

Registration deadline
Films completed after
Max. running time
Country of production
Genres accepted
Festival date

1st of June 2017
June 2015
40 minutes [including credits]
all
all genres accepted
18 – 29 October 2017

18 – 22 October 2017 – shnit PLAYGROUNDS
Bangkok | Bern | Buenos Aires | Cairo | Cape Town | Hong Kong | Moscow | San José
18 – 29 October 2017 – shnit CINEMAS
Selected cinemas and cultural centers in various countries
29 October 2017 – shnit FINALE
New York

^{en} THE FESTIVAL

shnit Worldwide 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 four award categories 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 fifteen 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 Worldwide 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 vier Awards-Kategorien. Dies ermöglicht es dem Festival, jährlich ein Wettbewerbsprogramm von außergewöhnlicher Qualität und Dichte zu präsentieren.

Seit fünfzehn 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 Worldwide 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 consiste de cuatro categorías con premios 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 Worldwide 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 «short-filmlovers». 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 **1st of June 2015**.
- 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 20.000* is awarded in the *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION 2017*.
 - **THE FLAMING FAUN – shnit TRIBUTE AWARD**
Category up to 10 Minutes (incl. credits) | US-\$ 5.000*
 - **THE FLAMING FAUN – shnit TRIBUTE AWARD**
Category up to 20 Minutes (incl. credits) | US-\$ 5.000*
 - **THE FLAMING FAUN – shnit TRIBUTE AWARD**
Category up to 40 Minutes (incl. credits) | US-\$ 5.000*
 - **THE FLAMING FAUN – shnit AUDIENCE AWARD**
All Audience Votes | US-\$ 5.000*
- Jury and Audience prizes will be awarded in the following *NATIONAL COMPETITION(S) 2017*:
 - 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 *shnit TRIBUTE Awards* will not be awarded to the same film.
- *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION* winners must attend the award ceremony on October 29nd 2017 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 22nd 2017 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 prize money will be paid out by bank transfer the latest by the end of the year 2017 upon receipt of all necessary bank details. Bank charges (if applicable) are to be borne by the recipient of the prize money.

[4] ENTRY PROCEDURE

- Official deadline for entries: **June 1st 2017**.
- 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 *Festhome.com*, *filmmfreeway.com*, *shortfilmdepot.com*, *reelport.com* and *withoutabox.com*).
- Additionally, you can submit your film through our website www.shnit.org.
- Please choose **ONE** way to submit your film.

[4.1] INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

The entry deadlines:

• Earlybird Deadline	1st December 2016	0 US-\$ (No fee)
• Early Deadline	1st March 2017	25 US-\$
• Regular Deadline	1st May 2017	35 US-\$
• Late Deadline	1st June 2017	45 US-\$

[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:*
 - THAILAND
 - SWITZERLAND
 - ARGENTINA
 - EGYPT
 - SOUTH AFRICA
 - CHINA
 - RUSSIA
 - COSTA RICA
- 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 6th the latest), or a password secured link.
- Account to pay the entry fee to: *shnit FOUNDATION*
IBAN: CH92 0079 0016 9705 0699 8 / BIC: KBBECH22XXX
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 Worldwide 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 on September 1st 2017. 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 30th 2017**.
- 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 **18 – 29 October 2017**.
- The dates of the festival segments are:
 - **shnit PLAYGROUNDS** 18 – 22 October 2017
8 Festival cities - playing most of the program
 - **shnit CINEMAS** 18 – 29 October 2017
Selected cinemas and cultural centers in various countries
 - **shnit APP**** 18 Oct. - 1 Nov 2017
online screening | Password restricted
 - **shnit FINALE** 29 October 2017
Award ceremony taking place in New York
- All cities involved in the festival will be announced in August 2017 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 2017 festival will be published in the festival catalogue and / or on the website.
- The festival will make previews of selected films 2017 available to the media, industry representatives and official jury members.
- A selection of films from the 2017 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 place(s) and date(s) of the screening(s).
- The three festival segments together will play the *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION*. The three segments are: *shnit PLAYGROUNDS*, *shnit CINEMAS* and *shnit APP***. The global audience will vote with our online voting system.
- For each of the four award categories three films will be nominated.
- The festival segment *shnit FINALE* presents all 12 nominated films from the *INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION* in New York.
- After October 29nd the four winning films will be made available, for a duration of three days until November 1th 2017 in a password-protected secure online environment and/or *shnit APP* 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 place(s) and date(s) of the screening(s).
- A selection of the winners of the *NATIONAL COMPETITIONS 2017* will be screened in all *PLAYGROUND*-cities in the next festival edition.

[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 2017 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 before September 1st 2017.
- *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 30th 2017.
- The film, including all copyrights, remains the property of the author.
- The films will be handled with the utmost 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 Worldwide Shortfilmfestival* has to link the amount of 20,000 US-\$ (4 x 5,000 US-\$) to the international exchange rate of the Swiss Franc (CHF). Record date is January 1th 2017. The exact paid-off prize money amount will be determined at the time of transfer by the ending of the year 2017. Note The amount either corresponds to the equivalent of 5,000 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.

***shnit APP* is a working title and is subject to change without prior notice.

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