

THE DREAM MAKERS CONTEST – CHALLENGE #3 RULES

PURPOSE

1. THE DREAM MAKERS is an international short film competition promoted by CUPRA together with Juan Antonio Bayona, in collaboration with ESCAC and Berlinale; and with the Sitges Fantastic Film Festival and Studio Babelsberg. Its purpose is to provide professional support to a young director through the audiovisual production of the winning short film project.

THE DREAM MAKERS CONTEST, CHALLENGE #3 is aimed at emerging filmmakers, who may submit their application through ESCAC or as part of their application to Berlinale Talents 2027.

PARTICIPANTS

2. All participants in the competition must:

- Be natural persons born between 1990 and 2004
- Have a fluent level of English
- Have a short film project in development or completed (open theme and genre, but with a perspective or social background)
- Be the holder of the project, provided that all team members, as well as legal and financial partners, are informed of and agree with the application

PRIZE

3. The prize of the competition is the production of the short film based on the winning project and entails the corresponding assignment of all exploitation rights in the short film, with the scope established in these rules.

4. The three finalist projects selected by ESCAC will be announced during the Sitges Fantastic Film Festival, to be held in Sitges between 8 and 18 October 2026. These three projects will compete together with the three selected by the Berlinale, and the winning project will be announced at the Berlin Film Festival in February 2027.

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

5. The competing projects must be in the fiction genre, excluding documentary or animation, and must be submitted in the language chosen by the candidate, but always with an English version of all the required documentation. However, the final project may be in any language.
6. Each participant may submit a maximum of one proposal per call. Joint proposals by a director and screenwriter or co-directors are accepted, but there will be a single winner, who will be the director or co-directors of the project.
7. The participating proposals must be conceived so that the duration of the short film produced is a maximum of twenty (20) minutes. The duration of the shooting of the short film may not exceed 8 days.
8. The participating proposals and scripts must be original and unpublished. They may not be the adaptation of any other pre-existing work of any type or genre, nor be a work derived from any other audiovisual work, whether produced or not. They may not have been publicly disseminated by any means.
9. Evidence of prior experience as a director, screenwriter or producer.
10. The participating projects may not be submitted, individually or jointly, to any type of public or private grants or subsidies, by the authors, or by any other third party, and may not be pending resolution of public or private grants or subsidies.
11. The participating projects may not be submitted to other competitions, awards or festivals until the date on which the winner of the competition is published. Likewise, projects which, at the time of their submission to this competition, are pending the resolution of any other similar script or short film project competition may not be submitted. Those that have been produced or are covered by agreements for their production, expressly including option agreements over the script, are also excluded.
12. The participant declares, under their sole responsibility, that the project, script and other materials submitted to THE DREAM MAKERS CONTEST – CHALLENGE #3 are original, that they hold the necessary rights for their submission to the competition and that such submission does not infringe intellectual property rights, image rights, rights to honour or any other third-party rights.

The organisation may request, at any time during the process, such documentation as may reasonably be necessary to prove authorship, ownership or availability of the rights over the project.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION AND MATERIALS

13. The participant must provide the following documentation on a mandatory basis:

1. Synopsis of the short film
2. Visual Dossier including a 30-second teaser of the short film
3. Treatment (5 pages)
4. Script
5. Casting Proposal
6. Technical Crew Proposal
7. Project video pitch in English (1 minute)
8. Director's reel or portfolio
9. Two previously produced fiction short films to prove experience as a director, screenwriter or producer (with English subtitles if they are in another language).
10. Duly completed and signed responsible declaration.

SUBMISSION PERIOD AND ADDRESS

14. Projects may be submitted from **August 24, 2026** until **11:59 p.m. (Mainland Spain time)** on **August 31, 2026**, using the participation form that will be published on the ESCAC website.

Failure to submit any of the required documents within this date range will result in the rejection of the application.

All links provided to submit the required documentation must be shared openly to facilitate access (without any password or encrypted access system).

COMPOSITION AND ROLE OF THE JURY

15. The process will have a single jury, which will assume both the functions of selecting finalists and the final decision on the winning project.

The jury will be common to the ESCAC Selection and the Berlinale Talents Selection. In the ESCAC Selection, it will be responsible for selecting three finalist projects from among the projects previously preselected by ESCAC. In the Berlinale Talents Selection, it will be responsible for selecting three finalist projects from among the candidate projects from that process.

The jury will also be responsible for choosing the winning project of Dream Makers Challenge #3 from among the finalist projects from the ESCAC Selection and the Berlinale Talents Selection.

The jury will be composed of the following members:

- Ignasi Prieto — Global Chief Brand Officer

- Juan Antonio Bayona — Film director and CUPRA ambassador, who will act as president of the jury
- Daniel Brühl — CUPRA brand ambassador
- Aintza Serra — ESCAC Development Director
- Ángel Sala — Director of the Sitges International Fantastic Film Festival
- Tricia Tuttle — Director of the Berlinale — Berlin International Film Festival —
- Marcus Loges — Studio Babelsberg

16. The selection of the finalist projects and of the winning project shall be final and not subject to appeal. The deliberations and votes of the jury shall be secret.

17. As an evaluation criterion, in addition to artistic quality, the jury will take into account the viability of the project.

SELECTION OF FINALISTS AND OF THE WINNING PROJECT

18. The selection process for Dream Makers Challenge #3 will be organised through two separate processes: the ESCAC Selection and the Berlinale Talents Selection. Both processes will converge in a common final phase, in which six finalist projects will compete: three from the ESCAC Selection and three from the Berlinale Talents Selection.

19. In the ESCAC Selection, once the registration period has ended, an internal ESCAC committee will carry out an initial preselection of up to ten projects from among all validly submitted applications.

20. The jury will then review the projects preselected by ESCAC and choose, from among them, three finalist projects of the ESCAC Selection. The organisation will individually notify those projects of their selection between 3 and 6 October 2026, requesting confirmation of their availability to continue participating in the process.

21. The finalist projects of the ESCAC Selection will be publicly announced at the opening gala of Sitges — International Fantastic Film Festival of Catalonia, scheduled for 8 October 2026. The finalists must be available to travel to and attend that event, under the terms indicated by the organisation.

22. In parallel, the Berlinale Talents Selection will be carried out in accordance with its own requirements, eligibility criteria and internal procedure. From among the projects that become candidates in that process, the jury will select three finalist projects, which will be announced in January 2027.

23. Between October 2026 and January 2027, tutorials and mentoring sessions for the finalist projects of the ESCAC Selection will take place, led by Team Bayona and Team ESCAC.

24. The three finalist projects of the ESCAC Selection and the three finalist projects of the Berlinale Talents Selection will compete jointly for the final prize of The Dream Makers Challenge #3 at the Berlin International Film Festival — Berlinale — 2027, scheduled from 10 to 21 February 2027. All finalists must be available to attend and participate in the activities, presentations, mentoring sessions or other events linked to the programme that are communicated to them by the organisation.

25. The winning project of The Dream Makers Challenge #3 will be chosen by the jury and announced during the Berlinale 2027.

26. In the event of withdrawal, failure to respond within the indicated period or inability to participate by any of the finalist projects of the ESCAC Selection, the organisation may replace it with another project from among the projects preselected by ESCAC, in accordance with the jury's criteria.

PRODUCTION OF THE WINNING SHORT FILM

27. The production company ESCAC Studio S.L. will agree with the winning director on the artistic and technical crew; however, the production company will have the final decision. ESCAC Studio has full decision-making authority over the hiring of the production crew, technical crew and supplier companies necessary for the production of the short film. Also over any matters relating to the distribution, exploitation and publicity of the produced short film.

28. No changes to the winning script will be accepted except those agreed with the production company and which entail adjustments justified by production-related issues of the short film.

29. The pre-production, shooting and post-production of the short film will take place during the months following the selection of the winner, between May 2027 and July 2027, taking into account that the short film will be presented at the 2027 edition of the Sitges Fantastic Film Festival.

AWARDS FOR THE PRODUCED SHORT FILM

30. The author(s) or technical crew member(s) shall receive those awards or amounts that are directly attributable to their status as author(s) of the audiovisual work. In the event of receiving a financial award for “Best Short Film” or best production, it shall be shared 50% between the PRODUCTION COMPANY and the director, once the PRODUCTION COMPANY has deducted from the total amount of the award the expenses incurred by the participation of the short film in that festival, competition or similar event. In the case of the sale of broadcast rights, payment for screenings, subsidies and any other income generated by the work both nationally and internationally, the amount thereof shall be allocated to the production company. If the awards are granted to a specific member of the team (actress or actor, music, editing etc.), the professional in question shall receive the financial award, if any.

LEGAL TERMS

31. The participant must hold the necessary rights over the project, script and other materials submitted, or have sufficient authorisations from the remaining authors, co-authors or rights holders for their submission to the competition and, where applicable, for the assignment of rights provided for in these rules.

Likewise, the participant guarantees that the project, script and materials submitted do not infringe intellectual property rights, image rights, rights to honour, privacy or any other third-party rights. In this regard, the participant shall hold the organisation harmless against any third-party claim arising from the breach of this guarantee.

32. The author of the winning project of the competition shall assign, through the corresponding contract reviewed by ESCAC, to the production company ESCAC Studio S.L., all intellectual property exploitation rights over the script and other materials necessary for the production of the short film, including the rights of reproduction, public communication, distribution and transformation.

This assignment shall be made on an exclusive basis, with the right to assign to third parties, worldwide and for the maximum term permitted by applicable law.

However, such assignment shall be without prejudice to the unwaivable moral rights and unwaivable remuneration rights that, where applicable, legally correspond to the authors of the audiovisual work.

33. Failure to accept the conditions established in the contract shall imply the waiver of the prize by the winning participant and, therefore, the express waiver of the production of the short film.

34. In the event that, due to the fault or negligence of the prizewinner, the production of the short film based on the winning script could not be started, had to be interrupted or had to be cancelled, the organisation will assess the possibility of claiming from them the reimbursement of all expenses incurred up to that time, as well as the economic damages caused to the three promoters of the initiative and to the production company ESCAC Studio S.L.

35. No employee of the entities, nor members of their governing bodies related to the organisation of the competition or to its sponsors, may participate in the competition.

36. The prize shall be subject to the corresponding taxation in accordance with applicable legislation.

PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION

37. The personal data provided by the participants will be processed by the organisers of the competition for the purpose of managing and promoting the competition, communicating the winning project and delivering the prize. Likewise, where participants have requested it, the

data will be used to send communications and commercial information from the organisers, including by electronic means.

38. The legal bases for processing the data are consent, performance of the contractual relationship and/or compliance with legal obligations. The processing of personal data marked as mandatory is necessary for the management of the competition, and therefore refusal to provide them will result in non-participation in the competition or waiver of the prize obtained. If they provide personal data of third parties in their participation, participants declare that they have informed the data subject and have their authorisation for the aforementioned communication.

39. Personal data will be communicated to the providers and collaborators of the organisers for the management of the competition and the data relating to the winning project will be transferred to the production company ESCAC Studio S.L. to enable the delivery of the prize and the management of the production.

40. The organisers will process personal data throughout the period of validity of the competition and of the assignment provided for in the “legal terms” clause. Once these periods have ended, the data will be retained for the limitation periods of the obligations that may arise from the processing.

POWERS OF THE ORGANISATION

41. The organisation reserves the right to make amendments to these rules, to the jury or to add successive annexes on its procedure or prizes, provided that they are justified by criteria of fairness or do not prejudice the participants and are duly communicated during the course of the competition. The organisation shall have full authority to decide on unforeseen circumstances that may arise and that are not covered by these rules. The organisation reserves the right to change the dates indicated above if required by the proper management of this call, of which the participants will be informed.

42. The organisation of the competition will delete the submitted projects once the corresponding edition has ended.

43. Participation in the competition implies consent to transfer all documentation to the members of the jury and to the administrative or technical collaborators involved in the execution of the competition.

44. The organisation shall have the authority to withdraw the status of winner and designate, where applicable, another winner in the event of breach of these rules by the former and also in the event that, due to the fault or negligence of the same, the production of the short film based on the winning script cannot be started, is interrupted or is cancelled.

45. The organisation may declare the prize not awarded.

46. In the event of a legal dispute, the competent courts shall be those of Barcelona.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE RULES

47. Participation in this call entails full acceptance of these rules, as well as the decisions of the organisation and the jury, and any breach thereof shall be grounds for elimination. The final interpretation of these rules corresponds to the organisation. Likewise, each participant authorises the use or dissemination of their image and professional/personal data within the framework of the development of this prize, whose actions include the promotional activities of the Competition.

48. The granting of the prize is subject to compliance with these rules in the manner and within the deadlines established in this call.