

# BALÓSS

2026



MILAN JUNIOR FILM FESTIVAL

**MAY 7-10 2026**

## **ABOUT US**

Balóss Milan Junior Film Festival is the first festival in Milan dedicated to short films made entirely by children and teenagers, and aimed at young audiences. The festival is organized by the Cultural Association Circonvalla Film, based in the Dergano-Bovisa district in Milan. For more than 20 years, Circonvalla Film has been involved in the promotion, production, and dissemination of film culture, as well as education starting from school age, carrying out inclusive and structured projects both inside and outside the school environment.

The aim is to promote cinema as an educational, didactic, and pedagogical tool by giving visibility to projects that would otherwise not be seen outside the context in which they were produced, and to establish a bridge between the various organizations working in media education. The festival jury is composed of young students from primary and secondary schools.

Balóss was founded in 2021, and in its first four editions the following awards were assigned: Best Short Film, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Screenplay, Audience Award, Jury Prize, Medicinema Award (an association that uses cinema for therapeutic purposes at Niguarda Hospital in Milan and Policlinico Gemelli), Made by Phone Award, and UNICEF Award.

Alongside the screenings of the competing short films, seminars on film language and film and media education will be held, as well as special screenings, meetings with experts, and workshops for the young festival audience.

The 5th edition of the Balóss Milan Junior Film Festival will take place from 7 to 10 May 2026 at the MIC – Interactive Museum of Cinema and at the Teatro del Buratto in Milan.

# International short film competition

## OPEN CALL 2026

The Competition is open to 2 categories of national and international candidates:

A **Kids**, for young authors from 8 to 13 years old

**B Teen**, for young authors from 14 to 20 years old

coming from:

schools and institutions that deal with film education

festivals and organizations dedicated to film education.

The theme of the 2026 edition will be **Green is our Future**. The proposed theme is not mandatory but preferential and eligible for the *Green Is Our Future* Award for the best short film on Sustainability.

Balóss 2026 invites children and teenagers to reflect on environmental and sustainability issues: why the climate is changing, how these transformations affect our daily lives, and what small actions we can take to improve the situation.

The competition also proposes exploring the relationship between us and nature: what role it plays in our lives today and how technology has changed the way we experience and respect it.

For each selected short film, we will invite one delegate to spend two days in Milan.

The Festival will cover accommodation for 2 nights and meals. Travel expenses and local transfers will not be covered.

This will be an opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, and network with other national and international participants, as well as attend seminars on film language and film-and-media education with professionals, teachers, researchers, and industry experts. If participation in person is not possible, a video message introducing the short film will be required.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

A KIDS Category: 1.A Best Short Film  
2.A Jury Award

B TEEN Category:            1.B Best Short Film  
                                         2.B Jury Award

A e B Categories:

- Best Actor
- Best Actress
- Audience Award
- Medicinema Award
- Green Is Our Future Award

# Requirements and evaluation criteria

## Requirements for the proposed audiovisual products:

- 1) Maximum running time 15 minutes.
- 2) Each applicant, organization, or film education project may submit up to a maximum of 5 short films.
- 3) Audiovisual products resulting from workshops held in primary schools or within film education projects supported by public bodies or in partnership with third-sector organizations; For example, CIPS - Cinema and Images for the School of Mim-Mic, and For Those Who Create by SIAE-Mic.
- 4) Short films must be the result of educational projects aimed at children aged 8 to 20, involving the children themselves in the conception and production. Children and young people must be the protagonists of the stories.
- 5) Short films must be made by children or young people organized into working groups with specific tasks to create a true film crew, i.e., a group of professional, technical, and artistic figures working in synergy.
- 6) They must be made by enhancing the uniqueness of the medium and cinematic language (editing, camera angles, color correction, etc.). Theater footage will not be accepted.

For additional information on terms and conditions, please write to:  
**[contest@balossmilanfilmfest.it](mailto:contest@balossmilanfilmfest.it)**



# How to submit proposals

Submissions must be sent to [contest@balossmilanfilmfest.it](mailto:contest@balossmilanfilmfest.it)  
and must include:

- 1) **Drive/Dropbox/WeTransfer link** containing:
  - a. Full video in .mov or .mp4 format;
  - b. Two still images of the short film in .jpg format, 1920 × 1080 pixels, 150 dpi;
  - c. One image that will be used to promote the short film for posters or social media posts, respectively, in A4 format at 300 dpi and 1080 × 1080 pixels at 150 dpi;
- 2) **English subtitles** in a separate .srt file.
- 3) **Presentation** of the submitter and the educational project in which the short film submitted to the competition is part;
- 4) **Synopsis** (maximum 10 lines);
- 5) **Exact running time**, including opening and closing credits;
- 6) **Audio-video release** signed by the short film's contact person, releasing Circonvalla Film from any liability towards third parties, by completing the form attached to the call.
- 7) Complete the **credits** by filling in the fields below:

Produced by (Proposing Organization, title of the Educational Project,  
name of the Coordinator):

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Author or Authors (A.V.) (name, surname, age):

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Directed by (name, surname, age):

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List of primary actors/actresses (name, surname, age):

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Music by:

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Year of production:

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# Registration Deadlines

Registration consists of submitting the short film, materials, and data required by the aforementioned call and within these terms.

The short film must be submitted by **January 30, 2026**, the closing date for registrations.

By submitting a work to the Festival, the participant declares having obtained the consent of all rights holders to the work, and specifically the specific consent required to submit the application for screening at the festival.

Balóss, at its sole and absolute discretion, may reject any submission deemed non-compliant, in whole or in part, with these terms or with the requirements of the submission platform.

For the work to be admitted to the Balóss, its production must be completed no earlier than January 1, 2024.

Once submitted, the submission cannot be withdrawn except for serious and documented reasons, which must be reviewed by the Balóss management.

# Selection

Submitted works will be selected by the Festival's Scientific Committee, composed of audiovisual industry professionals. The results of the selection will be communicated by **February 20, 2026**, and the Scientific Committee that conducted the selection will be announced.

If selected, the Participant agrees to submit a digital video file of the work to the Festival via electronic file transfer, following the instructions subsequently provided by the organizers, complete with English subtitles in .srt format.

The participant, if requested, must also submit additional promotional material relating to the short film, which will be used by Balóss to present the work.

The selected shorts will be screened during the Festival before a jury of young people who will select the winners, who will be announced during the awards ceremony on Sunday, May 10, 2026.

# Intellectual property and granting of rights

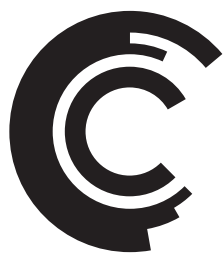
By registering for Balóss, the participant and, through him or her, all product owners declare and guarantee:

- A To authorize the Circonvalla Film Cultural Association to publicly screen the audiovisual product(s) free of charge within each section of the Balóss Festival, at the discretion of the Circonvalla Film Cultural Association;
- B To be in possession, for themselves and all rights holders, of all consents/authorizations for the public screening of the audiovisual product within the Balóss, in particular with respect to the image releases regarding minors present in the video product, issued by their parents or guardians;
- C To be in possession of the authorizations/releases relating to all those who participated, in any capacity, in the production of the product (whether natural and/or legal persons, entities and/or associations) and to assume all responsibility for the product, guaranteeing that it was legitimately acquired and is legitimately usable for public screening within the Festival;
- D To expressly undertake, as of now, to indemnify and hold Circonvalla Film harmless, in any capacity—substantively and procedurally—from any financial or legal claim related to the acquisition of the aforementioned public screening rights for the aforementioned audiovisual product.

Circonvalla Film also undertakes to screen and use the aforementioned product only within the framework of the Balóss Festival, before, during, and after the festival, including through social media channels and websites, for promotional purposes only. The Festival is non-profit, and spectators will attend the screenings of the audiovisual products free of charge, with ethical and moral respect for the work of the young participants and the work of their coordinators.



# Contacts



**CIRCONVALLA FILM**

SGUARDI E STORIE FUORI E DENTRO LA CITTÀ

**Circonvalla Film**

viale Luigi Bodio, 18 | 20158 | Milano

web [balossmilanfilmfest.it/](http://balossmilanfilmfest.it/)

mail [contest@balossmilanfilmfest.it](mailto:contest@balossmilanfilmfest.it)

fb Balóss Milan Film Festival

ig [baloss\\_milan\\_film\\_fest](https://www.instagram.com/baloss_milan_film_fest)

# Disclaimer

Cultural Association  
CIRCONVALLA FILM  
viale Bodio, 18  
20158 Milano (MI)  
VAT NUMBER 10844660968  
TAX CODE 97342570153

Object:

**Release for the free transfer of the authorization for the public screening of the audiovisual product(s) at the Balóss Milan Junior Film Festival 2026**

The undersigned

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born in

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resident in (country)

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in (street, street number, city)

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TAX CODE (social security number)

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on behalf of the association (or institution)

---

based in (country)

---

in (street, street number, city)

---

TAX CODE (social security number)

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VAT NUMBER

declares and guarantees the following:  
to authorize Circonvalla Film Cultural Association to publicly screen the  
following audiovisual product or products free of charge:  
(insert title or titles)

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produced by

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within the Balóss Milan Junior Film Festival 2026 whether the aforementioned  
product is in competition, or out of competition or in any other section of the  
festival is publicly screened, at the discretion of the Circonvalla Film Cultural  
Association;

- 1 to authorize Circonvalla Film to promote the aforementioned product  
through websites and social channels (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok)  
managed by the association itself (Circonvalla Film, I Ragazzi della Bovisa  
and Balóss Milan Film Festival);
- 2 to be in possession, for himself and for all those entitled, of all the  
consents/ authorizations for the public screening of the audiovisual  
product within the Balóss Milan Junior Film Festival 2026, in particular  
with respect to image releases concerning minors present in the video  
product, issued by parents or guardians;
- 3 to be in possession of the releases/authorizations/licenses relating  
to all those who have taken part, in any capacity, in the creation  
of the product (whether they are natural and/or legal persons, entities  
and/or associations) and to assume all responsibility regarding the product,  
guaranteeing that it has been legitimately acquired and is legitimately  
usable for public screening within the Balóss Milan Junior Film Festival  
2026;
- 4 to expressly undertake, as of now, to indemnify and hold Circonvalla  
Film harmless, in any capacity - substantially and procedurally - from  
any economic or legal claim, inherent in the acquisition  
of the aforementioned public screening rights of the audiovisual product.

Circonvalla Film also undertakes to screen and use the aforementioned

product only within the framework of the Balóss Milan Junior Film Festival 2026, before, during and after the days of the festival, also through social channels and websites, for promotional purposes only, declaring that the Festival is non-profit, that spectators will attend the projections of audiovisual products for free, in ethical and moral respect for what has been achieved by the young participants and for the work of those who coordinated them.

Place and date

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in faith,

Manager's signature

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