

# BELLARIA FILM FESTIVAL

## CALL BELLARIA FILM FESTIVAL 2025

The Bellaria Film Festival is a renowned Italian festival dedicated to independent cinema, now in its 43rd edition.

Originally conceived as the "Preview for Independent Italian Cinema," the first edition was held in 1983, with notable directors such as Morando Morandini, Gianni Volpi, and Enrico Ghezzi among its curators over the years. Many filmmakers who gained recognition here have since risen to prominence, including Matteo Garrone, Michelangelo Frammartino, Pietro Marcello, Yervant Gianikian and Angela Ricci Lucchi, Gianfranco Rosi, Paolo Benvenuti, Silvio Soldini, Agostino Ferrente, Paolo Sorrentino, Davide Ferrario, Roberta Torre, Cipri and Maresco.

### Awards

- Casa Rossa Award  
Best Italian Film: €5,000
- Gabbiano Award  
Best Film: €3,000  
Best Film for Cinematic Innovation: €2,000

### 1. GENERAL REGULATIONS

This call for entries governs the 43rd edition of the Bellaria Film Festival, organized by Approdi under the artistic direction of Daniela Persico and promoted by the Municipality of Bellaria Igea Marina, with support from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage and the Emilia-Romagna Region. The Bellaria Film Festival will take place in Bellaria Igea Marina from May 7 to 11, 2025.

#### 1.1 OBJECTIVES

Founded in 1983 as the Preview for Independent Italian Cinema, the Bellaria Film Festival has become one of Italy's most prestigious film events, especially known for the prestigious Casa Rossa Award, granted over the years to filmmakers like Yervant Gianikian and Angela Ricci Lucchi, Silvio Soldini, Paolo Sorrentino, Matteo Garrone, Gianfranco Rosi, Pietro Marcello, Daniele Segre, Daniele Cipri and Franco Maresco, Michelangelo Frammartino, and many more. After years of focusing on documentary cinema, the festival has reopened since 2022 to films of all formats and genres, emphasizing linguistic experimentation, emerging filmmakers, and new cinematic trends.

- CASA ROSSA COMPETITION: Dedicated to highlighting new voices in Italian cinema, focused on debut and sophomore films with a proven festival trajectory.

- INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION: For the second consecutive year, the Casa Rossa will be joined by a competition featuring five international debut and sophomore films, judged by an industry professional jury.

- GABBIANO COMPETITION: Designed to showcase a selection of Italian independent films in world or national premieres, with no restrictions on format, genre, or duration, with particular attention to linguistic research and innovation. Films will compete for the Gabbiano Award.

- SPECIAL EVENTS: National premieres of films that set new trends in the international scene, highlighting connections between Italian and foreign cinema.

## 1.2 SELECTION CRITERIA:

- For the Gabbiano Competition, only films in world or national premiere are eligible, regardless of duration, format (film, video, digital), genre (fiction, documentary, realist cinema, essay film, animation);

- The Casa Rossa and International Competitions consist of works selected directly by the artistic direction and the selection committee.

- Special Events feature films in world or national premieres.

## 1.3 AWARDS

The winner of the Casa Rossa Competition will receive an award of €5,000, presented by a jury of students from Italy's top universities and film schools.

The winner of the Gabbiano Competition will receive an award of €3,000, with a secondary award of €2,000 for cinematic language innovation. An international jury chosen by the festival's artistic direction will present the awards.

Monetary awards will be given to the winners (to the producer or director, at the discretion of the winners) during the award ceremony. The amounts will be transferred via bank transfer by the end of the current year, upon receipt of the beneficiary's bank details.

## 2. SUBMISSION

Opening and closing dates for submissions:

Submissions are open from November 4, 2024, to February 9, 2025.

To be considered, an entry fee is required to cover administrative costs. Films may be submitted by December 15 with an early bird fee of €10 or by February 9 with a submission fee of €20.

To submit a film, filmmakers must register on the international platform

[[www.filmfreeway.com](http://www.filmfreeway.com)](<http://www.filmfreeway.com>) and follow the instructions to upload their work.

To avoid disqualification, each entrant must provide a complete film along with the following additional information:

- 1) Detailed technical sheet of the film;
- 2) Synopsis;
- 3) Director's notes;

- 4) Director's bio-filmography;
- 5) Two high-quality, copyright-free images from the film;
- 6) A copyright-free director's photograph (in JPEG format at 300 dpi).

Submissions must follow the platform's instructions. For assistance, please contact the Festival's organizational office at [programmazionebff@gmail.com](mailto:programmazionebff@gmail.com).

### 3. SELECTION

The Artistic Director has exclusive authority over the film selection process and will appoint a committee of experts from the film industry, whose decision will be final. All submitted films will be evaluated based on quality and language innovation, with particular attention to national and international premieres.

Filmmakers will be notified of selection results beginning in April 2025. All selected works will receive the festival's official laurels in high resolution.

### 4. FESTIVAL PARTICIPATION

Once officially invited by the Festival, the rights holders of the film must provide:

- A screening copy for the official projection. The required format for the Casa Rossa Competition is DCP. For other sections, projection formats should be agreed upon with the artistic direction. For public screenings, the Festival's organizational office will contact the competing directors to provide access credentials for uploading the film. Films in the Casa Rossa Competition must include Italian subtitles if the original language is different.
- The official screener of the film, identical in image (length, aspect ratio, frame rate) and sound (except stereo mix) to the screening copy.
- Promotional materials: high-definition photos of the film and the director, a press kit or presentation of the film, and a promotional trailer.

Participants must cover the cost of shipping the DCP file.

The festival reserves the right to invite the director or at least one cast or crew member. At its discretion, the festival may invite winning film authors for the awards ceremony.

### 5. ARCHIVE OF ITALIAN INDEPENDENT CINEMA

The Archive of Italian Independent Cinema is housed at the "Alfredo Panzini" Public Library in Bellaria Igea Marina. For all films submitted (unless otherwise indicated at the time of submission), the author authorizes the preservation and archiving of the works at the Italian Independent Cinema Archive, which commits to cataloging and making them available for initiatives with cultural, educational, promotional, and dissemination purposes, in any case non-commercial. For any initiative—screenings, events, and broadcasts promoted by the Municipality of Bellaria Igea Marina, or in collaboration with the Festival network—the Festival's organizational office will inform the rights holders.

### 6. CONCLUSION

Applying to the competition implies full acceptance of the conditions outlined in these Regulations. By participating in the competition, the author authorizes the processing of personal data contained in the works and supplementary material (Law 675/96) and the use of film excerpts in Italy and abroad for promotional and informational purposes (not exceeding, in any case, 10% of the full work duration).

This regulation is drafted in both Italian and English; both versions will be available on the website [[www.bellariafilmfestival.org](http://www.bellariafilmfestival.org)](<http://www.bellariafilmfestival.org>).

In the case of any disputes, the Rimini court will have jurisdiction.