

REGULATIONS

INTRODUCTION

MOTELX - Lisbon International Horror Film Festival aims to screen the best horror films produced in the last couple of years all around the globe, to stimulate the national production of genre cinema, and to host retrospectives that will contribute to the contextualization and understanding of contemporary horror films.

MOTELX is a member of the **Méliès International Festivals Federation (MIFF)** and of **Europe For Festivals, Festivals For Europe (EFFE)**.

The MIFF annually awards a Méliès d'or to the best European short and feature film, based on the Méliès d'argent winners selected in each member festival. MOTELX awards the Méliès d'argent to a European feature and short film.

The Festival regularly suggests films whose pertinence amidst the genre is not consensual, based on their relevance to horror, due to the language, techniques, or importance in the context of a director's retrospective, keeping the debate about the borders of horror permanently open.

MOTELX is organized by CTLX, a non-profit cultural association based in Lisbon, Portugal. MOTELX is a registered trademark.

I. GENERAL RULES

1. Sections:

- a) **Méliès d'argent Award - Best European Feature Film** (Feature films of European production, including co-productions with a majority of European participation);
- b) **Room Service** (Official Selection - Feature films);
- c) **Doc Horror** (Documentaries about horror films or related themes);
- d) **Retrospectives** (Masters of horror and other cult figures);
- e) **Special Screenings** (Anniversaries, restored prints, TV series);
- f) **Lost Room** (A journey into the history of Portuguese genre film);
- g) **MOTELX Award - Best Portuguese Horror Short Film** (Portuguese short films, up to 15 minutes, including co-productions with a majority of Portuguese participation);
- h) **International Shorts** (Short films, up to 59 minutes, not produced in Portugal or Portuguese ones out of competition);
- i) **SectionX** (Short films, up to 59 minutes, produced worldwide);
- j) **microSHORTS** (Portuguese shorts, up to 2 minutes, filmed with a mobile phone or tablet);
- k) **Big Bad Wolf** (Special programme for younger audiences);
- l) **AI Horror Short Films Showcase** (films produced with AI tools)

2. The sections mentioned in a), b), c), g), h), and j) will select films produced in the year of the edition to which the film is submitted and in the previous year.

3. It's not possible to submit films to the sections mentioned in d), e), and f).

4. Awards:

- a) Méliès d'argent Award - Best European Feature Film;
- b) Méliès d'argent Award - Best European Short Film;
- c) MOTELX Award - Best Portuguese Horror Short Film;
- d) Audience Award - Room Service Section;
- e) microSHORTS Award*.

* The regulations for the microSHORTS Award, as well as the submission deadline, will be published separately on www.motelx.org.

5. The organizers may select a film for a different section from the one it was submitted to, cancel sections or create others not listed here, for programming purposes.

II. SUBMISSIONS

6. Submissions to MOTELX are exclusively made via FilmFreeway, using the link <https://filmfreeway.com/MOTELX>.

7. The submissions will be completed when the Festival is granted access to the **screener copy** of the submitted film.

7.1 The screener copy must be **exclusively** provided through an online screening link.

7.2 All screener copies must come with English subtitles. This is not mandatory for films with English dialogue and for films with Portuguese dialogue submitting to the MOTELX Award – Best Portuguese Horror Short Film.

8. The deadline to submit a film for all sections, with the exception of the microSHORTS award, is **15 May** of each edition's year. Submissions received after that date will be considered for the following year's edition.

9. The participants will be given notice if their films were selected or not until the beginning of August.

10. The participants are fully responsible for the content of the films they submit, namely in what concerns copyrights. Participants who are underage must have a written and signed authorisation from their parents or legal guardians.

11. Submissions of Portuguese productions or co-productions with a majority of Portuguese participation are exempt from paying submission fees. Please contact films@motelx.org for access to submit your film.

III. MÉLIÈS D'ARGENT AWARD - BEST EUROPEAN FEATURE FILM

12. The winner of the Best European Feature Film Award is the recipient of the Méliès d'argent, being nominated to run for the international competition Méliès d'or, promoted annually by the European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation.

IV. MÉLIÈS D'ARGENT AWARD - BEST EUROPEAN SHORT FILM

13. All eligible European short films selected for SectionX and the International Shorts section are considered for the Méliès d'argent Award - Best European Short Film. Are eligible short films with a **maximum running time of 25 minutes (credits included)**.

14. The winner of the Best European Short Film Award is the recipient of the Méliès d'argent, being nominated to run for the international competition Méliès d'or, promoted annually by the European Fantastic Film Festivals Federation.

V. MOTELX AWARD - BEST PORTUGUESE HORROR SHORT FILM

15. The MOTELX Award - Best Portuguese Horror Short Film aims to stimulate the production of horror films in Portugal, by honouring a short film screened at the Festival and giving also a Special Mention.

16. Horror films produced in the year of the edition to which the film is submitted to and on the previous year*, meeting all of the following requisites, will be considered for selection:

- a) Portuguese productions or co-productions with a majority of Portuguese participation;
- b) Maximum running time of **15 minutes** (credits included);
- c) Not released commercially in Portugal until the closing date of the Festival (previous screenings on other festivals will not automatically eliminate a film).

* Example: For the 2024 edition only films produced after 01/01/2023 can be submitted.

17. The winner will receive **€5,000 (five thousand euros)** paid in a single instalment. Other prizes may be added. These will be announced in due time on the Festival's website and social media.

VI. AI HORROR SHORT FILMS SHOWCASE

18. MOTELX and Liquid Sky Artisticollective open doors to new technologies and will showcase a compilation of films produced with artificial intelligence. Anyone interested is invited to explore the boundaries of horror, suspense and technology, to push the boundaries of narrative and visual storytelling, in order to surprise and captivate our audience with innovative films that offer previously unseen perspectives and techniques in the horror genre.

19. Entries must be **no less than 1 minute and no more than 10 minutes** in length, including credits.

20. All submitted films must be in **1080p or 4K resolution** with **stereo or surround sound** to ensure the best viewing experience.

21. Participants are encouraged to utilize AI tools creatively in their filmmaking process. Please include a comprehensive list of all AI tools used in the production of your film.

22. By submitting your film, you affirm that you are the rightful owner or have obtained the necessary licenses for all images, sounds, and texts used in your film. Documentation may be requested for verification.

23. The Festival promotes ethical filmmaking practices. As such, the use of AI to create deepfakes or any content that could be considered unethical is strictly prohibited.

24. Participants can submit **up to 3 different films**, allowing creators to showcase the breadth of their storytelling abilities and technical skills.

VII. JURIES

25. The juries of the Awards are composed of three individuals invited by the Festival's organisation.
26. No juror can have any sort of personal interest, direct or indirect, in any of the films running for the Awards.
27. The juries' decisions are final.
28. The juries cannot give the Méliès d'argent awards to any short of feature film that has already received such an award at another Federation festival.
29. The juries' decisions will be announced at MOTELX's closing ceremony and on the Festival's website, at www.motelx.org.

VIII. SELECTED FILMS

30. If a film is selected, the following will be requested:
- a) The copy of the film for screening;
 - b) Legal permits;
 - c) Credits list and synopsis;
 - d) List of festival in which the film was screened and awards received;
 - e) 3 high-resolution film stills;
 - f) 1 high-resolution photo of the director;
 - g) Director's biography;
 - h) A copy of all promotional materials available (poster, postcard, EPK, etc.).
31. The screening copy must comply with the following characteristics.
- 31.1 Image
- a) Screening formats: **35 mm, DCP, or digital files (mp4)**;
 - b) The organisation might refuse to screen prints due to technical or quality reasons, in its sole discretion.
- 31.2 Subtitles
- a) All films must have English subtitles if they don't have English dialogue;
 - b) The festival will provide electronic Portuguese subtitles for foreign films;
 - c) The participants of Portuguese films in competition must also provide prints subtitled in English. If the films are spoken in more than one language, the participants must ensure subtitles both in Portuguese and English.
32. MOTELX is responsible for the insurance of selected films, from the moment of their delivery until their return.
33. MOTELX assumes all transportation costs of feature films, except in the event of them being sent to another festival, according to the conventions established between film festivals.
34. The directors/producers of films that receive an Award shall agree to mention MOTELX in all press and promotional materials produced after the closing day of the Festival.

IX. CLOSING RULES

35. The submission of a film to MOTELX implies the acceptance of all the norms here present. Non-compliance with any of the clauses in the regulations may imply the rejection of said film.

36. These regulations are available in Portuguese and English. In case of doubt, the Portuguese version shall prevail.

37. MOTELX's organisation will decide on any issues not covered by the current regulations.

Lisbon, 7 March 2024