the head of programs in the selection of works for the official program. The Festival reserves the right to choose the section in which the works will be presented.

**f)** Minimum durations accepted for the selected works are 60min for feature films and 15min per episode for series/mini-series. There is no set duration for immersive experiences or digital installations.

**g)** The following formats are accepted for the works invited to the 2023 edition:

- **Features:** DCP (24 or 25 fps)
- **Series:** DCP (24 or 25 fps), Digital File (Quicktime, Apple Pro Res, 100Mbit/s limited, 25 fps)
- **Immersive experiences (XR):** Digital File compatible with virtual reality headset, augmented or mixed reality devices (subject to technical and spatial possibilities)
- **Digital installations:** Digital File and any other required device (subject to technical and spatial possibilities)

## 5. Submission and deadlines

The calls for entries for the next edition of the Festival are open exclusively to series, digital and immersive experiences (virtual reality, augmented reality and mixed reality). There is no call for submission for feature or short films.

- a) Submissions are entered online on the Festival's MyGIFF platform.
- b) A screener link of the film/series or a build of the XR experiences must be provided with the submission form. The screener or the build must be accessible until September 2023. If the link or the password are no longer valid, it will not be possible to consider the film for selection.
- c) The submission and participation of a work in the Festival imply acceptance of the Terms and conditions for participation. In any unforeseen eventuality, the decision of the Festival Directorship is final.
- e) To be considered for the 2023 edition, submissions must be registered before the following deadlines:

- Series: August 17, 2023
- Immersive experiences: August 17, 2023
- Digital Installations: August 17, 2023

- g) There are no submission fees

## 6. Selected works

- a) Selected films, series and immersive experiences are registered online. If your work has been selected, you will receive a link to our online registration form. If that is not the case, please let us know immediately.
- b) Online registration generates a contract (the present Terms & Conditions) which you need to accept.
- c) For internal use, a **screener copy of the final version** of your film, series or immersive experience must be provided as soon as possible, via a downloadable link or file transfer (Vimeo, Dropbox, WeTransfer, Filemail, etc).
- d) Films and series can be made available to professionals (press, jury or industry screenings) except in specific cases.
- e) All the documentation required for the catalogue and website of the Festival must be sent as soon as possible, but no later than mid-September 2023:
  - Cast and credits
  - Filmography, nationality, year and country of birth of the filmmaker (s)/creator(s)
  - A photo of the filmmaker(s)/creator(s) (digital images, 300 DPI, JPG)
  - Between 1-3 horizontal stills from the work (digital images, 300 DPI, JPG)

- A file or a password-protected link of the final version of the work in high quality
- A file or a link to the trailer

**f)** In order to highlight each work and program, registration gives the Festival permission to use associated trailers and excerpts in its theater venues, on its website and on its promotional channels. The Festival reserves the role of writing the synopsis of the selected works for its various communication materials.

**g)** With the rights holder's authorization, the films, series and immersive experiences of the 2023 edition may be projected or showcased during rerun programs after the Festival (such as the GIFF Unlimited program).

**h)** All selected films and series will be screened in their original language with English and/or French subtitles. The production and costs of the subtitles will be at the Festival's expense. A dialogue list with timecodes may be requested, please ensure that it corresponds to the version/episode(s) which be screening during the Festival.

## **7. Print traffic and insurance**

**a)** A screening copy (final copy for Festival projection) physical or dematerialized, must arrive at the Festival within the mentioned deadline (by **October 6, 2023**) and must be made available until the end of the event (**November 13, 2023**). If a single screening copy is programmed at the same time in other festivals/events, we must be informed of it as soon as you register the programme, so that we can plan solutions and guarantee the best screening conditions.

**b)** Incoming and outgoing shipping costs or customs fees for final projection copies of selected films/series are covered by the Festival, as long as they reach the Festival within the specified deadline. These copies will be returned to the sender after the end of the Festival (allowing for exceptions when previously discussed).

Please send all material to:

Geneva International Film Festival (GIFF)  
Rue de Chantepoulet 1  
1201 Genève

**c)** For international print traffic, a proforma invoice must be send with the screening copy. Title, mention of the sender's name, format, length, number of medium(s) and the information whether the film/series is in color or black-and-white must always be stated on the document(s).

**d)** If the DCP copy is encrypted, one (1) KDM per projection must be made available for the duration of the Festival, as well as one (1) test KDM at an earlier date (for technical tests).

**e)** Insurance costs for the period between receipt and return of the film copies are covered by the Festival. In case of loss or damage during this period, the Festival is only liable for the replacement value of the blank carriers.

f) The screening copy (DCP) of the selected film/series must arrive by October 6, 2023 at the latest in order to ensure the best screening conditions and subtitling. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Festival.

## **8. General rules**

The Festival direction will deal with any exceptional circumstance not mentioned above. They may allow special dispensation regarding specific and justified requests. Participation in the Geneva International Film Festival implies full acceptance of all the terms and conditions outlined in the current regulations. The Festival reserves the right to change these Regulations at any time and without notification.

Geneva International Film Festival, April 2023.

For further information, please contact:  
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