BALÒSS 2027

MILAN JUNIOR FILM FESTIVAL

MAY 6-9 2027

ABOUT US

Balòss 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.

Balòss 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 6th edition of the Balòss Milan Junior Film Festival will take place from 6 to 9 May 2027 at the MIC – Interactive Museum of Cinema and at the Teatro del Buratto in Milan.

International short film competition

OPEN CALL 2027

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 for the 2027 Balòss Milan Junior Film Festival will be ***Culture Open Minds***.
While not mandatory, this theme is encouraged, inviting young creators to explore the meaning of culture in its many forms: as a historical, artistic, environmental, and landscape heritage to be understood and preserved – but also as a collection of stories, traditions, identities, and perspectives through which we interpret the world. Every encounter can serve as an opportunity to challenge one's own certainties, move beyond stereotypes, and build a dialogue rooted in mutual understanding, respect for differences, solidarity, and peace.
The Festival aims to highlight the active role of the younger generation – not merely as recipients of culture, but as key players in its creation and transformation. Through their ideas, experiences, and visions, children and young people can share new perspectives on the world and help build a more open and inclusive society.
In this spirit, Balòss 2027 embraces the artistic and human legacy of Ermanno Olmi – to whose memory the festival is dedicated – by focusing on ordinary people, stories that might otherwise remain on the margins, and the authenticity of every individual experience.

For every short film selected for the competition, we will invite one representative to Milan. The Festival will cover accommodation and meals. Travel expenses and local transfers will not be covered.
This event offers an opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, and network with other national and international participants. Attendees will also be able to participate in seminars on cinematic language and film-and-media education, led by industry professionals, educators, researchers, and experts in the field.
If attending in person is not possible, participants will be asked to submit a video message introducing their short film.

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:
1. Best Screenplay
2. Best Soundtrack
3. Audience Award
4. MediCinema Award
5. UNICEF Award
6. "Culture Open Minds" Award
7. Sustainability Award
8. YCN Award

International short film competition

UNICEF AWARD 2027
Celebrating children's voices through cinema

The UNICEF Award celebrates a short film that puts children's and young people's voices, perspectives and rights at the heart of the story.
The award recognizes films that use the power of cinema to promote participation, inclusion, dignity and dialogue, giving young people the opportunity to express themselves, share their experiences and encourage others to see the world from their perspective.
Because every child has a voice. Every voice deserves to be heard.
The choice for the award will be done by a jury composed of volunteers and members of staff of UNICEF Italy.



Requirements and evaluation criteria

Requirements for the proposed audiovisual products:

1) Maximum running time 15 minutes.
2) Short films produced (completed) after January 1, 2025.
3) Each applicant, organization, or film education project may submit up to a maximum of 5 short films.
4) 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.
5) 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.
6) 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.
7) Short films must highlight the unique qualities of the medium and of cinematic language (editing, camera angles, color correction, etc.). Recordings of theatrical performances will not be accepted.

For additional information on terms and conditions, please write to:
contest@balossmilanfilmfest.it



How to submit proposals

Registration consists of submitting the short film, along with the materials and data requested in the call, by the deadline specified below and no later than **January 22, 2027 (23:59 CEST)** to contest@balossmilanfimfest.it:

1) **Drive/Dropbox/WeTransfer link** (permanent) 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) **Full credits** below:

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

_____

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

_____

Directed by (name, surname, age):

_____

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

_____

Music by:

_____

Year of production:

_____

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 22, 2027**, 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.
Balòss, 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 Balòss, its production must be completed after January 1, 2025.
Once submitted, the submission cannot be withdrawn except for serious and documented reasons, which must be reviewed by the Balòss management.
By registering for Balòss, the participant and, through him or her, all product owners declare and guarantee:

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 12, 2027**, 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 Balòss 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 9, 2027.

Intellectual property and granting of rights

A To authorize the Circonvalla Film Cultural Association to publicly screen the audiovisual product(s) free of charge within each section of the Balòss 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 Balòss, 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 Balòss 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/
mail contest@balossmilanfilmfest.it

fb Balòss Milan Film Festival
ig 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 Balòss Milan Junior Film Festival 2027

The undersigned

_____

born in

_____

resident in (country)

_____

in (street, street number, city)

_____

TAX CODE (social security number)

_____

on behalf of the association (or institution)

_____

based in (country)

_____

in (street, street number, city)

_____

TAX CODE (social security number)

_____

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)

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

produced by

_____

_____

within the Balòss Milan Junior Film Festival 2027 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 Balòss 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 Balòss Milan Junior Film Festival 2027, 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 Balòss Milan Junior Film Festival 2027;
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 Balòss Milan Junior Film Festival 2027, 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

_____

in faith,

Manager’s signature

_____