



23rd edition – Nov. 16 to 22, 2026
2026 PARTICIPATION RULES
FILM SELECTIONS

Article 1 – Guiding Principle _____

The Association of the International Film and Adventure Book Festival (hereinafter referred to as FIFAV or FIFAV association) under the law of 1901 organizes the International Adventure Film and Book Festival of La Rochelle, the 23rd edition of which will take place from November 16 to 22, 2026.

Typical course of the event (possible evolution during the year 2026)

Monday, November 15 – Outside the Walls:

- Off-site screening in a town in the Charente-Maritime Department

Monday, November 16 – Outside the Walls:

- "Film retrospective" session at the Aquarium of La Rochelle

From Tuesday 17 (end of the day) to Sunday 22 November inclusive:

- The Festival at the Espace Encan in La Rochelle (film screenings, conferences, literary meetings, school meetings, participatory workshops, youth programming, photo exhibitions, bookshop and authors at signings, etc.)
- The Festival in libraries, media libraries, partner bookshops in the city, the La Rochelle agglomeration and the department.

It is partly a competitive event from an audiovisual point of view (see Articles 4 and 5).

The films selected in the Official selection could be in competition or out of competition, the decision being up to the organisers.

The pre-selection is open to amateur and professional filmmakers.

Article 2 – Themes _____

Films registered:

- Are documentary films responding to the themes of the FIFAV: *"Adventure, Travel, Exploration, Discovery"* according to the editorial line: *"Nature, Culture & Adventure"*.
- Emanating from French or foreign productions or self-productions.
- Have a duration between **40 and 90 minutes** (exceptionally 110 min.).

- Must not exceed 24 months of existence (Year of production/Delivery of the completed film).

Article 3 – Submission of films _____

The deadline for film submissions is Friday, August 21, 2026.

The registration of a film is free and must be done online on the Festival's website: www.fifav-larochelle.com - "2026 film registration" tab.

The completed registration form, regardless of the registration method chosen, constitutes a commitment and implies acceptance of these rules in their entirety.

If the film is selected, the rights holder undertakes:

- To return the duly signed participation rules, preceded by the words "Read and approved."
- To send the screening file required for broadcast on the day in question in a timely manner.

Note (1): All documents received will be kept by FIFAV for its archives and may be used free of rights for the promotion and communication of FIFAV and by press outlets that request it. Authors, producers or directors can submit several films to the selection committee. Each film must then be the subject of a registration.

Note (2): The fields filled in on the registration form and the communication kits sent must comply with the wishes of the director and the production company. In the event of the selection of the film, this data will be authentic, on all FIFAV communication elements (paper program, website, RS, etc.). This data can be modified (title, synopsis, etc.) before the closing date for registrations, by email to contact@fifav-larochelle.com

Article 4 – Selection of films by the FIFAV committee _____

The admission of works to the official selection of FIFAV and their distribution in/out of competition is the sole competence of the FIFAV "Films" Selection Committee, composed of members of the association and the salaried team in charge of programming.

This selection takes into account the appreciation and feelings of the selection committee with regard to the qualities of each film, both in terms of content and form. It also takes into account the coherence of the programming in its entirety.

In case of non-selection, those who applied via the online forms will receive an email notification in due course. The FIFAV will not send comments justifying its choices: "*Criticism is easy, art is difficult*". We are fully aware of this! We respect the works received, the work generated and the biases of each person.

Article 5 – Selections, Juries and Prizes awarded _____

Official Selection | Category in competition:

Each year, around twenty films are selected for the "in competition" category. These films are screened in the Michel Crépeau Auditorium at Espace Encan (782 seats) and are submitted:

- **Has an official Jury** composed of a president and 3 members appointed for each edition by the FIFAV association. The jurors are generally chosen according to their profiles, in connection with the theme of adventure, travel, audiovisual production, etc.

The official jury awards the following prizes:

- *Grand Prix of the Festival*
 - *Adventure Award*
 - *Jury's Favorite Award*
 - *Special Environment Award*
 - *Special Mountain Award*
- **To a Jury of middle school students** composed of a jury of 4 to 8 middle school students from various schools in the Charente-Maritime and awarding the *Regard de Collégiens Prize*.
 - **To the audience present in the auditorium.** Votes are collected after each screening and the FIFAV organizers ensure a pro-rata count of the people present in the room at the time of each screening. The public awards the *Grand Prix du Public*.
 - **To a jury composed of representatives of the thematic channel "Ushuaïa TV"** (partner channel of the festival) and who have watched the films preselected by them among the films of the official selection of the FIFAV (category "in competition"). Note: the pre-selection made by Ushuaïa TV takes into account films that have not already contracted to broadcast with another TV channel. They award the *Ushuaïa TV Prize*.
 - **To a female jury** composed of 3 women with affinities to the theme and appointed for each edition by the FIFAV association to reward an "adventurer" woman (and not a film). This jury watches a pre-selection of films featuring one or more women on screen from the films from the official FIFAV selection ("in competition" category). They award the *Adventurer Prize*.
 - **To a jury composed of representatives from the media team "Les Others"** (media partner of FIFAV) who have viewed the films preselected by FIFAV from among those with more than 50% original music (music specially composed for the film). They award the *Best Original Soundtrack Prize - Les Baladeurs*.

Please note:

- No prize money will be awarded at the end of the competition. A trophy will be presented to the guests on stage for each of the above-mentioned prizes (or sent by post if the guest cannot be present at the awards ceremony on Sunday, November 22, at the end of the day).
- The festival organizers will provide media coverage and publicity for the films awarded prizes.

Official Selection | Out of Competition Category

Each year, around twenty films are selected for the "Out of Competition" category. This selection includes films that may be screened:

- **At the “Studio”:** the festival's screening room with a capacity of 450 to 490 seats, located at the Espace Encan. Possible screening dates: Tuesday, November 17 to Sunday, November 22.
- **At the Aquarium de La Rochelle:** an amphitheater with a capacity of 130 seats located in the immediate vicinity of the Espace Encan. Possible screening dates: Monday, November 16 and Friday, November 20.
- **At the Michel Crépeau Auditorium:** Espace Encan auditorium with a capacity of 772 seats. Available for programming from Tuesday, November 17 to Sunday, November 22.

Please note:

1. Duplex:

Some films selected by the FIFAV and scheduled to be shown in the Michel Crépeau Auditorium will be broadcast simultaneously in “Le Studio”, with the aim of giving as many people as possible the opportunity to see the films in the FIFAV 2026 program.

This information will be communicated to those who have registered the film at the time of confirmation of the “additional” information for the official selection (category in or out of competition; day and time of screening, duplex broadcast or not).

2. Off-site screenings:

Each selected film can be the subject of an additional programme:

- Outside the walls in the agglomeration of La Rochelle or in the department during the week of the FIFAV.
Or
- During school sessions (schoolchildren, middle school students, high school students, students) at the Espace Encan and/or outside the walls.

Article 6 – Previews and unreleased episodes _____

FIFAV can program films in preview as part of national or international cycles, or unreleased films. This will be the subject of an agreement between the production company and the festival. In this case, the production company undertakes to respect its commitments, in order not to render the specific communication (special mentions on communication tools, press relations, etc.) carried out by the festival obsolete.

A preview screening is considered to be any screening before the cinema release or TV broadcast or the sale or online (paid/free) of the film. The preview can be part of a preview tour.

A film that has never been screened in public or broadcast is considered unpublished. The scale is to be defined accordingly of the territory concerned (national or international).

Article 7 – broadcasts rights _____

Each film selected for FIFAV, regardless of its length, whether in competition or out of competition, will be subject to a fixed fee for broadcasting rights, which varies depending on the screening venue. These broadcasting rights will be paid upon presentation of an invoice issued by the rights holder.

See table below:

DROITS DE DIFFUSION - FIFAV 2026					
Type de séance	Lieu	Salle	Jauge	Type d'accès	Montant des droits HT
Publique / en compétition	Espace Encan, La Rochelle	Auditorium + Studio (Duplex)	1232 à 1272	Payant	250,00 €
Publique / hors compétition	Espace Encan, La Rochelle	Auditorium + Studio (Duplex)	1232 à 1272	Payant	250,00 €
Publique / en compétition	Espace Encan, La Rochelle	Auditorium	782	Payant	200,00 €
Publique / hors compétition	Espace Encan, La Rochelle	Auditorium	782	Payant	200,00 €
Publique / hors compétition	Espace Encan, La Rochelle	Studio	450 à 490	Payant	150,00 €
Scolaire	Espace Encan, La Rochelle	Auditorium + Studio (Duplex)	1233 à 1272	Gratuit / Payant	250,00 €
Scolaire	Espace Encan, La Rochelle	Auditorium	782	Gratuit / Payant	200,00 €
Scolaire	Espace Encan, La Rochelle	Studio	450 à 490	Gratuit / Payant	150,00 €
Publique / hors compétition	Aquarium, La Rochelle	Amphithéâtre	130	Payant	100,00 €
Publique / hors compétition	Ville / Agglo. / Département	Hors les Murs	100 à 300	Gratuit	100,00 €

Article 8 – Films of foreign production

The various FIFAV selections are international. Films from foreign productions must be presented in their original version and subtitled in French. Any version in which the film is or will be shown in its country of origin is considered original. The production and subtitling costs are the responsibility of the producer. The FIFAV may study the production and coverage of translation, subtitling and encapsulation costs. The translated files will remain the property of FIFAV and will be the subject of a contract between FIFAV and the production company or the director, or the rights holders.

Article 9 – Dissemination media

The screening files of the films selected for the 2026 edition must reach the FIFAV no later than one month before the opening date of the festival.

The technical characteristics expected for the distribution of the films as well as the processes for depositing the files will be indicated by email in a second step.

Film excerpts in HD digital files may also be requested and used for the purposes of the FIFAV (Festival Trailer) and for the media who request them.

Article 10 – Shipping costs

The shipping costs of all the films registered are the responsibility of the participants. FIFAV only covers the costs of returning the broadcasting media (USB key, hard drive, etc.) of the films selected by registered letter.

Article 11 – Obligations

The production companies and/or directors whose films are awarded undertake to mention the price in the credits of their film.

Production companies and/or directors whose film is awarded at FIFAV may be solicited by FIFAV for other screenings as part of FIFAV's off-screen screenings during the two years following the edition in question. The production companies and/or directors will be informed of these possible broadcasts, which may then be the subject of broadcasting rights in their favour.

These possible rights will then be the subject of a contract published by the FIFAV and drawn up in advance.

A representative of the said film (Director, protagonist, producer) may be invited to La Rochelle to present the film to the public.

Article 12 – Media and Communication

The rights holders assign to FIFAV without any compensation the right to reproduce the photos or extracts of the film for the production of the FIFAV promotional trailer and teaser and for distribution in FIFAV publications, FIFAV promotion venues, FIFAV's website and social networks, without any time limit.

Article 13 – Programming

The date and time of screening of the selected films will be determined according to a programming schedule established by the FIFAV organizers, based on organizational requirements and constraints (duration, venue, audience affinity, etc.) and the availability of the various contributors to the selected films. The programming schedule will be finalized by the end of September at the latest.

Article 14 – Representation

The protagonist of the film, the director, or the producer of the selected film is invited to come and present the film during the public screening(s). The guest must be available, as far as possible, during the dates of the FIFAV to talk with the audience after the screening. The festival association has sole discretion over the number of film representatives to be invited and whose expenses will be covered by the organization (see Article 15).

A space may be reserved for them in the "authors' signing area" at the Quai de l'Aventure, for the signing and sale of their books, if applicable. The sale of books is subject to the conditions of the festival's bookshop. The possible sale of merchandise may be considered after agreement and under the conditions of the organization.

The guest speaker(s) will not receive any remuneration from the festival for their public appearances (with the exception of specific services such as performances, artistic representations, etc., which will be defined and approved in advance with the festival organizers).

Article 15 – Coverage

The FIFAV organizes and covers the costs associated with the visit of a guest speaker (from

France) related to the selected film on a 2-day/1-night basis. The organization reserves the right to cover the costs of a longer stay depending on the geographical distance of the guest and/or their program on site (number of screenings, “guest of honor” status, etc.).

Coverage is based on the following:

- **Transportation:** a round-trip second-class train ticket.
Reservations made by the festival organizers within 15 days of receiving the email indicating the date and time of the film's screening. After this period, FIFAV will use the SNCF fare on the date of travel as the basis for reimbursement.
Please note: Travel by car may be considered if the days/times/stations are incompatible with the guest's place of residence and/or incompatible with the day/time of the screening of the film for which the invitation has been issued (*reimbursement of fuel costs + tolls based on Mappy estimates – no reimbursement possible on the basis of mileage allowances).*
- **Accommodation + breakfast** in a festival partner hotel (single, double, or twin room depending on availability).
- **Meals:** meals provided by the organization as part of the Festival, during the initially defined period of coverage (catering format – single menu).

For the arrival of other speakers related to the film screened, please contact us, possibility of partner rates.

Article 16 – Professional Day

Since 2025, the festival has organized a professional day offering networking opportunities for those involved in the adventure documentary film industry. It is entirely dedicated to and reserved for professionals in the adventure documentary film industry. This day will take place on Friday, November 20, and will offer various specific events with “à la carte” registration: Consultations, Masterclasses, Round Tables, etc. The cocktail lunch will be free of charge for all guests of the current edition, upon prior registration.

Article 17 – Fees

The person registering the film with the FIFAV, whether he or she is a producer, actor, adventurer or other rights holder, guarantees to the FIFAV that he or she is the holder of all the rights allowing the distribution of the said film within the framework of the FIFAV and also allowing compliance with the provisions of Article 11 hereof.

It also guarantees FIFAV against any proceedings or actions that may be brought against FIFAV by a third party claiming to have copyrights governed by the Intellectual Property Code and the possible financial consequences of said proceedings and actions.

Article 18 – Responsibilities

The FIFAV Organising Committee, while taking the greatest care of the projection media for the films registered, declines all responsibility for any damage they may suffer during their

journey or during the performance or the period in which they will be in its hands. Participants are invited to insure the films adequately and to be able to justify this insurance at the first request of the FIFAV.

The FIFAV association takes out civil liability insurance and a specific "event organisation" insurance contract.

Article 19 – Attribution of jurisdiction and competent law _____

Any dispute or dispute will be subject to French law. The competent courts are those within the jurisdiction of the Court of Appeal of Poitiers.

Article 20 – Image rights _____

By accepting these rules and in accordance with the provisions relating to image rights, you authorise FIFAV to communicate publicly the photographs and videos taken as part of the Festival, and representing you (on all communication media and media: social networks, paper, digital, video, Web... etc.)

During the FIFAV, all videos and images were taken with the consent and "tacit" expressions of will of the people present during the event inside and outside the walls, on the dates and hours of opening officially indicated.

Any unauthorized use or distribution is prohibited. All videos, messages and electronic images are subject to alteration. The Association of the International Film and Adventure Book Festival of La Rochelle declines all responsibility if these videos, photos, images have been altered, distorted or falsified.

Article 21 – Undertaking _____

The registration of one or more film(s) implies the full and complete acceptance of all the articles and conditions established by these rules.

Done at La Rochelle, 23 January 2026

Through the FIFAV association,
Represented by Stéphane Frémond,
Acting in his capacity as President.

