

# Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival

## Documentary and Short Film Competition 2026



### Film Submission Rules and Regulations

#### I. The Festival

Ann Arbor Polish Film Festival (AAPFF) is an annual event organized by Polish Cultural Fund Ann Arbor, in cooperation with the Ann Arbor Polonia Association, which takes place in Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA since 1993.

One of the Festival's main events is the Documentary and Short Film Competition. The Submission Form, the Festival schedule and the program can be accessed on the AAPFF website: <https://www.annarborpolishfilmfestival.com>

#### II. Eligibility

Films must meet the following criteria to be eligible for submission:

1. Films must be original works by their creators.
2. Films have been released between 2022 and 2026 AND
3. Films shall be created substantially by Polish filmmakers (directors, producers, cinematographers, etc.) OR
4. Films shall substantially deal with Poland and Polish themes regardless of the filmmakers' nationality OR
5. Films shall be created by filmmakers who graduated from a Polish film school.

#### III. Submission Categories

AAPFF accepts films for juried competition in two categories:

1. Documentary Film

2. Short Film (non-documentary, running time 40 min or under)

#### IV. Awards

AAPFF grants the following Awards:

**'Ewa Pięta Award'** for Best Documentary Film  
\$1,000 prize and the Festival Statuette

**'Annette and Waldemar Raczkowski Award'** for Best Short Film  
\$1,000 prize and the Festival Statuette

**'Andrzej Dolata Award'** for Best Film Debut - Documentary or Short Film  
\$1,000 prize and the Festival Statuette

Winners are announced at the Festival.

#### V. Submission Requirements

1. One Submission Form is required for EACH film submitted.
2. Films are accepted via an Internet link. No other formats are accepted.
3. For Internet submission: a link to the film must be submitted along with the Submission Form completed online. If at any time there is a change to the film's URL or password, it is the responsibility of the Applicant to inform the Festival about the changes.
4. English subtitles are required if the language of the film is other than English.
5. Films must be submitted in their final released version.
6. Films are accepted free of charge.
7. Films can be submitted only once to AAPFF.
8. After films have been submitted, they cannot be withdrawn.
9. AAPFF does not accept films created for promotional purposes.
10. Submission deadline is **August 1, 2026**.

#### VI. Jury

1. Submitted documentary and short films are juried by the AAPFF Jury members, who select the award winners in each category.
2. Jury members do not influence the selection process for screening during the Festival.
3. Jury evaluations are confidential, independent and final.

## VII. Film Selection and Screening Rules

1. The AAPFF Committee selects films for public screening during the Festival based on Juryevaluations and other factors.
2. Films selected for screening at the Festival will be announced in late September. ~~the~~ contact information provided on the Submission Form.
3. All films selected for screening at the Festival will be shown to the Festival audience free of charge.
4. The Festival organizers reserve the right to use photos, trailers, or clips of the selected films and information provided by the filmmakers for promotional purposes.
5. The Festival is under no obligation to disclose any information about the selection ~~from~~ screening or award process

## VIII. Copyright and Personal Information

1. By completing the Submission Form and submitting a film, the Applicant acknowledges his/her responsibility to obtain required permissions from all or any co creators of the film as a whole or in part. The Festival is not responsible for any copyright/trademark infringement claims potentially arising from the film's content.
2. Furthermore, the Applicant acknowledges that the personal data provided on the Submission Form may be processed for the purposes of the AAPFF by its parent organization, Polish Cultural Fund ~~Ann Arbor~~.

## IX. Disclaimers

1. AAPFF reserves the right ~~to~~ NOT grant award(s)
2. AAPFF does not assign any ratings for specific audiences, or transfer the films' country-of-origin rating, if any. All films are shown as 'noted'.
3. AAPFF presents cinematic works for entertainment purposes only. The Festival does not represent, identify with, or promote any views, ideas, or statements contained within the films presented at the Festival.
4. AAPFF does not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age or national origin.