

Kaboom Animation Festival 2026

Terms and Conditions of Entry

Kaboom Animation Festival (Kaboom) is an annual animation festival organized by Stichting Kaboom Animation Festival (the Kaboom Animation Festival Foundation).

The 2026 edition will take place between 13 and 22 March. Screenings will take place both physically (in the cinema) and online (on our online platform). All screenings of online content will be geoblocked to the Netherlands only. Worldwide access to online screenings is granted to accredited Industry Guests only.

Entry of works in the Kaboom Animation Festival competitions implies acceptance of these terms and conditions and the decisions made by the festival staff. The festival staff reserves the right to make exceptions to these terms and conditions, in the event of which the submitter will be duly notified.

1. GENERAL CONDITIONS FOR SUBMISSIONS

Festival submissions are open to films, immersive projects and games made in all animation techniques that

- were finished after **January 1, 2024**, and not previously submitted to the festival.
- contain a substantial amount of animation of any technique. Combinations of animation and live-action may be eligible, if the larger part of the film is animated. The Festival reserves the right to determine whether films qualify as animation.
- For shorts: are no longer than 30 minutes excluding credits.

No entry fee is charged for submitting an animation to Kaboom Festival's competitions. Per filmmaker a maximum of 3 separate films/projects may be submitted, which must all adhere to our procedures.

A film will be considered by the Festival's appointed selection committee once the online form has been filled out and the screener of the film has arrived before **1 October 2025**.

Kaboom Animation Festival does not pay screening fees for any films selected for competition programs.

2. CATEGORIES

Films can be submitted in the following categories:

- Animated Short* (films created outside of educational programmes)
- Animated Student Short* (films finished while the maker was enrolled in an educational program)
- Commissioned Animation (films commissioned by a third party). This category includes music videos.

- Animated Documentary
- Animated Virtual Reality
- Animated Features (over 60 min.)
- Other (this includes films that are between 30 and 60 minutes, art installations and games)
- * The maximum length for animated shorts in all shorts categories is 30 mins., excluding credits. If your film exceeds this length, then you can submit it under “Other”. Please note the programmers reserve the right to move a submitted film to another category if they see a better fit.

3. PRIZES AND AWARDS

All films will be reviewed by the programmers and programmed in the most suitable competition. Filmmakers will be informed about this. All prizes (excluding audience awards) will be awarded by a professional external jury.

Films will be eligible for the following awards:

- Best Short
- Best Student Short
- Best Experimental Short (audience award)
- Best VR
- Best Dutch Student Short
- Best Dutch Professional Short
- Best Documentary
- Best Commissioned Short (audience award)
- Kids Audience Award (audience award)
- Best Short (audience award)
- Best Feature (audience award)
- The Kaboom Nancy Award
- The Kaboom Jamie Bolio Award

Please note that any monetary prizes won will be paid out within six months after the festival ends.

4. SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Only fully filled submissions, including stills and screener, will be taken into consideration. The Festival may at times take unfinished projects into consideration. Please clearly mark these as WIP (work-in-progress) and notify the Festival when a finalized version is ready.

All films with dialogue or narration should have English subtitles, including English spoken films. Kaboom aims to be fully accessible to the hearing impaired. Adding subtitles to your film helps us to achieve this goal.

Films aimed at young audiences should be accompanied by a timed dialogue list if applicable.

5. SELECTION & PROGRAMMING

- Film selection is carried out by the Artistic Director, Head of Program and a team of programmers and curators. Inclusivity is a key value in the Festival program at Kaboom and the organization works with a diverse programming committee.
- Filmmakers will be informed about selection and programming in December 2025. After this notification filmmakers have one week to notify the festival if they wish to withdraw their film.
- If the film is selected to be screened at the festival, the submitter must follow the technical procedures and criteria regarding the master copy. These are specified in the document available on our Festival Portal.
- Per selected film one festival pass is granted which gives access to all screenings and special events, both online and offline.
- The festival does not cover accommodation or travel costs.
- The festival programming and schedule is entirely at the discretion of the festival.
- Kaboom Animation Festival is a versatile festival with many programmes. We might want to screen films that are not selected for the competition in other programmes. In this case, the submitter will be notified about this and asked for permission.

6. SCREENING COPIES

- Please see the Master specs document available on our Festival Portal for details. Please note that Kaboom does not accept encrypted DCPs for short films.
- Screening copies can be sent online (recommended) or through a courier service. Please inform the festival in due time if you intend to send your master copy through regular mail. Parcels coming from outside the Netherlands, should be clearly marked as “no commercial value, for cultural purposes only”, so no extra costs will be charged to Kaboom. Screening copies will be returned within one month after the festival at the cost of the festival. Please note that Kaboom does not cover transportation or import tax costs.

7. USAGE OF THE SUBMITTED MATERIALS

- Kaboom Animation Festival is granted the right to screen the submitted films, with multiple screenings, during the festival period at the festival location(s) in Amsterdam and Utrecht.
- Kaboom Animation Festival is granted the right to screen films selected for competition programs on its online platform (the Festival Hub) during the festival period. All public screenings of online content will be geoblocked to the Netherlands only. Worldwide access to online screenings is granted to accredited Industry Guests only.

- Kaboom Animation Festival is granted the right to use excerpts (max 10% of the length) and film stills for promotional purposes on the internet, television and in other media. For (private) press viewings Kaboom Animation Festival has the right to screen your full film as a preview.
- The information provided in the entry form by the submitter will be used for festival publications. After selection, submitters will be offered the opportunity to verify whether this information is correct.
- Written copy in the catalogue and program on the festival website will be based on the submitted information but are entirely at the discretion of the festival. Kaboom Animation Festival accepts no liability in the event that its publications reproduce inaccuracies in submitted materials.
- In case of faulty projection, the festival cannot be held liable for immaterial damages suffered by the director, producer or distributor.
- Kaboom is entitled to screen the prizewinning films as part of its touring program in the Netherlands between April and December 2026 and as a part of this agreement without additional screening fees. For screenings outside of the Netherlands, permission will be requested.
- Kaboom is entitled to screen all selected films a maximum of ten times for promotional purposes within the Netherlands within one year after the Festival. As a part of this agreement no screening fees are applicable.
- Kaboom is entitled to keep the high-res video files and DCPs of selected films in its archive for non-circulating use and educational purposes.

8. RIGHTS

The submitter states that they are in possession of the rights of the submitted work (explicitly including rights to all music used in the work), clears Kaboom Animation Festival of all liabilities from third parties and grants Kaboom Animation Festival the right to screen the submitted works. Participation in Kaboom Animation Festival's competitions implies acceptance of these regulations and decisions made by the management and board. Kaboom Animation Festival reserves the rights to exceptions to the regulations if there are extreme circumstances that require so.