

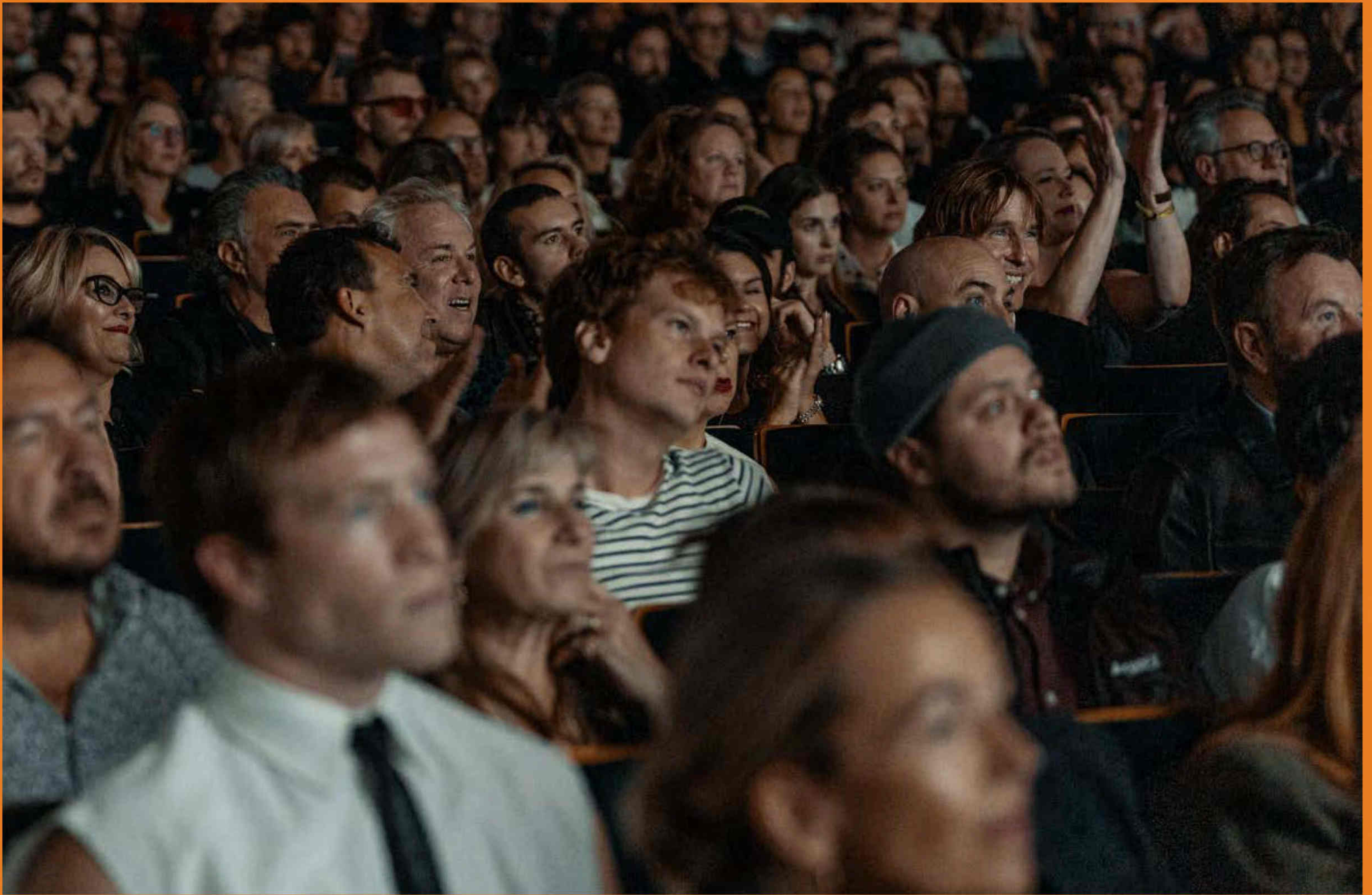


CICLOPE

2026 Awards
Entry Kit

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CICLOPE is home to those who believe in the **power of craft.**

A platform for the global creative community to gather, be inspired, elevate their work, and drive positive change across the advertising and entertainment industries.

CICLOPE Festival is unmatched in its ability to gather the industry's most influential players alongside emerging talent, bringing them together in an intimate setting.

CICLOPE Awards celebrate the art of craft and the future of creativity, with Winners selected by a highly-curated Jury panel of industry experts from around the world.

AWARDS



CICLOPE Awards are the ultimate benchmark for excellence in craft.

They honor the people behind the year's best commercials, music videos, digital production, brand experiences and short films.

In 2026, they'll set international standards in over 50 categories across **CICLOPE Craft**, **CICLOPE Ideas** and **CICLOPE Entertainment**.

“Winning at **CICLOPE** completely changed my career. I went from an unrepresented director who had one music video out, to being signed at my dream production company.”

- Tanner K. Williams, magna studios, Director.

KEY DATES



CALL FOR ENTRIES

13 April – 14 August

ELIGIBILITY DATES

22 August 2025 – 28 August 2026

ENTRIES DEADLINE

14 August

SHORTLIST ANNOUNCEMENT

24 September

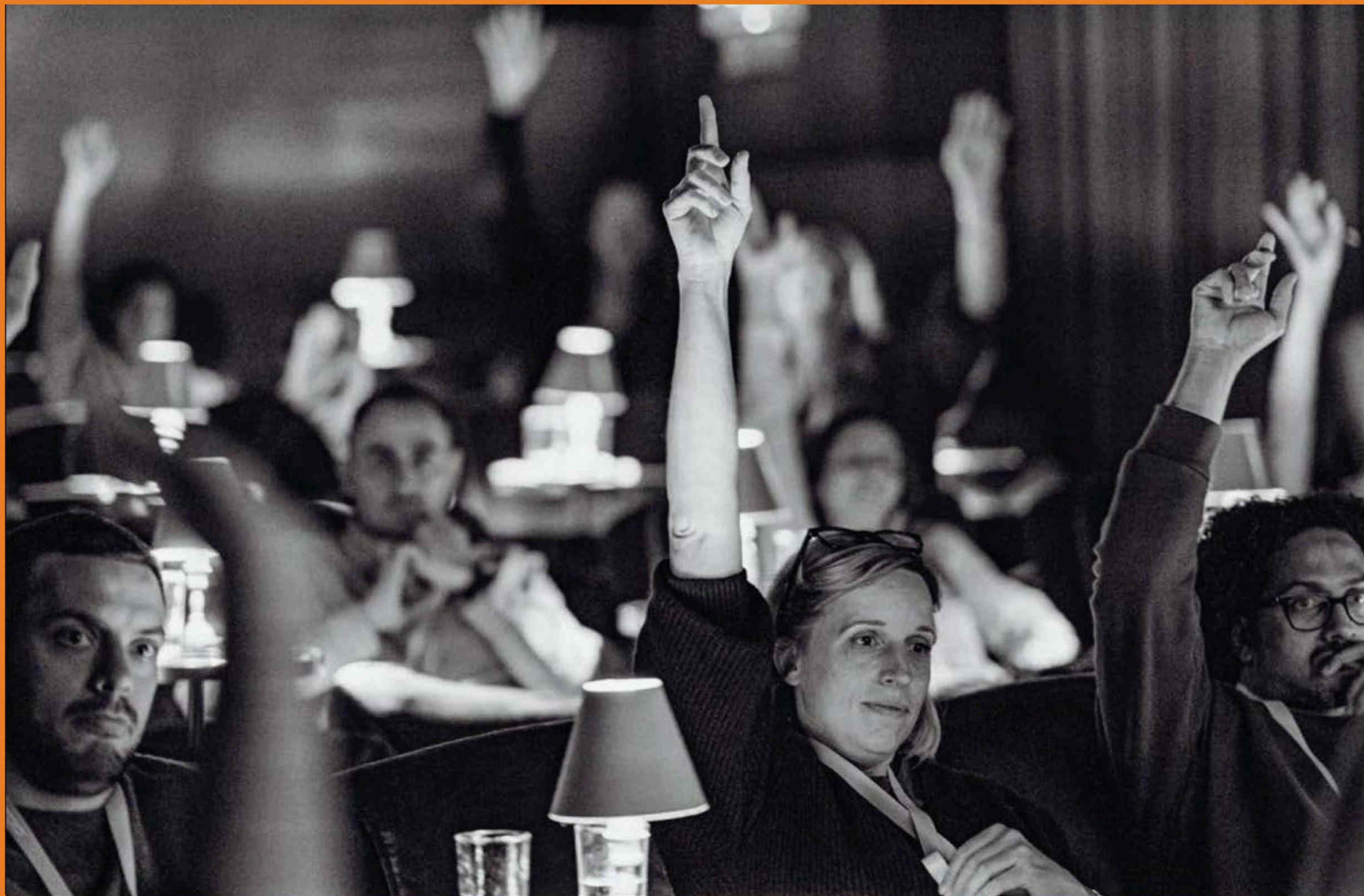
CICLOPE FESTIVAL

6 - 8 October, HKW, Berlin

WINNERS ANNOUNCEMENT

8 October

THE JURY



A highly-curated Jury panel of industry experts from around the world.

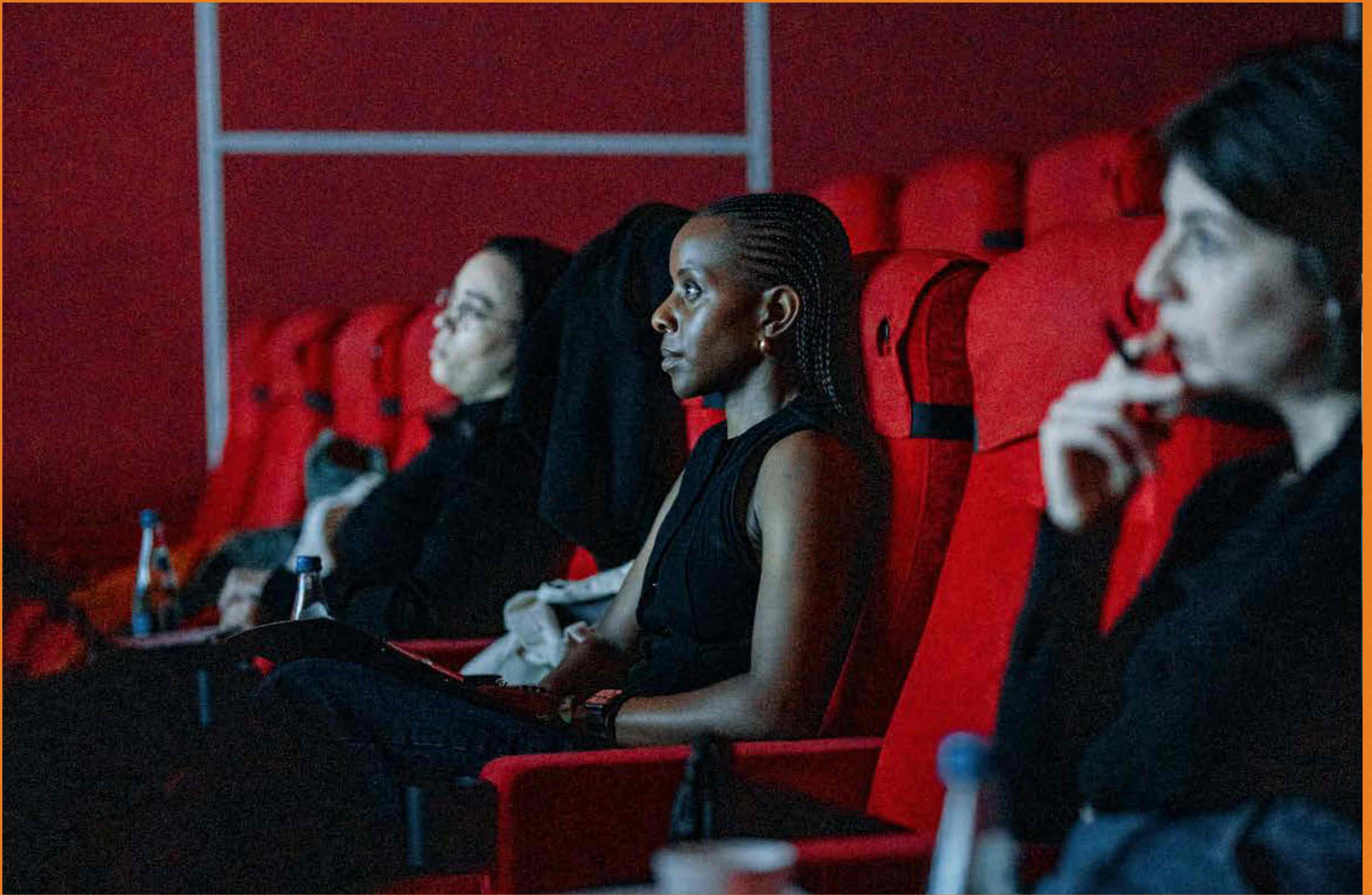
CICLOPE Awards Jury members are some of the most prestigious professionals in the global advertising and entertainment community.

Leading figures across all areas of production and post-production join with top-tier agency creatives and brand marketing executives.

They form a cohort of expert talent who gather in Berlin, to watch, discuss, award and celebrate the year's best work.



THE PROCESS



In 2026, **CICLOPE Awards'** judging process will consist of three rounds.

The first round is undertaken by the Executive and Grand Jury panels, who watch and rank all work entered on **CICLOPE's** online platform. The highest-ranked entries in each category are considered finalists.

In the second round, the Executive Jury signs off the official Shortlist.

In the final round, the Executive Jury gather in Berlin to watch and discuss each finalist piece in person.

Alongside the Gold, Silver and Bronze trophies in each category, a Grand Prix Winner may also be awarded in each section.

SPECIAL AWARDS



Special Awards celebrate the most outstanding performances of the year.

From visionary directors, to groundbreaking VFX studios. Bold agencies, to brands redefining storytelling. The Special Award-Winners are the companies and individuals whose work was the most highly-awarded by the CICLOPE Jury.

In the official ranking system, each company receives:

- **25 points** for a Grand Prix
- **15 points** for a Gold Award
- **7 points** for a Silver Award
- **3 points** for a Bronze Award
- **1 point** for a Finalist position

IMPORTANT: scores are calculated based on the information provided by the entrant companies. It is their duty to ensure the correct companies and individuals are appropriately credited.

2026 CATEGORIES



	SECTION	CATEGORY
CICLOPE CRAFT	DIRECTION	Direction Short Form Direction Mid Form Direction Long Form New Talent in Commercials Fashion & Luxury Unsigned Director
	PRODUCTION	Cinematography Production Design Casting Styling & Costume Design Production Achievement Low Budget Campaign
	AI CRAFT	AI in Film Production (New) AI in Post Production (New) AI in Animation (New) AI in Sound & Music (New)
	POST PRODUCTION	VFX Editing Short Form Editing Long Form Color Grading
	ANIMATION	Animation for Video Games 2D & Stop Motion CGI Title Sequence Character Design Animated Campaign
	SOUND & MUSIC	Sound Design Original Music Adapted Music Licensed Music Sound Mixing (New)
CICLOPE IDEAS	FILM	Film Short Form Film Mid Form Film Long Form Branded Comedy Campaign (New) Craft for Impact (New)
	INNOVATION	Live Experience & Activation Digital Experience & Activation
	FOR GOOD	Sustainability (New) Social Impact (New)
CICLOPE ENTERTAINMENT	MUSIC VIDEO	Direction New Talent in Music Videos Cinematography Production Design VFX Animation Editing Color Grading
BACK TO INDEX	SHORT FILM	Fiction (New) Documentary (New) Experimental (New)

Honouring craft at its highest level, categories in CICLOPE Craft reward beautiful execution that not only brings ideas to life, but expands the possibilities of storytelling and production.

Only commercials and branded films up to 20 minutes, created for broadcast on any media, can be entered in CICLOPE Craft.

SECTION	CATEGORY
DIRECTION	Direction Short Form Direction Mid Form Direction Long Form New Talent in Commercials Fashion & Luxury Unsigned Director
PRODUCTION	Cinematography Production Design Casting Styling & Costume Design Production Achievement Low Budget Campaign
AI CRAFT	AI in Film Production (New) AI in Post Production (New) AI in Animation (New) AI in Sound & Music (New)
POST PRODUCTION	VFX Editing Short Form Editing Long Form Color Grading
ANIMATION	Animation for Video Games 2D & Stop Motion CGI Title Sequence Character Design Animated Campaign
SOUND & MUSIC	Sound Design Original Music Adapted Music Licensed Music Sound Mixing (New)

SECTION DIRECTION

Human creative direction, authorship and oversight must be clearly demonstrated. Work consisting only of automated AI outputs without a meaningful human creative vision and intervention will not be eligible.

Campaigns must be exclusively entered in the Production / Campaign or Animation / Animated Campaign categories.



CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	SUPPORTING MATERIAL
DIRECTION SHORT FORM	The Jury will evaluate the director’s vision and storytelling skills, with particular attention to performance direction, visual language, pacing and the integration of key craft disciplines — including cinematography, editing and production design. Emphasis will be placed on the originality and consistency of the directorial approach and the excellence of the execution. Only content up to and including 60 seconds may be entered in this category.	
DIRECTION MID FORM	The Jury will evaluate the director’s vision and storytelling skills, with particular attention to performance direction, visual language, pacing and the integration of key craft disciplines — including cinematography, editing and production design. Emphasis will be placed on the originality and consistency of the directorial approach and the excellence of the execution. Only content between 61 to 120 seconds can be entered in this category.	
DIRECTION LONG FORM	The Jury will evaluate the director’s vision and storytelling skills, with particular attention to performance direction, visual language, pacing and the integration of key craft disciplines — including cinematography, editing and production design. Emphasis will be placed on the originality and consistency of the directorial approach and the excellence of the execution. Only content over 120 seconds can be entered in this category.	
NEW TALENT IN COMMERCIALS	This category aims to introduce emerging directing talent. The Jury will evaluate the director’s vision and storytelling skills, with particular attention to originality, visual language, performance direction and the integration of key craft disciplines across commercial and branded content, in both live action and animation. Emphasis will be placed on the clarity and originality of the directorial voice, as well as the excellence of the execution. Directors must have no more than two years of professional experience directing commercials (the organization and/or the Jury reserve the right to request proof of eligibility at any stage of the competition). Spec commercials, short films and music videos are not eligible in this category.	Entrants must upload a CV to prove their eligibility File type: pdf
FASHION & LUXURY	The Jury will evaluate the director’s vision and storytelling skills, with particular attention to originality, performance direction, visual language, pacing and the integration of key craft disciplines — including cinematography, editing and production design. Films commissioned by fashion, beauty and luxury brands, up to 20 minutes long for broadcast in any media, are eligible for this category.	
UNSIGNED DIRECTOR	This category recognizes outstanding direction by emerging talent not currently signed to a production company. It aims to identify new voices and distinct directorial approaches within commercial and branded content. The Jury will evaluate the director’s vision, storytelling and execution, with particular attention to visual language, performance direction and the integration of key craft disciplines. Emphasis will be placed on the clarity and originality of the directorial voice, as well as the excellence of the execution across all elements. Commercials and branded films, in both live action and animation, up to 20 minutes in length, are eligible in this category. Spec commercials are also eligible; in such cases, the film must include a visible note stating that it is a spec commercial.	Entrants must upload a brief one-page summary outlining their professional experience, to confirm their status as emerging, unsigned talent. File type: pdf

SECTION PRODUCTION

Human creative direction, authorship and oversight must be clearly demonstrated. Work consisting only of automated AI outputs without a meaningful human creative vision and intervention will not be eligible.

Campaigns must be exclusively entered in the Campaign category.



CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	SUPPORTING MATERIAL
CINEMATOGRAPHY	The Jury will evaluate the cinematographer’s artistic vision and technical execution in shaping a distinctive visual style, with particular attention to composition, lighting, camera movement, framing and the use of texture. Emphasis will be placed on the consistency and originality of the visual approach across the piece.	
PRODUCTION DESIGN	The Jury will evaluate the production design and art direction in shaping the film’s visual style and overall look, with particular attention to set design, locations and the development of visual elements created for the project. Emphasis will be placed on the consistency and originality of the visual approach, as well as the excellence of the execution.	
CASTING	The Jury will evaluate the casting director’s ability to select and assemble talent, as well as the performers’ contribution to the piece through the quality, authenticity and impact of their performances. Emphasis will be placed on the relevance of casting choices and the effectiveness of performances in supporting the overall narrative and creative intent.	
STYLING & COSTUME DESIGN	The Jury will evaluate the artistry, technical execution and creative vision in the styling of character wardrobe, make-up and hair design, and their contribution to the overall visual outcome. Emphasis will be placed on the originality and coherence of the styling approach, as well as the excellence of the execution.	
PRODUCTION ACHIEVEMENT	This category recognizes outstanding production in commercial filmmaking, honoring the teams behind the execution of complex ideas. The Jury will evaluate the overall quality of the work, including production complexity, scale, constraints and the effective use of resources to achieve the final result. Emphasis will be placed on the excellence of the execution, as well as the originality of production solutions. Special consideration will be given to productions that demonstrate sustainable practices.	Besides the original film, companies must submit a case study video or PDF detailing the brief, challenges, results, and total production budget. The supporting material should be clear and precise, explaining the challenges faced during production and how they were overcome. Videos must be under 2 minutes long, and PDFs should be a maximum of three pages. The supporting material must not include any credits or logos of the companies involved. File type: pdf, mp4, mov
LOW BUDGET	The Jury will evaluate the quality and impact of key film craft elements — including direction, cinematography, production design, styling, casting and editing — with particular attention to how these are achieved within limited resources. Emphasis will be placed on the originality of the approach and the excellence of the execution relative to budget constraints. Commercials and branded content produced with limited resources, with a total production budget under USD 75.000, are eligible.	Please upload a PDF file detailing the overall production budget in USD. File type: pdf
CAMPAIGN	This category recognizes excellence in the production of multi-piece advertising campaigns, rewarding the ability to execute a cohesive body of work across multiple films. The Jury will evaluate the campaign’s visual and narrative coherence — defined as a series of interconnected films under a unified concept — and the strength and consistency of the overarching idea. Emphasis will be placed on the consistency of the creative and production approach, the contribution of each piece to the whole, and the originality and excellence of the execution. Campaigns of 3–6 commercial films, with a combined total length of up to 20 minutes, are eligible. All films must be submitted as a single video file.	

SECTION

AI CRAFT



This section is exclusively dedicated to work created entirely through AI tools. It recognizes projects in which the final output is 100% AI-generated, across all relevant craft disciplines. Hybrid productions, combining traditional production methods with AI assistance, are not eligible and must be entered into the corresponding traditional craft sections.

All entrants must clearly disclose the AI tools used, the stages of creation involved and the extent of AI generation in the final piece.

Campaigns are eligible in this section.

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	SUPPORTING MATERIAL
AI IN FILM PRODUCTION	This category recognizes commercials fully generated using AI tools within the production phase. The work must be created without live-action filming or traditional physical production processes, including AI-generated cinematography, lighting, camera movement, virtual environments, characters and overall visual composition. The Jury will evaluate the technical execution, as well as the strength of the initial idea and its suitability for AI-based production. Emphasis will be placed on the clarity of creative intention, visual coherence, direction and the excellence of the execution across AI-native production processes.	AI Usage Statement A written explanation outlining: *Which AI tools or platforms were used *How AI was used in the development and/or production of the work *The extent of AI contribution to the final piece *The level of human creative direction and involvement This explanation should clearly distinguish between AI-generated elements and human-created elements. 150 words limit.
AI IN POST PRODUCTION	This category recognizes projects in which the final moving image has been entirely constructed or transformed through AI-driven post-production tools. Eligible work must demonstrate that image composition, transformation or reconstruction — including VFX, color grading or other image-processing techniques — has been fully executed using AI systems, without the use of traditional manual editing processes. Emphasis will be placed on the originality of the approach, the visual coherence of the final result and the excellence of the execution.	Process Evidence Supporting material demonstrating how AI was applied, such as: *Sample prompts *Workflow screenshots or screen recordings *Draft iterations showing AI development *Any relevant technical documentation This material must provide sufficient transparency for the Jury to clearly understand the creative process. File type: jpg, jpeg, mp3, mp4, mov, pdf
AI IN ANIMATION	This category recognizes animated commercials generated entirely through AI tools. Eligible work must demonstrate that character creation, movement, textures and visual style have been fully produced using AI-based systems, rather than traditional animation pipelines. The Jury will evaluate the originality, creative direction and character integrity, with particular attention to the overall visual approach within AI-generated processes. Emphasis will be placed on the consistency of the visual style and the excellence of the execution.	
AI IN SOUND & MUSIC	This category recognizes sound design and music fully generated using AI tools. Eligible work must demonstrate that composition, sound design, voice generation and/or sonic environments have been created entirely through AI systems, rather than recorded, performed or traditionally produced audio. The Jury will evaluate the artistic vision, technical execution and sonic sophistication, as well as the emotional impact. Emphasis will be placed on the originality of the approach and the excellence of the execution.	

SECTION POST PRODUCTION

Human creative direction, authorship and oversight must be clearly demonstrated. Work consisting only of automated AI outputs without a meaningful human creative vision and intervention will not be eligible.

Campaigns must be exclusively entered in the Production / Campaign or Animation / Animated Campaign categories.



CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	SUPPORTING MATERIAL
VFX	The Jury will evaluate the artistry and technical execution in the integration of VFX, with particular attention to how effects enhance realism or stylization and support the overall creative vision. Emphasis will be placed on technical precision, innovation and the effectiveness of the VFX in contributing to the storytelling and overall viewer experience.	
EDITING SHORT FORM	The Jury will evaluate the editor’s role in shaping the film’s narrative, with particular attention to pacing, rhythm and the ability to shape story and emotion through timing, transitions and structure. Emphasis will be placed on the precision and excellence of the execution, and the editor’s impact on the overall narrative and emotional outcome of the piece. Films up to and including 90 seconds are eligible in this category.	
EDITING LONG FORM	The Jury will evaluate the editor’s role in shaping the film’s narrative, with particular attention to pacing, rhythm and the ability to shape story and emotion through timing, transitions and structure. Emphasis will be placed on the precision and excellence of the execution, and the editor’s impact on the overall narrative and emotional outcome of the piece. Films over 90 seconds are eligible in this category.	
COLOR GRADING	The Jury will evaluate the creative use of color to support storytelling, evoke emotion, establish tone and enhance the overall visual impact of the piece. Emphasis will be placed on the coherence of the color approach, and the excellence of the execution.	

SECTION

ANIMATION

Human creative direction, authorship and oversight must be clearly demonstrated. Work consisting only of automated AI outputs without a meaningful human creative vision and intervention will not be eligible.

Campaigns must be exclusively entered in the Animated Campaign category.



CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	SUPPORTING MATERIAL
ANIMATION FOR VIDEO GAMES	The Jury will evaluate the animator’s craft in the creation and animation of characters, environments, movement and effects in video game trailers, cutscenes and cinematics. Emphasis will be placed on the quality and consistency of the animation, and the excellence of the execution.	
2D & STOP MOTION	The Jury will evaluate the visual elements created using 2D animation or stop motion techniques, with particular attention to the animator’s craft in the creation of characters, environments, movement and effects. Emphasis will be placed on the quality and consistency of the animation, and the excellence of the execution.	
CGI	The Jury will evaluate the visual elements created using 3D/ CGI animation, with particular attention to the animator’s craft in the creation of characters, environments, movement and effects. Emphasis will be placed on the quality and consistency of the animation, as well as the level of detail, realism or stylization achieved, and the excellence of the execution.	
TITLE SEQUENCE	The Jury will evaluate the use of 2D, 3D, stop motion, mixed media or other animation techniques in the creation of animated title sequences for feature films, short films, live events, exhibitions or games. Emphasis will be placed on the originality of the concept, the coherence of the visual approach and the excellence of the execution. Safety videos are also eligible in this category.	
CHARACTER DESIGN	The Jury will evaluate the artistry, originality and technical execution behind the creation of animated characters, with particular attention to their design, visual style and personality, and their contribution to the film. Emphasis will be placed on the originality and distinctiveness of the character, as well as its effectiveness in supporting the narrative and creative intent of the piece, and the excellence of the execution.	
ANIMATED CAMPAIGN	This category recognizes excellence in the production of multi-piece advertising campaigns using animation, rewarding the ability to deliver a cohesive body of work across multiple films. The Jury will evaluate the visual and narrative coherence of the campaign — defined as a series of interconnected films under a unified concept — as well as the quality and consistency of the animation across all pieces. Emphasis will be placed on the consistency of the creative and production approach, the contribution of each piece to the whole, and the excellence of the execution. Campaigns of 3–6 commercial films, with a combined total length of up to 20 minutes, across TV, cinema, online platforms, social media and OOH experiences, are eligible. All films must be submitted as a single video file.	

SECTION

SOUND & MUSIC

Human creative direction, authorship and oversight must be clearly demonstrated. Work consisting only of automated AI outputs without a meaningful human creative vision and intervention will not be eligible.

Campaigns must be exclusively entered in the Production / Campaign or Animation / Animated Campaign categories.



CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	SUPPORTING MATERIAL
SOUND DESIGN	The Jury will evaluate the creation and artistic use of sound effects, voices — human or computer-generated — and elements of music, with particular attention to their contribution to the overall impact, narrative and emotional resonance of the piece. Emphasis will be placed on the clarity of the sonic approach, its effectiveness as a narrative and experiential tool, and the precision and excellence of the execution.	
ORIGINAL MUSIC	The Jury will evaluate original music composed specifically for advertising, assessing the originality, emotional impact and effectiveness of the composition — instrumental or vocal — in supporting the narrative and enhancing the tone of the piece. Emphasis will be placed on the strength of the musical idea, its integration within the overall work, and the precision and excellence of the execution across melody, arrangement, rhythm and instrumentation. The use of licensed or pre-existing music is not eligible in this category.	
ADAPTED MUSIC	The Jury will evaluate the creative use of pre-existing music in advertising, including reinterpretation, re-orchestration, remixing or other forms of adaptation, assessing the originality and quality of the adaptation and its effectiveness in enhancing the narrative, emotional tone and overall impact of the piece. Emphasis will be placed on the integration of the music within the storytelling, and the excellence of the execution. The direct use of licensed music without creative modification is not eligible in this category.	
LICENSED MUSIC	This category recognizes the use of licensed, pre-existing music in advertising, where the impact lies in the curatorial choice and its alignment with the narrative, tone and brand message. The Jury will evaluate the effectiveness of the musical selection in enhancing the emotional impact and communication of the piece, as well as the originality and cultural relevance of the choice. Emphasis will be placed on the strategic integration of the track within the storytelling, and the excellence of the execution. Entries must use the track in its original form, without significant rearrangement or reinterpretation.	
SOUND MIXING	This category recognizes excellence in the craft of sound mixing for advertising. The Jury will evaluate the balance, clarity, spatial composition and technical precision of the final audio mix, as well as its contribution to the narrative, emotional impact and immersive quality of the piece. Emphasis will be placed on the integration of dialogue, music, sound design and effects into a cohesive and intentional sound composition, and on the precision and excellence of the execution.	

CICLOPE IDEAS

Celebrating creativity, categories in CICLOPE Ideas reward powerful ideas elevated through exceptional craft, and ultimately proven through meaningful effectiveness.

Only commercials and branded films up to 20 minutes, created for broadcast on any media, can be entered in CICLOPE Ideas.

AI productions are eligible.

SECTION	CATEGORY
FILM	Film Short Form
	Film Mid Form
	Film Long Form
	Branded Comedy
	Campaign (New)
	Craft for Impact (New)
INNOVATION	Live Experience & Activation
	Digital Experience & Activation
FOR GOOD	Sustainability (New)
	Social Impact (New)



CATEGORY

FILM | SHORT FORM

DESCRIPTION

The Jury will evaluate commercials and branded content with a focus on the strength of the idea, rewarding creativity, innovation and excellence in execution, with particular attention to the role of craft in bringing the idea to life.

Emphasis will be placed on the clarity and distinctiveness of the idea, the excellence of the execution, and its effectiveness in engaging audiences and communicating the brand message.

Films up to and including 60 seconds are eligible in this category.

SUPPORTING MATERIAL

Entrant companies must submit a 1-page PDF written summary explaining the brief, the execution and the results of the project. Data showing the effectiveness of the idea can also be added.

In addition, we highly recommend that companies upload a case video in a separate file. Videos can be up to 2 minutes.

The supporting material must not include any credits or logos of the companies involved.

FILM | MID FORM

The Jury will evaluate commercials and branded content with a focus on the strength of the idea, rewarding creativity, innovation and excellence in execution, with particular attention to the role of craft in bringing the idea to life.

Emphasis will be placed on the clarity and distinctiveness of the idea, the excellence of the execution, and its effectiveness in engaging audiences and communicating the brand message.

Films between 61 to 120 seconds can be entered in this category.

Entrant companies must submit a 1-page PDF written summary explaining the brief, the execution and the results of the project. Data showing the effectiveness of the idea can also be added.

In addition, we highly recommend that companies upload a case video in a separate file. Videos can be up to 2 minutes.

The supporting material must not include any credits or logos of the companies involved.

FILM | LONG FORM

The Jury will evaluate commercials and branded content with a focus on the strength of the idea, rewarding creativity, innovation and excellence in execution, with particular attention to the role of craft in bringing the idea to life.

Emphasis will be placed on the clarity and distinctiveness of the idea, the excellence of the execution, and its effectiveness in engaging audiences and communicating the brand message.

Films over 120 seconds can be entered in this category.

Entrant companies must submit a 1-page PDF written summary explaining the brief, the execution and the results of the project. Data showing the effectiveness of the idea can also be added.

In addition, we highly recommend that companies upload a case video in a separate file. Videos can be up to 2 minutes.

The supporting material must not include any credits or logos of the companies involved.

BRANDED COMEDY

The Jury will evaluate the use of humor in commercial storytelling, with particular attention to the strength of the idea, script, performances and overall comedic direction. Emphasis will be placed on the originality and effectiveness of the humor, and its relevance in relation to the objective, message, tone and brand narrative of the piece.

CAMPAIGN

This category recognizes excellence in multi-piece advertising campaigns, rewarding the strength of the overarching idea and its execution across multiple films.

The Jury will evaluate the visual and narrative coherence of the campaign — defined as a series of interconnected films under a unified concept — with particular attention to the consistency of the idea and its expression across all pieces.

Emphasis will be placed on the clarity and distinctiveness of the concept, the contribution of each piece to the whole, and the excellence of the execution.

Campaigns of 3–6 commercial films, with a combined total length of up to 20 minutes, across TV, cinema, online platforms, social media and OOH experiences, are eligible. All films must be submitted as a single video file.

Entrant companies must submit a 1-page PDF written summary explaining the brief, the execution and the results of the project. Data showing the effectiveness of the idea can also be added.

In addition, we highly recommend that companies upload a case video in a separate file. Videos can be up to 2 minutes.

The supporting material must not include any credits or logos of the companies involved.

CRAFT FOR IMPACT

This category recognizes outstanding craft that demonstrably drives measurable impact for a brand.

The Jury will evaluate the quality of the execution across all relevant craft disciplines — including direction, production, sound, animation and VFX — as well as its effectiveness in relation to the objectives defined in the brief.

Emphasis will be placed on the relationship between craft excellence and measurable results, and on the production decisions that enable both.

Alongside the final piece, entrants must submit a file clearly outlining the brief, including objectives, proposed solution and results achieved. Entries from previous CICLOPE editions are eligible for Craft for Impact, provided they fall within the **eligibility period of 22 August 2023 to 28 August 2026**. This extended eligibility window recognizes that meaningful impact often takes time to become evident.

In a separate PDF document, entrants must provide verifiable evidence of results. This last information will not be shared with the Jury and will only be used for verification purposes if required.

Entrants are required to submit a short written statement outlining the context of the project, including the challenges faced, the key craft decisions made, and how those choices contributed to the final results. The statement must clearly demonstrate the link between craft execution and measurable impact.

As supporting evidence for the information included in the submission, please also upload a document providing clear and precise proof of the results achieved (e.g. engagement, sales uplift, brand lift, ROI, etc.). This document will not be shared with the Jury and will be used for verification purposes only.

In addition, a brief client endorsement is required. The endorsement must be provided by the client or brand and should confirm their involvement in the project and the accuracy and authenticity of the results submitted by the entrant company. The statement must include the signature of an authorized client representative. This information will not be shared with the Jury and will only be used for veritafaction purposes if required.



CATEGORY

LIVE EXPERIENCE & ACTIVATION

DESCRIPTION

The Jury will evaluate creative brand experiences and activations that engage audiences through physical environments and real-world interactions. This includes, but is not limited to, events, installations, performances, retail experiences, pop-ups, sponsorship activations and other live experiences that strengthen the relationship between a brand and its audience.

Emphasis will be placed on the originality and clarity of the concept, the quality of the execution, and its effectiveness in engaging audiences and communicating the brand’s message.

SUPPORTING MATERIAL

Entrant companies must submit a 1-page PDF written summary explaining the brief, the execution and the results of the project. Data showing the effectiveness of the idea can also be added.

The supporting material must not include any credits or logos of the companies involved.

DIGITAL EXPERIENCE & ACTIVATION

The Jury will evaluate creative brand experiences and activations that engage audiences through digital environments, platforms and interactive technologies. This includes, but is not limited to, websites, apps, social platforms, gaming, immersive experiences, connected products, virtual and augmented reality and other digital touchpoints.

Emphasis will be placed on the originality of the concept, the quality of the user experience and interaction design, the excellence of the technical execution, and its effectiveness in engaging audiences within immersive digital contexts.

Entrant companies must submit a 1-page PDF written summary explaining the brief, the execution and the results of the project. Data showing the effectiveness of the idea can also be added.

The supporting material must not include any credits or logos of the companies involved.



CATEGORY

SUSTAINABILITY

DESCRIPTION

The Jury will evaluate audiovisual and interactive campaigns — including TV commercials, branded content, apps, websites and other formats — aimed at raising awareness and promoting environmental education and sustainability.

Emphasis will be placed on the strength and clarity of the idea, its effectiveness in communicating environmental issues, and the results achieved in driving awareness, engagement or behavioral change, as well as the excellence of the execution.

Eligible work may address topics such as climate change, ecosystem and biodiversity conservation, renewable energy, sustainable production and consumption, energy efficiency, pollution, responsible use of natural resources, and practices including waste reduction, recycling and reuse.

SUPPORTING MATERIAL

Entrants are required to submit a short written statement outlining the context of the project, including the challenge addressed, the objective of the initiative and the idea behind the work. The statement must clearly explain how the project contributed to positive environmental change, demonstrating the relevance of the idea and its effectiveness in addressing the issue. Supporting evidence of results should be included where possible (e.g. behavioural change, awareness, participation, policy influence, measurable outcomes, etc.). In addition, a brief client endorsement is required. The endorsement must be provided by the client or brand and should confirm their involvement in the project and the accuracy and authenticity of the results submitted by the entrant company. The statement must include the signature of an authorized client representative. This information will not be shared with the Jury and will only be used for veritification purposes if required.

SOCIAL IMPACT

The Jury will evaluate audiovisual and interactive campaigns — including TV commercials, branded content, apps, websites and other formats — aimed at advancing social causes and promoting more equal, inclusive and peaceful societies.

Emphasis will be placed on the strength and clarity of the idea, its effectiveness in raising awareness and driving social change, and the results achieved, as well as the excellence of the execution.

Eligible work may address issues such as poverty, migration and refugee crises, discrimination, gender equality, access to social and health protection, and inclusive and equitable education.

Entrants are required to submit a short written statement outlining the context of the project, including the challenge addressed, the objective of the initiative and the idea behind the work.

The statement must clearly explain how the project contributed to positive social impact, demonstrating the relevance of the idea and its effectiveness in addressing the issue. Supporting evidence of results should be included where possible (e.g. behavioural change, awareness, participation, policy influence, measurable outcomes, etc.).

In addition, a brief client endorsement is required. The endorsement must be provided by the client or brand and should confirm their involvement in the project and the accuracy and authenticity of the results submitted by the entrant company. The statement must include the signature of an authorized client representative. This information will not be shared with the Jury and will only be used for veritification purposes if required.

CICLOPE ENTERTAINMENT



Celebrating non-branded films at their boldest, CICLOPE Entertainment rewards exceptional craft and execution, and the innovation that pushes cinematic storytelling forward.

SECTION	CATEGORY
MUSIC VIDEO	Direction
	New Talent in Music Videos
	Cinematography
	Production Design
	VFX
	Animation
	Editing
	Color Grading
SHORT FILM	Fiction (New)
	Documentary (New)
	Experimental (New)

SECTION

MUSIC VIDEO

Films created for songs or albums with promotional or artistic purposes, up to 20 minutes long for broadcast in any media, can be entered in this section.

Branded music videos must be entered into the Craft and Ideas sections.



CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	SUPPORTING MATERIAL
DIRECTION	The Jury will evaluate the director’s vision, storytelling and execution in music videos, with particular attention to the ability to shape performances and orchestrate key craft elements — including cinematography, production design and overall visual direction — in response to the music. Emphasis will be placed on the originality of the approach, how the work accompanies and engages with the song, and the excellence of the execution.	
NEW TALENT IN MUSIC VIDEOS	This category aims to identify emerging directing talent in music videos. The Jury will evaluate the director’s vision, storytelling and execution, with particular attention to visual language, performance direction and the integration of key craft elements across both live action and animation. Emphasis will be placed on the originality of the approach, how the work accompanies and engages with the song, and the excellence of the execution. To be eligible, directors must have no more than two years of experience directing music videos. The organization and/or the Jury reserve the right to request proof of eligibility at any stage of the competition. Commercials and branded content films are not eligible in this category.	Entrants must upload a CV to prove their eligibility. File type: pdf
CINEMATOGRAPHY	The Jury will evaluate the cinematographer’s artistic vision and technical execution in shaping a distinctive visual style, with particular attention to composition, lighting, camera movement, framing and the use of texture. Emphasis will be placed on the consistency and originality of the visual approach across the piece.	
PRODUCTION DESIGN	The Jury will evaluate the production design and art direction in shaping the film’s visual style and overall look, with particular attention to set design, locations and the development of visual elements created for the project. Emphasis will be placed on the consistency and originality of the visual approach, as well as the excellence of the execution.	
VFX	The Jury will evaluate the artistry and technical execution in the integration of VFX, with particular attention to how effects enhance realism or stylization and support the overall creative vision. Emphasis will be placed on technical precision, innovation and the effectiveness of the VFX in contributing to the storytelling and overall viewer experience.	
ANIMATION	The Jury will evaluate the use of 2D, 3D, stop motion, mixed media or other animation techniques in music videos. Emphasis will be placed on the originality of the approach, how the animation accompanies and engages with the song, and the quality and consistency of the animation, as well as the excellence of the execution.	
EDITING	The Jury will evaluate the editor’s role in shaping the film’s narrative, with particular attention to pacing, rhythm and the ability to shape story and emotion through timing, transitions and structure. Emphasis will be placed on the precision and excellence of the execution, and the editor’s impact on the overall narrative and emotional outcome of the piece.	
COLOR GRADING	The Jury will evaluate the creative use of color to support storytelling, evoke emotion, establish tone and enhance the overall visual impact of the piece. Emphasis will be placed on the coherence of the color approach, and the excellence of the execution.	

SECTION SHORT FILM

Any non-branded short film (fiction or documentary, live action or animation) up to 20 minutes can be entered in this section.

Branded short films and music videos are not eligible in this section.



CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION	SUPPORTING MATERIAL
FICTION	This category recognizes non-branded fictional short films that tell an original scripted story through live action or animation. The Jury will evaluate the strength of the narrative, the director’s vision and storytelling ability, as well as the quality of key craft elements — including cinematography, production design, casting and editing. Emphasis will be placed on the coherence of the narrative, the integration of craft in service of the story, and the excellence of the overall execution.	
DOCUMENTARY	This category recognizes non-branded short documentary films that capture real stories, people or events. The Jury will evaluate the director’s perspective and storytelling approach, as well as the film’s ability to engage the audience through narrative authenticity and the thoughtful use of craft elements — including cinematography, editing and sound design. Emphasis will be placed on the authenticity and integrity of the narrative, the relevance of the subject matter, and the excellence of the execution.	
EXPERIMENTAL	This category recognizes non-branded short films that explore alternative approaches to cinematic language, storytelling and visual form. Eligible work must push the boundaries of traditional narrative structures or employ unconventional techniques across image, sound, editing or animation. The Jury will evaluate the originality of the approach, the artistic vision and the quality of the craft in supporting the experimental concept. Emphasis will be placed on the coherence between concept and execution, and the excellence of the execution.	

HOW TO SUBMIT



To enter the 2026 CICLOPE Awards, start by clicking [here](#). Then follow the steps below:

1. ACCESS YOUR ACCOUNT

A. CREATE YOUR ACCOUNT

If you are a new user, please register by clicking on **Create your account**. Once you have created your account, log in to CICLOPE's entry platform.

B. LOG IN

If you are a registered user, please log in using your existing username and password for CICLOPE's entry platform.

2. CREATE AN ENTRY

A. SECTION

Select **CICLOPE Craft**, **CICLOPE Ideas**, or **CICLOPE Entertainment**, and choose the appropriate section for your entry.

B. CATEGORY

Choose the appropriate category for your entry.
Note: once selected, you will not be able to change entries between categories. To move entries to a different section / category, either create a new entry, or contact the Awards Team.

C. CREDITS

Fill in all credits. Please take care to ensure all individuals' names and company names are spelled correctly, and are entered in the right field.

Once you have entered all fields, click on **Create an entry**.

D. AI DISCLOSURE

Provide a clear explanation including which AI platforms, software or tools were used, and the degree to which AI contributed to the final piece.

Max. 150 words, in English.

E. PROJECT SUMMARY

Include any additional information you would like to share with the Jury here.

It may provide context, a deeper understanding of the cultural relevance of the project, or outline production challenges faced. Diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, as well as adopted sustainability practices can be added here.

Max. 300 words, in English.

F. UPLOAD MATERIAL

I) Upload a **Thumbnail Image** that illustrates your work (this will only be used as a reference and will not be judged.)

II) Next, upload the **Media** you are entering in the Awards.

III) Some categories require **supporting materials** (a pdf or supporting visuals). If mandatory to your chosen category, please enter them at this step.

IV) Once all required media is uploaded, click **Proceed**.

3. FINALIZE YOUR ENTRY

Before finalizing your entries, please read and accept all Terms & Rules. Then check the tick boxes next to your entries and click **Submit**.

You will be automatically directed to a payment system (Stripe) where you can pay with credit card or bank transfer.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS



Please **carefully read** the following requirements before submitting your work.

- Entries must remain anonymous, so please remove all credits and the entrant company logos before uploading media. There is no need to remove the client's logo.
- If entered work is in a language other than English, participants must include English subtitles in their entries (with the exception of music videos).
- Only work aired between 22 August 2025 - 28 August 2026 is eligible to enter, with the exception of the Craft for Impact category, for which the eligibility period begins on 22 August 2023.
- Multiple films in a campaign must be entered separately. Campaigns are only eligible in their respective categories (Production / Campaign, Animation / Animated Campaign, and Film / Campaign) as well as all categories within the Innovation, For Good and AI Craft sections.
- If entering the same film in different categories, you can select 'Copy Entry' to replicate entry details. To upload the film again you will find it in 'My Media'.
- If there is a mandatory credit that is not pertinent to your film, please fill in N/A.
- All credits can be modified until the deadline date.
- The **CICLOPE Awards** team is not responsible for filling in or correcting credits.
- Once you have completed your submission, fees are not refundable under any circumstance.
- Please note that if your work is shortlisted or awarded, it will be displayed in full in our Winners Gallery, and all credits will be visible on **CICLOPE's** website.

MEDIA REQUIREMENTS



MEDIA REQUIREMENTS

MEDIA VIDEO

This is the piece of work you are submitting to the Awards for the Jury to evaluate. This file is **mandatory** to complete your submission.

Files should be MPEG4, MPEG2 or MOV files:

- Recommended compression rate 15-20MB
- Maximum file size 1GB
- **PLEASE** do not include any special characters (& / * / “ ” / !) in the name of the file, as it will not upload
- The maximum duration for entries is 20 minutes

THUMBNAIL IMAGE

This image will only be used as a reference and will not be judged. This file is **mandatory** to complete your submission.

- Hi-res still from the video, it should illustrate the work submitted
- At least 1920 pixels long
- Maximum file size 5MB

SUPPORTING MATERIAL

Some categories require **mandatory** supporting material to complete your submission. Please read your selected category entry requirements, and ensure there are no logos or credits included.

ENTRY FEES

CICLOPE CRAFT



		FEE UNTIL 7 AUGUST 2026	FEE FROM 8 AUGUST 2026
DIRECTION	Direction Short Form	€ 560	€ 615
	Direction Mid Form	€ 560	€ 615
	Direction Long Form	€ 560	€ 615
	New Talent in Commercials	€ 390	€ 430
	Fashion & Luxury	€ 560	€ 615
	Unsigned Director	€ 175	€ 190
PRODUCTION	Cinematography	€ 560	€ 615
	Production Design	€ 560	€ 615
	Casting	€ 560	€ 615
	Styling & Costume Design	€ 560	€ 615
	Production Achievement	€ 560	€ 615
	Low Budget	€ 560	€ 615
	Campaign	€ 1450	€ 1595
AI CRAFT	AI in Film Production (New)	€ 560	€ 615
	AI in Visual Effects (New)	€ 560	€ 615
	AI in Animation (New)	€ 560	€ 615
	AI in Sound & Music (New)	€ 560	€ 615
POST PRODUCTION	VFX	€ 560	€ 615
	Editing Short Form	€ 560	€ 615
	Editing Long Form	€ 560	€ 615
	Color Grading	€ 560	€ 615
ANIMATION	Animation for Video Games	€ 560	€ 615
	2D & Stop Motion	€ 560	€ 615
	CGI	€ 560	€ 615
	Title Sequence	€ 560	€ 615
	Character Design	€ 560	€ 615
	Animated Campaign	€ 1450	€ 1595
SOUND & MUSIC	Sound Design	€ 560	€ 615
	Original Music	€ 560	€ 615
	Adapted Music	€ 560	€ 615
	Licensed Music	€ 560	€ 615
	Sound Mixing (New)	€ 560	€ 615

ENTRY FEES

CICLOPE IDEAS



		FEE UNTIL 7 AUGUST 2026	FEE FROM 8 AUGUST 2026
FILM	Film Short Form	€ 615	€ 675
	Film Mid Form	€ 615	€ 675
	Film Long Form	€ 615	€ 675
	Branded Comedy	€ 615	€ 675
	Campaign (New)	€ 1495	€ 1645
	Craft for Impact (New)	€ 615	€ 675
INNOVATION	Live Experience & Activation	€ 615	€ 675
	Digital Experience & Activation	€ 615	€ 675
FOR GOOD	Sustainability (New)	€ 495	€ 545
	Social Impact (New)	€ 495	€ 545

ENTRY FEES

CICLOPE ENTERTAINMENT



		FEE UNTIL 7 AUGUST 2026	FEE FROM 8 AUGUST 2026
MUSIC VIDEO	Direction	€ 495	€ 545
	New Talent in Music Videos	€ 390	€ 430
	Cinematography	€ 495	€ 545
	Production Design	€ 495	€ 545
	VFX	€ 495	€ 545
	Animation	€ 495	€ 545
	Editing	€ 495	€ 545
	Color Grading	€ 495	€ 545
SHORT FILM	Fiction (New)	€ 495	€ 545
	Documentary (New)	€ 495	€ 545
	Experimental (New)	€ 495	€ 545

FEES & PAYMENT



PAYMENT METHOD

Payments can be made via credit card or through bank transfer. If you have any issues when completing your payment, please **get in touch**.

If paying by bank transfer, please send a copy of the receipt and invoice to finance@ciclopefestival.com and awards@ciclopefestival.com. Entries are only complete once payments are received, so please ensure this is done before the entry deadline.

Entry fees are non-refundable under any circumstances. In the case of withdrawn entries, either by the entrant company or by the Awards team for entrants not adhering to the Terms & Rules, there will be no compensation.

TERMS & RULES 2026



Please ensure that you have read all the 2026 Terms & Rules before submitting your work to CICLOPE Awards.

A. Production companies, advertising agencies, brands, post production companies, editing houses, music production companies, digital production companies, creative studios and independent professionals worldwide are eligible to enter.

B. CICLOPE is an international Festival and English is the official language. Entries may be submitted in any language, but English subtitles are required for all non-English-language films (except in the Music Video section).

C. Entries must be submitted and paid through CICLOPE's online registration system or via wire transfer. An entry is only considered complete once all the materials have been uploaded and payment has been received.

D. To be eligible, entries must comply with these Terms & Rules and the technical specifications outlined in the registration platform. CICLOPE is not responsible for incomplete or incorrect submissions.
Entry fees are not refundable.

E. Entrants must have secured all necessary rights and authorizations, including those from advertisers, agencies and/or rights holders, including talent and music licensors. By entering, participants confirm they hold all required rights and grant CICLOPE the right to screen and publish the work for Festival and promotional purposes. The Festival shall not be held accountable for any type of responsibility that may arise in the shape of legal claims of third parties for this or any other motive related to the intellectual property or reproduction rights of the work.

F. All information submitted as part of an entry, including supporting materials, must be true and accurate. Entrants are solely responsible for its content, and CICLOPE reserves the right to request supporting documentation at any stage and to disqualify any entry containing false, misleading or incomplete information, without refund. CICLOPE accepts no responsibility for any misrepresentation or fraudulent claims.

G. Entries must have been first broadcast between 22 August 2025 and 28 August 2026, with the exception of the Craft for Impact category, for which the eligibility period begins on 22 August 2023. CICLOPE and/or the Jury may request proof of broadcast at any stage. Entrants should be ready to provide it within 72 hours. Failure to do so may result in disqualification.

H. Work submitted to previous editions of CICLOPE Festival is not eligible, with the exception of the Craft for Impact category, for which entrants may submit work entered in previous CICLOPE editions, provided it includes updated results. All entries submitted to the 2026 editions of CICLOPE Latino or CICLOPE Asia Pacific may be entered, provided they comply with the eligibility dates outlined above.

I. Commercial work submitted to CICLOPE Craft and CICLOPE Ideas must have been commissioned by a brand. Spec work is only eligible in the Unsigned Director category, and must be clearly identified as such within the film.

J. For the New Talent in Commercials and New Talent in Music Videos categories, directors must have had less than two years of professional experience directing commercials or music videos. The organization will have the right to ask for proof, if necessary.

TERMS & RULES 2026



K. Campaigns are only eligible in specific categories within the CICLOPE Craft Production and Animation sections, and CICLOPE Ideas Film, Innovation and For Good sections. In all other categories, entries should be submitted as individual pieces.

L. To ensure fair judging, commercials and supporting materials must not include any company names, logos or credits from the production companies or agencies involved. If such information is included, entrants will be asked to remove it. If no response is received within 48 hours, the entry may be disqualified. This requirement does not apply to short films and music videos submitted to CICLOPE Entertainment.

M. CICLOPE and the Jury, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to move an entry to a more appropriate category when considered necessary, or to disqualify it if it does not comply with any requirements expressed in the current Terms & Rules. No compensation will be provided.

N. Full and accurate credits must be provided during submission. These will be used for publication if the work is awarded.

O. The use of AI tools must be disclosed at the time of submission. Entrants remain responsible for ensuring all rights and permissions are in place.

P. CICLOPE's judging process consists of three rounds:

1. Online voting by the Executive and Grand Jury.
2. Shortlist sign-off by the Executive Jury.
3. Final judging by the Executive Jury in Berlin, where Gold, Silver and Bronze are decided. The Executive Jury can also award a Grand Prix per section to the most outstanding work.

Q. Judges will not vote on any entry in which they, their companies, or affiliated companies within their global network were involved.

R. The Jury reserves the right to not award a category if the required standard is not met.

S. Entry deadline is 14 August 2026, and winners will be announced on 8 October 2026 at the CICLOPE Awards ceremony in Berlin. Winners not present at the ceremony will receive their trophies by courier.

T. For the ranking to determine the Special Awards, points are awarded as follows:

- Grand Prix: 25 points
- Gold: 15 points
- Silver: 7 points
- Bronze: 3 points
- Finalist: 1 point

U. To qualify for Special Awards: Production Company, Advertising Agency or Brand of the Year, companies must be credited in at least 3 shortlisted entries. For Director, VFX Company, Animation Company, Editing Company and Music Company of the Year, a minimum of 2 shortlisted entries is required. For Sound Company of the Year, companies must be credited in at least 1 shortlisted entry. Entries from all offices worldwide contribute to a company's total score.

V. CICLOPE reserves the right to amend schedules and formats as required without prior notice.

GET IN TOUCH



Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

AWARDS SUPPORT

awards@ciclopefestival.com

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