

# **NYON INTERNATIONAL ARCHAEOLOGY FILM FESTIVAL**

## **Official Competition Rules – FIFAN 2027**

### **Article 1 – Purpose and Organization**

The 15th edition of the Nyon International Archaeology Film Festival, hereinafter referred to as “FIFAN” or “the Festival,” will be held in Nyon, Switzerland, from August 31 to September 5, 2027.

FIFAN is organized jointly by the Roman Museum of Nyon with the support of the Nyon International Archaeology Film Festival Association.

These regulations define the conditions for registration, selection, and participation of works in the official competition of FIFAN 2027.

### **Article 2 – Mission of the Festival**

FIFAN’s mission is to promote archaeology and cultural heritage to the general public through film and new forms of audiovisual creation.

In particular, it aims to:

- promote audiovisual productions dedicated to archaeology, ancient history, and cultural heritage;
- feature films that highlight the role of archaeology as a critical tool for shedding light on contemporary issues;
- promote the dissemination of rigorous and accessible scientific knowledge;
- encourage dialogue among archaeologists, filmmakers, producers, cultural professionals, and the public;
- support innovative forms of storytelling;
- recognize works of outstanding scientific, narrative, cinematographic, artistic, or technological quality.

### **Article 3 – Competition Sections**

The official competition includes the following sections:

- **Archaeological Films**  
Documentary films, animated films, educational productions, or other audiovisual works whose primary subject is archaeology, ancient history, or the promotion of archaeological heritage.
- **Low-Budget Archaeology Films**  
Works that meet the criteria for the official competition and were produced with a total production budget of less than CHF 2,000.
- **Immersive Experiences**  
Works in virtual reality, augmented reality, mixed reality, or extended reality;

interactive installations; and other forms of immersive media related to archaeology, ancient history, or cultural heritage.

FIFAN reserves the right to adjust the competition sections based on the number, nature, and quality of the submissions received.

#### **Article 4 – Eligibility Requirements**

Eligible works must:

- Generally, completed after January 1, 2025;
- devoted primarily to archaeology, ancient history, or heritage;
- for which the person or entity submitting the entry holds the necessary rights and authorizations for their presentation at the Festival;
- that have not already been submitted to a previous edition of FIFAN, unless by invitation or with the Festival's express consent;
- that can be made available in a technical format compatible with the Festival's equipment.

Works may have been broadcast on television, on a digital platform, at another festival, or in an institutional setting prior to their presentation at FIFAN.

The Festival accepts Swiss and international productions, with no restrictions based on country of production.

Series may be submitted as a standalone episode or as a cut specifically intended for the Festival. The selection committee may request to view additional episodes or supplementary content.

Works of a promotional or advertising nature are generally not accepted.

#### **Article 5 – Selection Criteria**

Selection is based in particular on the following criteria:

- relevance of the subject matter to FIFAN's editorial focus;
- the scientific quality and validity of the information presented;
- the rigor of the sources and the transparency of the methodology;
- compliance with ethical principles related to archaeology, cultural heritage, and the representation of individuals and communities;
- the quality of the production and audiovisual writing;
- clarity, accessibility, and structure of the content;
- narrative, artistic, and technical quality;
- originality of the subject or approach;
- the work's ability to convey archaeological knowledge and to stimulate reflection or dialogue.

For immersive experiences, the following are also taken into consideration:

1. the quality of the experience offered;
2. the relevance of the interactivity and the immersive setup;
3. the quality of the user experience;
4. the connection between technological choices, storytelling, and scientific content;
5. the work's ability to foster new discoveries, understanding, or appreciation of cultural heritage.

## **Article 6 – Registration**

Registration is available exclusively through the platform listed on the FIFAN website. Any application submitted by other means will not be considered.

Applications must be submitted no later than midnight on February 28, 2027. Any application received after this deadline may be rejected.

Registration is free.

The registration form must be completed in full on the Filmchief platform. All required information is clearly indicated there.

To compete in the “low-budget archaeological film” category, the applicant must disclose the total production budget and be able to provide supporting documentation upon request.

The costs associated with sending the files, media, or equipment required for the selection process are the responsibility of the individual or entity submitting the application.

## **Article 7 – Accuracy of Information and Rights**

The person or entity submitting the application guarantees:

1. the accuracy of the information provided;
2. that they are authorized to submit the work and to accept these rules;
3. that they hold or have obtained all necessary rights and authorizations, including copyrights, neighboring rights, music rights, archival rights, image rights, and authorizations regarding the individuals depicted;
4. that the presentation of the work by FIFAN does not infringe upon the rights of third parties.

In the event of a dispute, claim, or litigation concerning the rights attached to a work, FIFAN shall not be held liable.

The Festival may request any documents necessary to verify the rights or authorizations claimed.

## **Article 8 – Selection**

Works are reviewed by a selection committee appointed by FIFAN.

The selection committee determines which works are included in the program and which are admitted to the various categories of the official competition.

It may decide:

1. to accept or reject a work;
2. to transfer a film to a category different from the one requested;
3. to screen a film out of competition;
4. to propose a film for a thematic, educational, family, or professional program.

The selection committee's decisions are final and binding and are not subject to appeal. The committee is not required to provide reasons for its decisions.

Those whose works are selected will be notified no later than [date]. The selection must remain confidential until its official announcement by FIFAN, unless otherwise authorized.

## **Article 9 – Confirmation of Participation**

The selection of a work becomes final only after written confirmation from the individual or entity that submitted it.

This confirmation constitutes:

1. final acceptance of these rules;
2. non-exclusive authorization to present the work as part of FIFAN;
3. a commitment to provide the requested technical, editorial, and promotional materials by the specified deadlines;
4. confirmation that no screening or rental fees will be charged to the Festival, unless prior written agreement has been obtained.

A selected work may not be withdrawn after confirmation of its participation, except under exceptional circumstances recognized by the Festival management.

## **Article 10 – Copies and Screening Formats**

Screening files must be received by the Festival no later than June 30, 2027.

Accepted formats and submission guidelines will be communicated to the selected works. The Festival may refuse a file that does not meet the required technical specifications.

The screening version must be identical to the one that was selected. Any substantial changes must be reported to and approved by the Festival.

The costs of transmitting files and, if applicable, physical materials to the Festival are the responsibility of the participating individual or entity. The terms regarding the return of any physical materials will be agreed upon separately.

The Festival takes the usual precautions for the storage and use of the files and media received; however, it cannot be held liable for any damage resulting from a pre-existing defect, technical incompatibility, or force majeure.

## **Article 11 – Languages and Subtitling**

French is the official language of FIFAN, which nevertheless maintains a resolutely international and multilingual approach, particularly in French, English, and German.

Works may be presented in their original language. When they are not available in French, they must be accompanied by a version with French subtitles or by all the materials necessary to produce such subtitles.

FIFAN may cover all or part of the cost of French subtitling for a selected film. In this case, the production company must submit, in the requested format and by the requested deadline:

1. the complete text of the commentary;
2. the transcript of the interviews and dialogues;
3. existing subtitles with their timecodes (.srt, .stl, or equivalent file);
4. information identifying the individuals involved in the work;
5. Credits, text overlays, and other text inserts, along with timecodes
6. any other elements necessary for translation and subtitling.

The production company guarantees the accuracy of the texts provided. The terms and conditions regarding the subsequent use of subtitle files produced by the Festival are defined separately.

## **Article 12 – Public Screening**

Selected works may be shown at one or more public screenings during the Festival.

FIFAN has sole discretion to determine:

1. the dates, times, and venues of the screenings;
2. the number of screenings;
3. whether the film will be included in a screening or a thematic program;
4. the technical and editorial details of its presentation;
5. the screening order;
6. the individuals invited to present or discuss the work.

The program is subject to change for organizational, technical, health, or safety reasons, or due to force majeure.

The selection of a work does not automatically entail coverage of travel or lodging expenses for its representatives. All invitations and financial support will be communicated separately.

### **Article 13 – Jury**

The jury for the film competition is appointed by FIFAN. It brings together experts from fields such as archaeology and audiovisual production.

The jury evaluates the works based on criteria defined by the Festival, paying particular attention to:

1. scientific validity;
2. the quality of the production;
3. narrative quality;
4. the originality of the approach;
5. the work's ability to convey knowledge to diverse audiences.

Where appropriate, a separate jury may be formed for immersive experiences.

Jury members agree to disclose any situation that could constitute a conflict of interest. Festival management will determine the appropriate measures, which may include recusal from the evaluation of the work in question.

Deliberations are confidential. The juries' decisions are final, binding, and without appeal.

The juries reserve the right not to award a prize if no work sufficiently meets the relevant criteria. Unless otherwise decided by the Festival, the same prize cannot be awarded ex aequo.

### **Article 14 – Awards**

The following awards may be presented in 2027:

1. Best Archaeology Film Award;
2. Best Low-Budget Archaeology Film Award;
3. Special Jury Prize;
4. Audience Award for Best Archaeology Film;
5. Audience Award for Best Immersive Experience.

The jury may also award honorable mentions to recognize particular scientific, narrative, artistic, technical, or innovative qualities.

FIFAN may create an additional award, such as a youth award, a school award, or an award presented by a partner. The specific conditions for such an award will be announced before the start of the Festival.

The awards are represented by miniature menhirs, crafted using prehistoric techniques. Where applicable, the nature and amount of any additional prize money will be announced separately.

The procedures for the public vote are defined by FIFAN. In the event of a tie, the Festival determines the applicable tie-breaking rule.

## **Article 15 – Announcement of Results**

The results are announced during the closing ceremony, on the website, and through FIFAN's communication channels.

Winners authorize the Festival to publish their names, the title of the work, images, and short excerpts for the purposes of informing the public and promoting the award winners.

Award-winning works may bear the following notation:

“Awarded at the Nyon International Archaeology Film Festival, Switzerland – FIFAN 2027”

The exact wording of the award received must be used in all communications.

The Festival may provide winners with an official logo or laurel wreath, the use of which must comply with the provided graphic guidelines.

## **Article 16 – Communication and Excerpts**

For selected works, the person or entity holding the rights grants FIFAN a non-exclusive, royalty-free license to use the materials submitted for the promotion of the Festival and its programming, including:

1. the title, synopsis, and credits;
2. photographs, posters, and visuals;
3. the trailer or teaser;
4. short excerpts from the work;
5. photographs or footage taken during the Festival.

These materials may be used on the FIFAN website, its social media channels, newsletters, printed or digital programs, in media relations, on screens at Festival venues, and in broadcasts or reports dedicated to FIFAN.

This authorization is granted for the promotion of the relevant edition, its award winners, and the Festival's archives, without territorial restrictions, on FIFAN's platforms and those of its media or institutional partners.

Registration constitutes confirmation that the promotional materials provided may be used under these terms and conditions.

## **Article 17 – Decentralized Screenings**

FIFAN may screen certain selected works as part of decentralized, nonprofit cultural, scientific, educational, or heritage events, particularly in museums, educational institutions, archaeological or historical societies, and partner institutions.

Any screening organized after the Festival must be preceded by prior notification to the person or entity holding the rights.

Upon submission of the application, the rights holder may:

1. authorize these non-commercial presentations in advance;
2. request to be consulted prior to each presentation;
3. refuse decentralized presentations.

Any specific conditions are outlined in the registration form.

## **Article 18 – Archiving**

Submissions, screening files, editorial documents, and promotional materials received may be retained in the FIFAN archives for documentary, historical, and administrative purposes.

Unless specifically authorized, this archiving does not permit the full public screening of the work outside of the screenings provided for in these regulations.

Any specific request regarding the storage of physical media or equipment must be communicated to the Festival prior to shipment.

## **Article 19 – Data Protection**

Personal data collected as part of the registration process is processed solely for the purposes of organizing the selection process, the competition, the programming, and communications related to FIFAN.

Such data may be shared with members of the selection committees, juries, and service providers involved in organizing the Festival, to the extent necessary for them to carry out their duties.

Data subjects may exercise their rights in accordance with applicable law by contacting [contact@fifan.ch](mailto:contact@fifan.ch).

## **Article 20 – Cancellation and Force Majeure**

FIFAN reserves the right to modify, postpone, suspend, or cancel all or part of the Festival or the competition in the event of circumstances beyond its control, including for health, safety, technical, or financial reasons, or in the event of force majeure.

Such a decision shall not give rise to any compensation.

When circumstances permit, the Festival may offer an online or hybrid presentation, or reschedule the event for a later date, subject to the consent of the rights holders where necessary.

### **Article 21 – Acceptance of the Rules**

Submission of a work implies full and unconditional acceptance of these rules by the person or entity submitting it.

In the event of any difficulty in interpretation or an unforeseen situation, the FIFAN management has the authority to make a final decision.

FIFAN reserves the right to amend these rules when the needs of the organization so require. Any substantial amendment will be communicated to the parties concerned.

In the event of any discrepancy between the different language versions of the rules, the French version shall prevail.

### **Article 22 – Governing Law and Jurisdiction**

These regulations are governed by Swiss law.

Any dispute that cannot be resolved amicably shall be referred to the competent courts of Nyon, Switzerland, subject to the remedies provided for by applicable law.

### **Article 23 – Contact**

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CH – 1260 Nyon  
Switzerland

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