



26th International Festival
of Creative Documentary
La Rochelle - France

6th-11th November 2026
Submissions on :
www.docfilmdepot.com

REGULATIONS

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION AND YOUTH COMPETITION

The International Festival Of Creative Documentary of La Rochelle is a cultural annual event organized by the Association Escales Documentaires.

The head-office of the Association is based in La Rochelle :

13, rue de l'Aimable Nanette - 17000 La Rochelle - France
Phone : +33 (0)5 46 42 34 16
Email : contact@escalesdocumentaires.org
Website : www.escalesdocumentaires.org

The Association sets the orientations of the Festival. It takes the entire responsibility for the films' admission, selection and screening. It is also in charge of appointing the juries who award the prizes, alone or in association with the prizes' sponsors.

SPECIFICATIONS

The documentaries we solicit for our competitions must seek to capture complex issues of our time, through pluralist inspirations and inspiring visions of authors. We want these films to deeply enlighten the social, political, historical, environmental, economic or artistic realities of today's world through singular cinematographic forms. It is important for us that during debates, documentaries offer a space of reflection and emotion inviting to a bigger intelligence of humankind, its condition and its environment. We will select documentaries revealing a creative vision of our society's issues.



The festival Escales Documentaires of La Rochelle aims to :

- highlight the creativity within the documentary field
- present the vision of authors by offering a creative interpretation of reality
- offer to a large public the best creative documentaries through a selection of audiovisual work from all around the world and beyond that, to raise awareness of the audiovisual creation among the audience.

1. REGISTRATION CONDITIONS

The selection is only made between documentaries completed after the 31st of Decembre 2024.

- Running time is not limited
- Reports and promotional, corporate or industrial films are not accepted
- Films already submitted to the selection committee in previous editions are not accepted, even in a new version.

2. SUBSCRIPTION

Each documentary must be exclusively registered on the Docfilmdepot platform :
www.docfilmdepot.com

The deadline for registration is the **31st of May 2026**.

Submission fee : 15€ + cost associated to the use of the Docfilmdepot platform.

The Festival receives hundreds of submissions, and the modest fees are necessary to ensure that all films are viewed and fairly considered, as well as to support the costs of curation and the running of the Festival.

Submitters should proceed following all steps and instructions. Costs associated to the use of the mentioned platforms, as well as the complete guidance and filling of the submission forms are on the responsibility of the submitter.

The Festival requests that entrants do not send a DVD directly to the Festival, send unsolicited Vimeo (etc) links to the Festival, and do not appeal for fee waivers.

3. SELECTION

Directors and producers will be personally notified about the selection (or non-selection) of their film. Moreover, the selected films' list will also be available on the Festival website (www.escalesdocumentaires.org).

Once selected in a competition, a documentary cannot be withdrawn by the director, producer or distributor.

The selected documentaries will received a flat screening fee, at the amount decided by the association.



4. YOUTH COMPETITION

The selection committee will submit a pre-selection from which the selection committee of the Youth Competition (high school students and young workers) will choose the documentaries competing in the Youth Competition.

5. OTHER SECTIONS

The films registered in competition might be selected for other non-competitive categories that are parts of the Escales Documentaires' official selection : Escale océan, Escale de mémoire, etc.

6. SHIPPING OF THE SELECTED FILMS

The screening copies of the selected films must be provided in the following formats :

- DCP
- HD file

The Association alone decides in which location each film will be shown, and therefore the type of file required.

The screening copy (HD or DCP) and a back-up copy (H264) must be sent before the **2nd of October 2026** at the following address :

Escales Documentaires – Coraline Cantat-Moltrecht
13, rue de l'Aimable Nanette – 17000 La Rochelle – France

or digitally at : coralinecm@escalesdocumentaires.org

Copies will be returned by the 15th of December 2026.

Transport and insurance costs

Shipping costs must be paid by the participants, but return expenses will be covered by the Escales Documentaires. Insurance costs between reception and return of the copies will be paid for by the Escales Documentaires. In case of loss or damage during this time, the Festival is only liable for the replacement value of the copy.

We highly recommend registered letters with acknowledgement of reception for the sending of small IT material (hard drives, USB...).

7.AWARDS

Grand Jury Award : 1000€, awarded by the departement of Charente-Maritime, deposited to the director.

Audience Award : 500€, awarded with the support of one of our sponsors, deposited to the director.



Award against hate and discriminations: awarded by WorkSaga (amount to be communicated later), deposited to the director.

Youth Competition

Youth Award : 1000€, awarded with the support of one of our sponsors, deposited to the director.

Copyright holders of the awarded films commit to make appear on all promotional material the laurel corresponding to the received award.

8. SUBTITLES

Original version with French subtitles of selected non-French-speaking films are desirable.

In absence of French subtitles, the documentary must be sent along with English ones. For the screening, if the original language is not French, and if no French subtitles are available, a clean version and an English .srt file will be asked.

9. GUESTS

The directors of the films in competition will be invited to present their film at the Festival. The Festival will cover the accomodation and catering corresponding to the screening date, the transport corresponding to (based on) a return ticket La Rochelle-Paris, as well as a flat-rate compensation for the discussion.

The Festival will facilitate the transport of the directors not living in France with the collaboration of institutions.

The directors as well as the film crew of the selected films in other non-competitive sections will benefit from a free access to each event of the Festival. The directors will be informed of the transport and accomodations conditions when the selection will be announced.

10. RIGHTS AND AUTHORISATIONS

By the acceptance of present rules, the producers of the selected films for the Festival certify to abide by the rules of the code of intellectual property.

Publication

The data and stills sent during submission and/or selection of the films will be used in several promotional publications (programmes, catalogues, website, and social networks) and may be translated, corrected or edited.

Extracts of the film

Participants allow the Festival to broadcast some extracts of their presented films (the extracts being limited to 10% of the total running time of the film, and not exceeding 3 minutes) on the French and foreign television channels and on the Internet. Such extracts may also be used for the promotion of the Festival (teaser made by the Festival).



Screenings at the Festival

Selected films will be screened one to two times during the Festival.

The awarded films (International Competition, Audience Prize, Prize against hate and discrimination and Youth Competition) will have a special screening a few days after the Festival.

The films selected in any category (including the competitive ones) might be broadcasted online on the website www.escalesdocumentaires.org (geographical and duration conditions are negotiable). These possible broadcasts may intervene as an addition to the on-site screenings or replace the Festival if required by external factors (public health risk for example).

Screenings post-festival

Producers authorize a non-commercial and free of charge distribution of the award-winning films of the 2026 Festival.

These screenings take place within the context of educational schemes managed by our Association in the year following the Award Ceremony. These screenings are free for the audience and will take place in, at least, three cities of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region.

11. EDUCATIONAL NETWORK

Participants agree on the fact that their films can be selected and presented, with or without partnership with the Canopé network (the local educational information centre), to the schools of the Nouvelle-Aquitaine region.

12. ARCHIVES

The Association can seek from producers the right to acquire a copy of any selected films and particularly the awarded ones for promotional actions and archives in the Association's database.

The Association reserves the right to acquire a copy of the other submitted films with the agreement of the copyright holders.

The Association commits itself expressly to limit its use to its appropriate, strictly cultural and non-commercial activities. Any screening of selected or non-selected film aside from the Escales Documentaires Festival will be made only after having received the precondition agreement of the copyright holders.

13. CASES NON-PROVIDED FOR AND DISPUTES

The board of the Association or its legal representative is in charge of settling cases not provided for and granting dispensations from the rules, upon justified and formal request.

Participation in the Festival implies full acceptance without reservation of all the terms outlined in the present regulations.

In case of dispute on them, only the French text shall prevail. In case of dispute concerning the interpretation or application of the contract, the parties agree to defer to the discretion of the Board of the Courts of La Rochelle, only after having exhausted the usual remedies for amicable ways (conciliation, etc.).