

RUFA ON SCREEN 2026 – CALL FOR ENTRIES

RUFA – Rome University of Fine Arts promotes RUFA ON SCREEN, a biennial film showcase aimed at enhancing and supporting the talent of Academy students enrolled in the Cinema, Film Arts, and Computer Animation and Visual Effects programs.

The 2026 edition of RUFA ON SCREEN will take place in Rome from April 14 to 16, 2026.

REGULATIONS

1. PURPOSE OF THE COMPETITION

RUFA ON SCREEN 2026 is a showcase established to present on the big screen the audiovisual works created by RUFA students and graduates, to give them visibility, and to create a direct connection with the film industry through opportunities for exchange with professionals, production companies, distributors, and promoters.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications for RUFA ON SCREEN 2026 are open to RUFA students and graduates enrolled in the First-level Academic Course in Cinema and the Second-level Academic Courses in Film Arts and Computer Animation and Visual Effects.

To be eligible, applicants must be currently enrolled at RUFA or have graduated since September 2023.

Participants may submit one or more audiovisual works completed between September 1, 2023, and January 21, 2026, produced independently (works produced by production companies will not be accepted).

If a submitted work already has an active distribution contract, it may compete only for the Jury Award and the Audience Award.

3. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORKS

Each participant may submit one or more audiovisual works falling into the following categories:

- "Super short" films (fiction or experimental) – maximum duration: 3 minutes
- Short films (fiction or experimental) – duration between 3 and 15 minutes
- Animated short films – free duration*
- Documentary – maximum duration: 1 hour and 15 minutes, including titles*

The audiovisual works must be original, meaning they cannot be creative adaptations of existing works, and should preferably be unpublished.

If the works have already been screened at festivals, applicants must provide a list of the festivals to which they have been submitted and/or where they have been selected or screened.

By submitting one or more works, the applicant takes full responsibility for owning the rights to the submitted material.

If the work receives a promotion and communication award, distributors may request a condensed version with a maximum duration of 52 minutes, including opening and closing titles.

4. APPLICATION PROCEDURES

Applications for the showcase must be submitted exclusively in digital form:

- The Academy will disseminate the call for entries by publishing it on the website unirufa.it and by sending an invitation email to eligible students and Alumni;
- Applications may only be submitted through the dedicated online form;
- The form will be accessible from November 1, 2025, to January 21, 2026.
- Applications sent by email or through any method other than the one indicated will not be considered.

5. COMPETITION STRUCTURE

To participate in the RUFA ON SCREEN showcase, applicants must follow and comply with the procedures outlined in the following phases:

A. Application

Applicants must submit digitally, no later than January 21, 2026, the following materials:

- Link to the audiovisual work, accompanied by any password required for viewing by the jury;
- At least five stills and/or backstage photos (300 dpi, width 30 cm) in JPG format, maximum file size 2 MB each;
- The poster of the work in high resolution (300 dpi, width 30 cm) in JPG format, maximum file size 2 MB;
- A document including: the synopsis of the work, full credits, director's biography/biographies, and the list of festivals to which the film has been submitted (only if self-distribution activities have already begun);
- A clip or trailer of the audiovisual work (optional).

The uploaded audiovisual works must comply with the H264 standard, 1920 × 1080 px format. In case of receiving an award, an MP4 version will also be required. It is preferable that the works include subtitles (in Italian if the film is in English, or in English if the film is in Italian or another language).

B. Selection

All submitted works will be evaluated by an internal committee, which will, at its sole discretion, determine the works selected for participation in RUFA ON SCREEN 2026, based on criteria of quality and expressive originality.

The titles of the selected works will be announced by February 20, 2026, on the website unirufa.it.

C. Submission of Selected Works

Applicants whose works have been selected by the internal committee for participation in the showcase will be required to submit the original version of the work, in compliance with the H264 standard, 1920 × 1080 px format, by March 6, 2026, according to the procedures communicated by the Academy.

D. Award Assignment

The works selected for RUFA ON SCREEN 2026 will be evaluated by a Jury of Merit, responsible for assessing the submitted works and, at its sole discretion, assigning the awards to those distinguished by innovation and creative originality.

The jury will consist of professionals from outside the Academy and a Chair appointed among the Academy's faculty members.

E. Types of Awards

The RUFA ON SCREEN 2026 showcase includes the assignment of awards granted in different forms, as outlined below.

Official Awards

1. Best Fiction Short Film, max 15' (excluding titles)
2. Best Animated or Experimental Work, max 15' (excluding titles)
3. Best Documentary Film (experimental or not), max 1h15 (including titles)

The three official awards consist of three distribution contracts—one for each award category—with a minimum duration of one year, aimed at submitting the works to national and international film festivals.

Works that already have existing distribution contracts may compete only for the Audience Award and the Jury Award.

Special Promotion Award

Rai Cinema Channel, official partner of RUFA ON SCREEN 2026, will, at its sole discretion, assign a special award to support the promotion and communication of the selected work through its own channels.

Works that already have existing distribution contracts may compete only for the Audience Award and the Jury Award.

Special Jury Award

The Special Jury Award will be determined by the votes of the jurors on the selected works at the end of the screenings.

Works that already have existing distribution contracts may compete for this award.

Audience Award

The Audience Award will be determined by the votes received by each work at the end of the screenings.

Works that already have existing distribution contracts may compete for this award.

Partner companies and organizations of RUFA ON SCREEN 2026 may also award additional prizes (in terms of distribution, promotion, or other forms of recognition) to works deemed particularly deserving.

F. Conduct of RUFA ON SCREEN 2026

The showcase will last three days, and the screenings will also be open to the general public.

On the first day, seats will be reserved for the families of the authors of the selected works.

The screening schedule will be defined based on the number of selected works and will be published on the Academy's website.

All authors of the selected works are required to be present in the theater during the screening of their work and at the awards ceremony, which will take place on the final day of the showcase.

6. CONDITIONS FOR EXCLUSION

RUFA reserves the right to exclude from the showcase:

- Participants whose behavior is deemed inappropriate toward other competitors or disrespectful of the Institution's values, at any stage of the competition;
- Works lacking the required elements of uniqueness, originality, or authorship;
- Projects that do not meet the basic requirements outlined in Article 3.

7. SUMMARY OF PHASES AND DEADLINES

- By January 21, 2026: submission of audiovisual works.
- By February 20, 2026: announcement of the selected audiovisual works.
- By March 6, 2026: delivery of the audiovisual work in its original format.
- April 14–16, 2026: RUFA ON SCREEN 2026 event.
- April 16, 2026: awards ceremony.

RUFA reserves the right to modify the phases, dates, and deadlines of the showcase as needed for organizational reasons, informing all concerned parties in a timely manner.

8. USE OF MATERIALS AND PROJECTS

Participation in the showcase implies the competitor's authorization for the images of the projects and the documents submitted, as referred to in Article 3 of the Call, to be used by the organization for the promotion of the initiative, without any financial claim. In particular, the organization is granted the right to use the aforementioned materials across its communication channels, without the competitor being entitled to any compensation.

The audiovisual works will remain the property of their respective authors, whose names will be duly credited whenever the works are reproduced. It is specified that the Academy will not authorize the jurors to disclose the submitted works. In the event of an award, the transfer of distribution rights will be handled directly between the distribution company and the winners.

9. ACCEPTANCE

By participating in the RUFA ON SCREEN showcase call, students and graduates acknowledge and implicitly accept all the rules contained in this call, without exception.

10. PRIVACY

The information and data collected will be used in compliance with the applicable regulations (Article 13 of the General Data Protection Regulation, hereinafter GDPR) for participation in the competition, for the distribution of informational material, and for promotional purposes related to the promotion and production of the submitted materials..

11. TRANSPARENCY

RUFA guarantees the utmost transparency throughout every phase of the showcase and is committed to promptly publishing all updates and documents related to each stage on the website unirufa.it.

12. INFORMATION

For further information, please write to: rufaonscreen@unirufa.it.

Rome, October 16, 2025

The Director
Arch. Fabio Mongelli