

The 3rd Niigata International Animation Film Festival (NIAFF 2025)
Feature Film Competition

Terms and Conditions

*All dates and times indicated here are in Japan Standard Time (JST).

1. The festival
 - 1.1. The 3rd Niigata International Animation Film Festival 2025 (NIAFF 2025, hereafter) is hosted by the Niigata International Animation Film Festival Executive Committee (the Committee, hereafter) and operated by the Niigata International Film Festival Office (the Office, hereafter).
 - 1.2. Schedule of NIAFF 2025
15th March 2025 to 20th March 2025 (JST)
 - 1.3. Submission Schedule
Starts accepting entries at 00:00 a.m. on 1st July 2024 and closes at 24:00 on 30th November 2024 (JST)
2. Eligibility
 - 2.1. The festival accepts only feature animation films for 40 minutes or longer, including end credit—no limit to the methods of animation.
 - 2.2. The film has to be completed in or after the year 2023.
 - 2.3. The film has to come with English subtitles unless the work is in Japanese at the time of the entry. For the Japanese-only video, English subtitles will be required after shortlisting.
 - 2.4. The director, producer, or entrant must be entitled and responsible for distributing the film. There should be no issues with screening at NIAFF 2025.
 - 2.5. All of the copyrights of music, characters, and other entities in the film with copyrights shall be approved by the copyright holder(s) before submitting the film. The festival has no responsibility for legal matters with the third party to the submitted work, including infringement of rights and damages.

The submitted film might be distributed online in case of an epidemic or other serious issues. However, the selection result will not be affected by whether or not the work is available for online distribution. The film will not be distributed online without permission.
3. Entry Fee
There is no fee to submit and apply to the Competition.
4. How to submit your film
 - 4.1. Online Application

- 4.1.1. Apply by submitting the entry form on the NIAFF official website <https://niigata-iaff.net/> or Filmfreeway <https://filmfreeway.com/NiigataInternationalAnimationFestival>
Please fill out with the information about the film and director.
 - 4.1.2. Upload the profile image of the director (800h x 600w pixels and three still images of the film (720h x 1280w). These images may be used on the NIAFF official website, flyers, pamphlets, or third-party media for promotional purposes. Please note that images may be trimmed to fit the media.
 - 4.1.3. The film should be in a format that can be streamed and viewed online.
 - 4.2. Subtitles and translation
 - 4.2.1. The primary shortlisting will be conducted for the works with English subtitles or in Japanese language.
 - 4.2.2. The shortlisted films will be subtitled in Japanese translation by the Office only from English to Japanese. Please provide an English dialogue list and materials specified in 6-4 in order to produce Japanese subtitles.
 - 4.2.3. The dialogue list with time codes shall be uploaded to the server to which the Office will give access.
5. Shortlisting (Preliminary judgment)
 - 5.1. The preliminary selection committee will select films to be screened during the NIAFF 2025 among all the submitted films.
 - 5.2. The Committee will email the results by 31st December 2024 and announce them on the NIAFF 2025 official website.
 - 5.3. The information about the selection committee judges will be posted on the NIAFF official website after the closing of NIAFF 2025
6. Screening of the Shortlisted Films
 - 6.1. Live Screening
 - 6.1.1. The shortlisted films will be screened (for a fee payable by the audience) as a competition program at NIAFF 2025
 - 6.1.2. The Office will decide the composition of the competition program and screening schedule.
 - 6.2. Online delivery
 - 6.2.1. The shortlisted films may be delivered online as paid content in case of an epidemic or other serious issues. We will not distribute without the permission of the entrants. The refusal of the online distribution does not bias the juries.
 - 6.2.2. The Sales from screening
 - 6.3. No profit or sales by screening at NIAFF 2025 will be paid to the entrants.

6.4. Required Materials for Screening

6.4.1. The shortlisted entrants must send the video material within two weeks of receiving the notification via an online storage service;
* In the case of mailing, all expenses associated with the entry, such as shipping fees, will be borne by the entrants.

6.4.2. Please send the file in the following formats.

- MOV (recommended), MP4
- Frame Rate 24fps (recommended) or 23.98fps
- Codec / ProRes 422 HQ (recommended), ProRes 422 or H.246
- Resolution / 1920pixel or more
- Aspect ratio / 1:1.33(4:3)、1:1.66、1:1.77(16:9)、1:1.85、1:2.35
- Audio specs / 5.1ch stereo

For any other format, please consult the Office.

6.4.3. DCP: The entrant is responsible for subtitling. All English words must have Japanese subtitles and works not in English, or Japanese must have both English and Japanese subtitles in keyless.

- The KDM for the encrypted DCP has to be provided a week before the NIAFF 2025. Please make sure that the expiry date of the KDM is set after NIAFF 2025. The entrants shall bear the fee to issue the KDM.

7. Final Judging

The shortlisted films will be subjected to the final judging.

7.1. The Committee will appoint international juries for the feature film competition. The juries will choose which films will receive awards during NIAFF 2025 after the examination.

- Grand Prix JPY500,000.- and a trophy
- Kabuki Award JPY200,000.- and a trophy
- Edge Award JPY200,000.- and a trophy

* Other special awards may be established by the international jury.

7.2. Prizes are subject to withholding tax for Japanese residents/taxpayers. For non-Japanese residents, we will be compliant with the tax treaty between Japan and the resident country.

8. Invitation

8.1. The Committee will bear the following traveling costs if the following eligibility is met. NIAFF 2025 reserves the right to cancel the invitation in case of an epidemic or any other serious issues.

8.1.1. The total of the round-trip expenses (there is an upper limit by the Office) between the nearest airport of the residence and Niigata (either Niigata airport or Railway Niigata station) and the

accommodation (reservation must be made by the Office) during the NIAFF 2025 for one person per film who is the nominee director of the work in the final list of the Competition. He/She has to be eligible to attend the film screenings, Q&A sessions, and press conferences. Details will be notified directly to the shortlisted entrants by the Office.

- 8.1.2. Either with the director or unaccompanied by the director, the specified accommodation (reservation must be made by the Office) during the NIAFF 2025 will be provided to one person per film who is the nominee producer of the film in the final list. He/She has to be eligible to attend the film screenings, Q&A sessions, press conferences. Details will be notified directly to the shortlisted entrants by the Office. No travel expenses will be payable.
- 8.1.3. In addition, he/she is obliged to provide or attend the talks, speeches and/or master class lectures held during NIAFF 2025 when requested.
- 8.1.4. No meal expenses will be provided.

9. Others

9.1. Approval of use for promotion purposes: The entrants agree that NIAFF 2025 may use a portion of his/her submitted film, less than 10% of the total length of the work, and submitted materials such as images of the work and the director for the purpose of publicity of NIAFF 2025.

9.2. Maximum number of seats per work: 1,500 seats.

The shortlisted films will be screened once at the main venue and once at the sub-venue. Please note that additional screenings may be held at the main venue due to the award, and if there is a strong request by the press or buyers, they may be held in the screening room (120 seats).

9.3. Understandings

(1) We will not accept any questions or objections regarding the selection, judgment, or reasons for rejection.

(2) Please be aware that once you have passed the preliminary judging for shortlisting, you will not be able to withdraw your entry.

(3) By submitting the online entry form either via the NIAFF official website or the FilmFreeway, the entrant accepts these Terms and Conditions. Please carefully check the Terms and Conditions before the entry.

(4) NIAFF 2025, the Committee, or the Office will not be responsible for any accidents, such as loss or damage of the submitted films, until the Office receives them.

(5) The submitted film materials will not be destroyed or returned but stored in the Niigata International Animation Film Festival Library for archive project studies and future animation education.

(6) The Committee will decide all matters outside these Terms and Conditions.

10. Contacts

Niigata International Animation Film Festival Office

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Tel: +81-25-385-6538

email entry@niaff.net

URL <https://niigata-iaff.net>

Please contact us via the above email address to correct the submitted information or troublesome entry.