

Registration deadline: **1st of June 2016**  
Films completed after: **June 2014**  
Max. running time: **40 minutes (including credits)**  
Country of production: **all**  
Genres accepted: **all genres accepted**  
Festival date: **5 – 16 October 2016**

5 – 9 October 2016 – *shnit PLAYGROUNDS*

Bangkok | Bern | Buenos Aires | Cairo | Cape Town | Hong Kong | Moscow | San José

5 – 16 October 2016 – *shnit CINEMAS*

Cinemas

15 – 16 October 2016 – *shnit FINALE*

New York

## en THE FESTIVAL

*shnit International Shortfilmfestival* is a premier venue for the exhibition and promotion of short films. The festival is an exceptional twelve day event with a unique concept – a transnational film festival simultaneously taking place in 8 cities on five continents worldwide. The festival includes three main segments:

- *shnit PLAYGROUNDS*
- *shnit CINEMAS*
- *shnit FINALE*

The *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION* includes five award categories with cash prizes of US \$100.000\* and attracts award-winning short filmmakers from around the globe. As a result, *shnit* presents a competition program of exceptional quality and density.

In its thirteen years of existence, *shnit* has become a major international short film festival that reinvents itself in ever new forms. What started as a local initiative is now an exceptional transnational event that connects and inspires makers and fans of short films across the globe. *shnit* embraces diversity, originality and exchange between creators and an audience from different cultures and backgrounds. It is the main goal to actively increase the perception of short filmmaking by creating a multi-platform event for high quality short films. With its cinematic treats, the popular festival fascinates more than 35.000 visitors and therefore belongs to the leading short film festivals in the world.

*shnit* is a non-profit organization. The annual festival is created and centrally coordinated by the *shnit FOUNDATION* in cooperation with the executives. The organization is built on principles of excellence and professionalism, enabling the global expansion of the festival possible.

## de DAS FESTIVAL

Das *shnit International Shortfilmfestival* ist ein erstklassiger Schauplatz zur Promotion und Vermittlung des Kurzfilms. Was einst in der Schweiz seinen Anfang nahm, hat sich innerhalb einer Dekade zu einem einzigartigen Kulturevent mit unverwechselbarem Konzept entwickelt – ein länderübergreifendes, simultan stattfindendes Kurzfilmfestival in 8 Städten auf fünf Kontinenten. *shnit* vereinigt drei Festivalssegmente unterschiedlichen Charakters:

- *shnit PLAYGROUNDS*
- *shnit CINEMAS*
- *shnit FINALE*

Der *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION* umfasst fünf Kategorien mit Geldpreisen von 100'000 US-Dollar\*. Dies ermöglicht es dem Festival, jährlich ein Wettbewerbsprogramm von außergewöhnlicher Qualität und Dichte zu präsentieren.

Seit dreizehn Jahren erfindet sich *shnit* in immer neuen Formen wieder. Einst als lokale Initiative gegründet, überwindet das Festival heute Grenzen und verbindet und inspiriert Macher und Fans von Kurzfilmen auf der ganzen Welt. *shnit* engagiert sich mit grosser Leidenschaft für den kurzen Film als unabhängige Form der Filmkunst. Als Multi-Plattform-Veranstaltung setzt sich *shnit* für die Vermittlung und Verbreitung von hochwertigen Kurzfilmen ein und fördert den Austausch zwischen Publikum und Filmschaffenden weltweit. Mit erlesenen Leckerbissen zieht das Festival jedes Jahr tausende Filmliebhaber in seinen Bann und zählt über 35'000 Besuchern weltweit mittlerweile zu den führenden Kurzfilmveranstaltungen.

*shnit* ist eine Non-Profit-Organisation. Das jährlich stattfindende Festival wird von der *shnit FOUNDATION* in Zusammenarbeit mit den Verantwortlichen der Festivalssegmente konzipiert und koordiniert. Mit dieser Organisationsstruktur festigt *shnit* das transnationale Netzwerk der Kurzfilmschaffenden und die wachsende Gemeinschaft von Kurzfilmliebhabern weltweit.

## es EL FESTIVAL

El *shnit International Shortfilmfestival* es un lugar de primera para la exhibición y promoción del cortometraje. Confinado en sus inicios dentro de las fronteras suizas, ahora el festival se ha convertido en un evento excepcional, con un concepto único; un festival de cine transnacional llevado a cabo simultáneamente en varias ciudades de los cinco continentes. El festival consiste de tres segmentos principales:

- *shnit PLAYGROUNDS*
- *shnit CINEMAS*
- *shnit FINALE*

La competencia internacional *shnit OPEN* consiste de cinco categorías con premios en efectivo de US-\$ 100'000 – y atrae galardonados cineastas de todo el mundo. A partir de ese la competencia presenta una colección de obras de arte estéticamente atractivos y ambiciosos.

*shnit* está dedicado a celebrar y compartir con el público el apasionante mundo del cortometraje. Celebramos la diversidad, originalidad y el intercambio entre los creadores y una audiencia que cada vez es mayor en todo el mundo. Por esta razón, nuestro objetivo es aumentar activamente la percepción de la toma de cortometrajes, creando una plataforma multi-eventos para películas cortas de alta calidad. Con sus delicias cinematográficas, la fiesta popular fascina a casi 35'000 visitantes. Hoy en día *shnit* pertenece a los principales festivales de cortometrajes en el mundo.

*shnit* es una organización sin fines de lucro. Este evento anual se ha creado y coordinado a nivel central por la *shnit FOUNDATION*, en cooperación con nuestros ejecutivos. Esto requiere cooperación activa entre los ejecutivos que a cambio, fortalecen la red transnacional de cineastas y la creciente comunidad de aficionados.

# TERMS AND CONDITIONS

## [1] THE ORGANIZATION

- The *shnit International Shortfilmfestival* is a non-profit organization. The annual festival and its film sections are created and centrally coordinated by the *shnit FOUNDATION* in cooperation with the *PLAYGROUND* executives. The organization is built on principles of excellence and professionalism, enabling the global expansion of the festival. This requires active cooperation between *PLAYGROUND* executives which, in return, strengthens the transnational network of «shortfilmmakers» and the growing community of «shortfilmlovers». The festival delivers a high quality program of new and established international short films.
- The *shnit FOUNDATION* (CHE-485.790.832) is an international not for profit registered foundation based in Switzerland.
- The final selection of all films presented at the festival and their placement in the program is the responsibility of the festival board.

## [2] ELIGIBILITY

- The participation is open to everyone.
- The competition exists in two categories: *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION* (see also [4.1]) and *NATIONAL COMPETITION(S)* (without entry fee). Films may compete in both *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION* and *NATIONAL COMPETITION* simultaneously.
- The festival is open to short films of all production techniques, including animation, documentary, drama, experimental or artist film and hybrid work from low to high budgets.
- Films must have a running time of **less than 40 minutes**, including credits (see also [3] AWARDS & PRIZES).
- The festival does not require any premiere status but notes that this may come into consideration during the selection process. Films must have been completed after **1<sup>st</sup> of June 2014**.
- Films that have previously been submitted to the festival will not be accepted. While the festival does accept works-in-progress, films will only be considered for programming for the year in which they are first submitted.
- For preview screening copies: All non-English language films (or non-standard English language dialects) must provide English subtitles.
- Submissions may not be withdrawn from the festival once they have been entered, except at the sole discretion of the festival.
- All films are eligible for the corresponding category within the *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION* or *NATIONAL COMPETITION*. In consultation with the filmmaker the selection committee reserves the right to offer a place in non competitive programs.

## [3] AWARDS & PRIZES

- In total a prize money of US-Dollar 100.000\* is awarded in the *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION* 2016.
  - **THE FLAMING FAUN – shnit JURY AWARD**  
Category up to 10 Minutes (incl. credits) | US-\$ 20.000\*
  - **THE FLAMING FAUN – shnit JURY AWARD**  
Category up to 20 Minutes (incl. credits) | US-\$ 20.000\*
  - **THE FLAMING FAUN – shnit JURY AWARD**  
Category up to 40 Minutes (incl. credits) | US-\$ 20.000\*
  - **THE FLAMING FAUN – shnit PLAYGROUNDS AWARD**  
Audience Award | US-\$ 20.000\*
  - **THE FLAMING FAUN – shnit CINEMAS AWARD**  
Audience Award | US-\$ 20.000\*
- Jury and Audience prizes will be awarded in the following *NATIONAL COMPETITION(S)* 2016:
  - SWISS MADE
  - MADE IN ARGENTINA
  - MADE IN CHINA
  - MADE IN COSTA RICA
  - MADE IN EGYPT
  - MADE IN RUSSIA
  - MADE IN SOUTH AFRICA
  - MADE IN THAILAND

All *NATIONAL COMPETITION(S)* will be awarded according to each *PLAYGROUND*'s policy.

- Audiences and Jury Awards will not be awarded to the same film.
- *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION* winners must attend the award ceremony on October 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 in New York City in order to receive the award, the cash prize and the statuette *THE FLAMING FAUN*. *NATIONAL COMPETITION* winners must attend the relevant national awards ceremony on October 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 to receive their award. All

awards will be handed personally to the director. In exceptional cases only, a representative can be put in charge (upon agreement with the festival board).

- Winners shall mention their awards in future publicity/film copies of the winning short film as well as in their professional resumes, web pages and similar media.
- The first half of the prize money will be paid out by bank transfer within 20 days upon receipt of all necessary bank details. The second half of the prize money will be paid out by May 2017, at the latest.\* Bank charges (if applicable) are to be borne by the recipient of the prize money.

## [4] ENTRY PROCEDURE

- Official deadline for entries: **June 1<sup>st</sup> 2016**.
- There are two submission categories for entering a short film: *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION* and *NATIONAL COMPETITION(S)*. Both submissions qualify a film for consideration for the *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION* and all rights associated therewith. Dual submission is not necessary.
- *shnit* has partnered with web portals to accept digital submissions. For submission on our partner platforms please refer to the respective guidelines on their websites (such as *reelport.com*, *shortfilmdepot.com*, *withoutabox.com* and *filmfreeway.com*).
- Additionally, you can submit your film through our website [www.shnit.org](http://www.shnit.org).
- Please choose **ONE** way to submit your film.

### [4.1] INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

The entry deadlines:

• <b>Earlybird Deadline</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> December 2015</b>	<b>0 US-\$ (No fee)</b>
• <b>Early Deadline</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> March 2016</b>	<b>25 US-\$</b>
• <b>Regular Deadline</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> May 2016</b>	<b>35 US-\$</b>
• <b>Late Deadline</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> June 2016</b>	<b>45 US-\$</b>

### [4.2] NATIONAL COMPETITION(S) – without entry fee

- There is no submission fee to enter your film to a *NATIONAL COMPETITION*.
- *The eligible countries are:*
  - ARGENTINA
  - CHINA
  - COSTA RICA
  - EGYPT
  - RUSSIA
  - SOUTH AFRICA
  - SWITZERLAND
  - THAILAND

- The following films are eligible for *NATIONAL COMPETITION(S)*:

- Films produced within the relevant country
- Films directed by a national of the relevant country

Submissions for a *NATIONAL COMPETITION* automatically qualify for consideration for the *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION*. A dual submission is not necessary.

### [4.3] Guidelines for submission on shnit.org

- Preview copies are accepted on the following formats: DVD, BluRay, hard drive, USB pen drive (postmarked –make sure that the package arrives by June 6<sup>th</sup> the latest), or a password secured link.
- Account to pay the entry fee to: *shnit FOUNDATION*  
IBAN: CH41 0023 5235 1198 8802 W / BIC: UBSWCHZ80A  
Please make sure that you indicate your film title as payment reference.
- Submission parcels must be labeled «NO COMMERCIAL VALUE – FOR CULTURAL PURPOSES ONLY». The value of goods is to be declared with 1 US-\$.
- Shipping costs for preview copies will neither be refunded nor returned. Preview copies will be digitized and stored in the festival archive.
- Preview copies must be sent to the following address:  
shnit International Shortfilmfestival | shnit FOUNDATION  
Marktgassee 36 | CH-3011 Bern | SWITZERLAND
- Several films may be submitted. A separate entry form is required for each film submission.
- Illegible or incomplete entry forms will not be accepted.
- Additional material such as press packs and production information are not required at this stage and should not be included.

## [5] NOTIFICATION & SELECTION

- Arrival of submissions and preview copies cannot be confirmed.
- An independent selection committee is appointed by the festival to view all submissions for programming consideration. All entries are first considered for competition program, but will also be considered for other programs where appropriate. Decisions made by the selection committee are final.
- The final selection will be released online at [www.shnit.org](http://www.shnit.org) on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2016. Only the submitters of the selected films will be contacted personally.
- Participants are not entitled to claim rental or other fees for the screenings of their films at the festival.

## [6] SUBMISSION OF SCREENING COPIES

- The festival will request the submission of the screening copies from successful applicants. Please do not submit screening copies before you get the instructions. We request a digital file for screening: Video tape formats or film prints are not applicable.
- Screening copies must be submitted before **July 30<sup>th</sup> 2016**.
- The participant is responsible for the costs of sending the screening copy to the festival. The festival covers the costs of returning or forwarding screening copies.
- Every screening copy need English subtitles in a separate file (e.g.: .str-file).

## [7] shnit FESTIVAL

- The festival date is **5 – 16 October 2016**.
- The dates of the festival segments are:

• <i>shnit PLAYGROUNDS</i>	5 – 9 October 2016
• <i>shnit CINEMAS</i>	5 – 16 October 2016
• <i>shnit FINALE</i>	15 – 16 October 2016
• <i>shnit EXPANDED</i>	5 – 19 October 2016

- All cities involved in the festival will be announced in August 2016 the latest.
- The festival hosts industry professionals and guests, and offers guest and meeting services. (See also [8] VISITING THE FESTIVAL).
- Extracts of the film (under 3 minutes or up to 10% of the total length of the film) and film stills may be used at the festival, for media coverage (including but not limited to TV broadcasting, cinema trailers, online media) and promotional (incl. *shnit*-postcards), archival and other non-commercial purposes.
- Contact information for all films selected for screening at the 2016 festival will be published in the festival catalogue and / or on the website.
- The festival will make previews of selected films 2016 available to the media and official jury members.
- A selection of films from the 2016 festival may be screened as a *shnit PREVIEW* (preview screening) before the festival. Best efforts will be made to ensure that filmmakers whose films are being screened in *shnit PREVIEW* will be informed about the places and dates of the screenings.
- The segment *shnit PLAYGROUNDS* (festival cities) shows the entire *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION*. All audience votes for the *shnit PLAYGROUNDS AWARD* will take place within the screenings of *shnit PLAYGROUNDS*. The festival segment *shnit CINEMAS* showcases a selection of the *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION* in selected cinemas and cultural centers in various countries. All audience votes for the *shnit CINEMAS AWARD* will take place within the screenings of *shnit CINEMAS*.
- For each of the five award categories three films will be nominated.
- The festival segment *shnit FINALE* presents all 15 nominated films from the *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION* in New York.
- The festival segment *shnit EXPANDED* hosts an «online screening» which is located in a password-protected secure online environment on the festival website. Access is granted against payment of a fee or by invitation only. For the duration of six days, all nominated films of the *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION* will be shown. After October 16<sup>th</sup> the five winning films will be made available, for a duration of three days until October 19<sup>th</sup> 2016 in a password-protected secure online environment for a fee or by invitation only.
- After the festival, a selection of films from the Official Program may be screened as a *BEST OF*-program, in cinemas and cultural centers in various countries. Best efforts will be made to ensure that filmmakers whose films are being screened as *BEST OF* will be informed about the places and dates of the screenings.
- The *NATIONAL COMPETITION* winners 2016 will be screened in all *PLAYGROUND*-cities in the next festival edition.
- The *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION* winners 2016 will be made available, for a duration of five days during the festival 2017 in a password-protected secure online environment by invitation only.

## [8] VISITING THE FESTIVAL

- The directors of selected films are invited to be guests of the festival and the festival may cover the expenses of their stay (private accommodations, professional accreditation). All hospitality arrangements are assigned by the respective managers of each segment and remain limited within one's reach.
- If the director or producer of the film cannot attend the festival, the invitation may be forwarded to another member of the film crew or cast.
- More information about guest services will be provided personally to successful applicants.

## [9] shnit SHOWREEL

- The festival hosts an online showreel platform for professionals. The aim of *shnit SHOWREEL* is to promote quality short films within a professional realm to enhance future success of films selected by the festival.
- Extracts of films, film stills and contact information for all films selected for screening at the 2016 festival could be published on the website of *shnit SHOWREEL*.
- All short films selected for the festival will be encoded and included in the digital showreel, available to delegates who attend the festival and registered professionals only.
- After the festival the films will remain available to registered delegates.
- The involvement in *shnit SHOWREEL* is not compulsory. Should you wish not to be included please email to [showreel@shnit.org](mailto:showreel@shnit.org) before September 1<sup>st</sup> 2016.
- *shnit SHOWREEL* is a working title and is subject to change without prior notice.

## [10] LIABILITY

- The sender of the submitted film is responsible for all copyrights. He is legally authorized to enter his short film in the festival and, if selected for the festival, authorized to give screening permission.
- The applicant has secured all necessary rights for both picture and sound, and exhibition will not violate or infringe upon any rights, including but not limited to music, images, and content.
- If selected for the festival the applicant acknowledges and agrees that an exhibition quality digital screening file must be made available for screening by July 30<sup>th</sup> 2016.
- The film, including all copyrights, remains the property of the author.
- The films will be handled with the outmost care. However, the festival management will assume no liability for damages or loss.
- The applicant has to read and accept the regulations and guidelines for participation.
- Failure to comply with these terms and conditions may result in the submission being disqualified.
- In the event of disagreement concerning the interpretation of the terms and conditions, the interpretation of the festival will take precedence.
- The festival is obliged not to use or dispose of any films for commercial purposes. Any further use of a film will be inquired about if relevant.
- The non-profit nature of the foundation's activities guarantees that the works submitted will be used only to advance the cultural objectives of the *shnit FOUNDATION*.
- These regulations are subject to change without prior notice.

\*For reasons of planning security the *shnit International Shortfilmfestival* has to link the amount of 100.000 US-\$ (5 x 20.000 US-\$) to the international exchange rate of the Swiss Franc (CHF). Record date is January 7<sup>th</sup> 2016. The exact paid-off prize money amount will be determined at the time of transfer within 20 days of the *shnit FINALE*. Note The amount either corresponds to the equivalent of 20.000 US-\$ or (in case of currency weakness of the Swiss Franc) will be converted to the corresponding amount in US-\$ in relation to the exchange rate of Swiss Francs (CHF) according to the record date. No legal claim on the part of applicants can be asserted in terms of cash prizes.

Note: for the sake of readability the masculine form was chosen in the text above. Nevertheless the specifications are meant for all genders.