VerticalMovie Festival 2026

9th Edition – International Call for Entries

The overall winner of the VerticalMovie Festival will receive a professional digital cinema camera **Canon EOS C50**, valued at **€ 3,800**, offered by Canon as the festival's technical sponsor.

The VerticalMovie Festival is an international film festival dedicated to the exploration and promotion of vertical cinema (9:16 format).

The festival celebrates narrative innovation and visual experimentation, inviting filmmakers from all over the world to explore the creative potential of vertical storytelling.

The event serves as a meeting point for creativity, technology, and new forms of audiovisual narration, fostering the discovery of emerging talents while promoting authors and industry professionals.

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What's New in 2026

Vertical Talent – Powered by Canon

Special Out-of-Competition Section

The 2026 edition introduces Vertical Talent – Powered by Canon, a special non-competitive section dedicated to the development of new vertical short film projects.

If you live in Italy, this is your opportunity.

Vertical Talent is open to authors residing in Italy, regardless of nationality. It offers a unique opportunity to turn an idea into a concrete project, working closely with industry professionals and using advanced technologies.

From Training to Production

25 selected projects will access an exclusive online masterclass focused on vertical video language and the professional use of the Canon Cinema EOS C50 camera.
The training program will be developed in collaboration with Canon and led by a Director of Photography (DOP) or industry professional.

From Theory to Practice

Among the selected projects, 5 authors will move on to produce their short film.

Each will receive a Canon Cinema EOS C50 camera (lens and battery included) on a free loan basis.

Completed works will automatically enter future editions of the festival.

Participation Conditions

* Submissions open: **April 26, 2026**
* Project deadline: **June 30, 2026**
* Equipment usage: **up to 3 days**
* Production period: **from July 1 to August 31, 2026**
* Exclusion period: **August 7–16, 2026**
* Final delivery: **by September 29, 2026**
* Shooting location: Italy
* Schedule: defined with the organization

Important: equipment is provided free of charge exclusively for production purposes.

Vertical Talent is not competitive and does not include awards.

Festival Dates

Rome – Casa del Cinema
Sep 29 – Oct 1, 2026 | Rome

Submissions open: **April 26, 2026**
Deadline: **August 31, 2026**

Competition Sections

* **Vertical Green** – Environment, sustainability, renewable energy
* **Vertical Voices** – Inclusion, civil rights, diversity
* **Vertical AI** – AI-assisted works
* **Vertical Open** – Open theme

Technical Requirements

* Max duration: 10 minutes (excluding credits)
* Format: Vertical (9:16)

* Resolutions:
  * 1080×1920 (Full HD)
  * 2160×3840 (Ultra HD) or higher

Formats:

* Codec: H.264 / H.265
* Container: MP4 / MOV

Allowed devices:

* Digital cinema cameras
* Cameras
* Smartphones
* Other recording systems

Awards

* Best Director
* Best Screenplay
* Best Cinematography
* Best Editing
* Best Original Score
* Best Story
* Best Vertical AI Film
* Best Vertical Green Film
* Best Vertical Voices Film
* Best Vertical Open Film

Best VerticalMovie Festival Film

Main award of the festival.

The winner will receive a **Canon EOS C50** offered by **Canon**.

Special mentions may be awarded.

Jury

The jury will consist of film professionals, artists, and industry experts.
Decisions are final.

Promotion Rights

The festival may use excerpts, images, and trailers for promotional purposes for up to one year.

Copyright

Authors must own all rights to materials used (music, images, texts, audiovisual content).
The festival is not responsible for copyright violations.

Submission Guidelines

Entries must be submitted via FilmFreeway:
https://filmfreeway.com/VerticalMovie

Submission Fees

Submission fees are divided according to the following deadlines:

🟢 Early Bird

April 26 – June 15, 2026

* Standard Fee: €10
* Students: Free

🟡 Regular Deadline

June 16 – August 10, 2026

* Standard Fee: €15
* Students: Free

🔴 Final Deadline

August 11 – August 31, 2026

* Standard Fee: €20
* Students: Free

Discount Eligibility Conditions

* Fees apply per submitted film
* Free submission is reserved for students currently enrolled in schools, universities, or training institutions (proof may be required)
* Each student may submit only one film free of charge
* Discounts cannot be combined
* The festival reserves the right to verify eligibility and to disqualify submissions that do not meet the requirements

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Notes

The festival reserves the right to modify fees and deadlines if necessary for organizational reasons.