



FEST
2026

New Directors
New Films Festival

20.06
—28.06

ESPINHO, PORTUGAL

www.fest.pt





Why FEST?

Created specifically for new and rising talent, **FEST offers the ideal environment for young filmmakers** to take the first big step in their professional journey. For eight inspiring days, the seaside city of Espinho transforms into a global meeting point for creativity and collaboration, welcoming participants from dozens of countries.

In this relaxed and inspiring setting, **students and professionals** can:

- ❖ Present their work to an **international audience**
- ❖ Gain practical, **industry-relevant knowledge**
- ❖ **Exchange ideas** with experts and peers
- ❖ Build **meaningful connections** that propel their careers forward

All while **enjoying the unique atmosphere of a festival that blends cinema, learning, and people.**

FEST 2026

The 22nd edition of **FEST** will take place **June 20–28, 2026, in Espinho, Portugal.**





Explore new opportunities at FEST



Learn from the best

A **week film industry forum** with +30 workshops and masterclasses by some of the biggest names in the industry.

Earn support for projects in any phase of development

Pitching Forum is our **intensive training program** held during FEST week, spanning three days. Designed to prepare participants for pitching sessions, it **features previously submitted and selected projects competing for development awards and co-production opportunities.**

Awards for Academic Films

FEST features 9 competitive sections for emerging filmmakers with short or feature-length films, covering documentary, experimental, fiction, and animation genres.

Meet filmmakers from all over the world

From rising stars to Oscar winners, +800 filmmakers, film professionals and students from over 45 countries gather at FEST to establish connections with our Speed Meetings, Networking Dinners and Filmmakers Corner.

FEST is part of a new generation of festivals



Film Program

+200 films from the most promising names in the industry, spread across 9 competitive and non-competitive sections.



Training Ground

+30 masterclasses and workshops oriented by film professionals and followed up by Q&A sessions.



Pitching Forum

International film project competition, providing development support and co-production opportunities.



Directors' Hub

Debates, case studies and round tables focused on the Directors role, his challenges and his relationships in the working environment.



Sound and Music Hub

Several training activities focused exclusively on sound and music for films. Masterclasses and case studies such as composing music for films and immersive sound editing and mixing.



Industry Meetings

One-on-one meetings between industry professionals, allowing for a broad discussion of projects and ideas.



Filmmakers' Corner

An open stage for professionals and film students to showcase and promote their work to the festivals audience.



Industry Lounge

Puffs to relax while catching some sun and beverages, the Industry Lounge aims to give attendees a place where they can mix work with casual conversation, which is the perfect combination between work and leisure.



Speed Meeting

Each attendee will have one minute to chat with the person in front of him about as many things as possible, resembling a speed date.



Music Walk With Me

To end each day, networking continues in an informal atmosphere at parties in a bar managed by us, featuring showcases and DJ performances.

WITH OUR PRO ACCREDITATION, YOU GET ACCESS TO ALL OF IT.



Gaspar Noé, Bella Tár, Nadine Labaki, Gael Garcia Bernal

Guests from previous editions

Directing

- Gaspar Noé - *Irréversible, Enter the Void*
- Béla Tarr - *Sátántangó, Werckmeister Harmonies*
- Asghar Farhadi - *A Separation, The Salesman*
- Fernando Trueba - *Belle Époque, The Girl of Your Dreams*
- Kleber Mendonça Filho - *Aquarius, Bacurau*
- Claudia Llosa - *La Teta Asustada, MADEINUSA*
- Carlos Reygadas - *Japón, Batalla En El Cielo*

Production

- Iain Smith - *Children of Men, Mad Max: Fury Road*
- Finola Dwyer - *An Education, Bzbrooklyn*
- Gareth Willey - *Vicky Cristina Barcelona, Match Point*
- Polly Duval - *Notes on a Scandal, Saltburn*
- Tomas Eskilsson - *Another Round, The Worst Person In The World*
- Michael Katz - *Amour, Happy End*
- Paul Miller - *Snow Angels, Prozac Nation*

Scriptwriting

- Christopher Hampton - *Dangerous Liaisons, Atonement*
- Roman Coppola - *Isle of Dogs, Moonrise Kingdom*
- David Seidler - *Tucker: The Man and His Dream, The King's Speech*
- Jeff Pope - *Philomena, Pierpoint*
- Irvine Welsh - *Trainspotting, Porno*
- Peter Straughan - *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy, Frank*
- Tony Grisoni - *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas, The Man who Killed Don Quixote*

Photography

- Stuart Dryburgh - *The Piano, The Painted Veil*
- Tom Stern - *The Hunger Games, Gran Torino*
- Eduardo Serra - *Harry Potter, Blood Diamond*
- Larry Smith - *Eyes Wide Shut, Only God Forgives*
- Manuel Alberto Claro - *Nymphomaniac, Melancholia*
- Guillermo Navarro - *Jackie Brown, Pan's Labyrinth*
- Christian Berger - *The White Ribbon, Hidden (Caché)*

Sound and Music

- Nina Hartstone - *Gravity, Bohemian Rhapsody*
- John Warhurst - *Les Misérables, Bohemian Rhapsody*
- Stephen Warbeck - *Shakespeare in Love, Billy Elliot*
- Eddy Joseph - *007: Casino Royale, The Wall*
- Gary Yershon - *Topsy-Turvy, Mr Turner*
- Ivan Sharrock - *The Shining, Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*
- Kle Savidge - *House of Gucci, Thirteen Lives*

Edition

- Mick Audsley - *12 Monkeys, Interview with a Vampire*
- Jonathan Morris - *The Wind That Shakes the Barley, I, Daniel Blake*
- Gabriella Cristiani - *The Last Emperor, Last Tango in Paris*
- Barry Alexander Brown - *BlacKkKlansman, Do the Right Thing*
- Yorgos Mavropsaridis - *The Lobster, The Favourite*
- Sylvie Landra - *Leon, The Fifth Element*
- Joe Walker - *Blade Runner 2049, Arrival*

Art Direction

- Allan Starski - *Schindler's List, The Pianist*
- Eugenio Caballero - *Roma, Pan's Labyrinth*
- Gemma Jackson - *Finding Neverland, Game of Thrones*
- Stephane Altman - *Gosford Park, Ray*
- Laurence Bennett - *The Artist, Freedom Writers*
- Inbal Weinberg - *Suspiria, Three Billboards Outside...*
- Andrew McAlpine - *The Piano, The Beach, Made in Dagenham*

Casting and Representing

- Gael García Bernal - *The Motorcycle Diaries, Amores Perros*
- Melissa Leo - *The Fighter, Frozen River*
- Naomi Rapace - *Lamb, Prometheus*
- Nadine Labaki - *Caramel, Capharnaüm, Where do we go now?*
- Marika Green - *Pickpocket, Emmanuelle*
- Caprice Crawford (Acting Manager) - *Elizabethtown, Fatal Rescue*
- Nancy Bishop (Casting Director) - *The Avengers, Oliver Twist*

Other Professionals

- Angela Allen (Script Supervisor) - *The African Queen*
- Brenda Chapman (Animator) - *Brave, The Prince of Egypt*
- Colin Arthur (Special vfx) - *2001 Space Odyssey*
- Garry Maddison (VFX Colorist) - *Dunkirk, Interstellar*
- Tim Corrie - *Talent Agent and former Chairman of BATFA*
- Temple Clark (Storyboards artist) - *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, Gravity*
- Brian Muir (Escultor) - *Star Wars, Guardians of Galaxy*
- David Thackeray (Intimacy Coordinator) - *Sex Education*



As a student of a partner school, enjoy FEST to its full potential



Be a part of the FEST Academic Network

Join 60 film schools and universities from 22 countries around the globe. Make new friends and build professional relationships for your future.

Present your film at our Filmmakers Corner

The Filmmakers' Corner is a stage for all filmmakers, industry professionals and film students to showcase and promote their work to the festival audience, by simply booking a time slot in a dedicated screening space. Organizing a screening in the Filmmakers' Corner is also a way for testing different film promotion methods amongst a festival audience - we encourage filmmakers' to be inventive in creating some intriguing word of mouth, or even special invitations, leaflets and posters.

Have fun in an informal environment with a lot of parties and sun

In Espinho, a seaside city, June brings warm weather and a vibrant atmosphere as FEST participants fill the streets. Between films and masterclasses, you can enjoy life by the ocean and, of course, have plenty of fun with the FEST family at our daily cocktails and parties, where networking is still king!



Submit your Film or Project for FREE!



Film submissions deadline for 2026: 2nd February

Project submissions deadline for 2026: 7th April 2026

To submit your film or project under these special partner-student conditions, **send an email to students@fest.pt, asking for a waiver code** or for any help regarding the process.

FILM SUBMISSIONS	PROJECT SUBMISSIONS (Pitching Forum)
<p style="text-align: center;">FULL WAIVER</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">50% Discount 60,00€ 30,00€</p>
<p>Free film submissions of all categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Fiction and Non-Fiction feature films (minimum length is 55 min) from directors who are on their 1st or 2nd feature-length project, regardless of age. 2) Fiction, Documentary, Animation, and Experimental Short films (up to 54 min) from directors who have completed no more than two feature films, regardless of age. <p>Submitted films have a chance to be featured in one of the competitive sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Golden Lynx (Feature Film Competition) - Silver Lynx Academic (Short Film Competition) - Grande Prémio Nacional - Academic Competition NEXXT - FESTinha Competition (young audience award) 	<p>Discounted project in development applications of all categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) FEATURE GEMS — Fiction, documentary and animation feature films (min. runtime of 55 minutes) in early stages of development; 2) WORK IN PROGRESS — Fiction, documentary and animation feature films (min. runtime of 55 minutes) in advanced production stages; 3) MAKE IT SHORT — Fiction, documentary and animation short films (max. runtime of 55 minutes) in both early and advanced production stages 4) SERIES - Series projects in any development phase, from concept to post-production, looking for financing, international co-productions or post-production services.

[SUBMIT YOUR FILM HERE](#)

[SUBMIT YOUR PROJECT HERE](#)

FEST Accreditations for Partner Students



~~95,00€~~ **57,00€** (40% Discount)

~~95,00€~~ **47,50€** (50% **Group**
Discount*)

What PRO Accreditation Includes

A PRO Pass gives you **full access to the festival** and all professional industry activities, including:

- **Training Ground masterclasses and workshops**
- **Networking dinners, cocktails, and parties**
- **Pitching Forum – project presentations**
- **Directors Hub**
- **Sound and Music Hub**

All of this in the sunny seaside city of Espinho, at a festival that has been **connecting cinema and industry in Portugal for over 22 years.**

[**STUDENTS REGISTRATION FULL INFORMATION**](#)

* A group of **at least 4 participants**

** Requires separate purchase (see the next pages)



Networking Dinners



A **unique opportunity** to share a meal with filmmakers, industry experts, partners and the FEST team for a delicious meal of Portuguese cuisine and wine. Set in the ocean-front landmark of Piscina Solário Atlântico, with an incredible sunset view, connect and engage in a meaningful conversation with some of the biggest names in the world of filmmaking, in a laidback and friendly atmosphere.

Dinner is served buffet style and features magnificent Portuguese cuisine provided by local restaurants (including vegetarian and vegan options), accompanied by a selection of wines from Portugal's famous wine regions - all in an effort to give a taste of the country's large and spectacular gastronomic offer.

The price of the full dinner pass (from 22nd to the 27th June: 6 dinners with dessert, wine and soft drinks included) is 160,00 €.

Offer accessible only to **PRO accreditation holders**.

[Know more about Networking Dinners](#)



Industry Lounge and Cocktails & Music Walk With Me Nights



At the end of each day of the industry programme (22 to 27 June 2026), **FEST offers a cocktail to all PRO participants, where conversations begin to spark new dynamics and collaborations that may shape your professional future.**



Music Walk With Me Nights are the place to be at the end of each festival day — whether you're looking for great music and a dancefloor to let loose, or simply a table where you can chat with long-time friends and new ones alike over a glass of wine.

While the extensive daytime program of film screenings and activities keeps everyone busy, **at night all the streets of Espinho lead to the Music Walk With Me Nights — a full week of parties at the festival's official bar.**

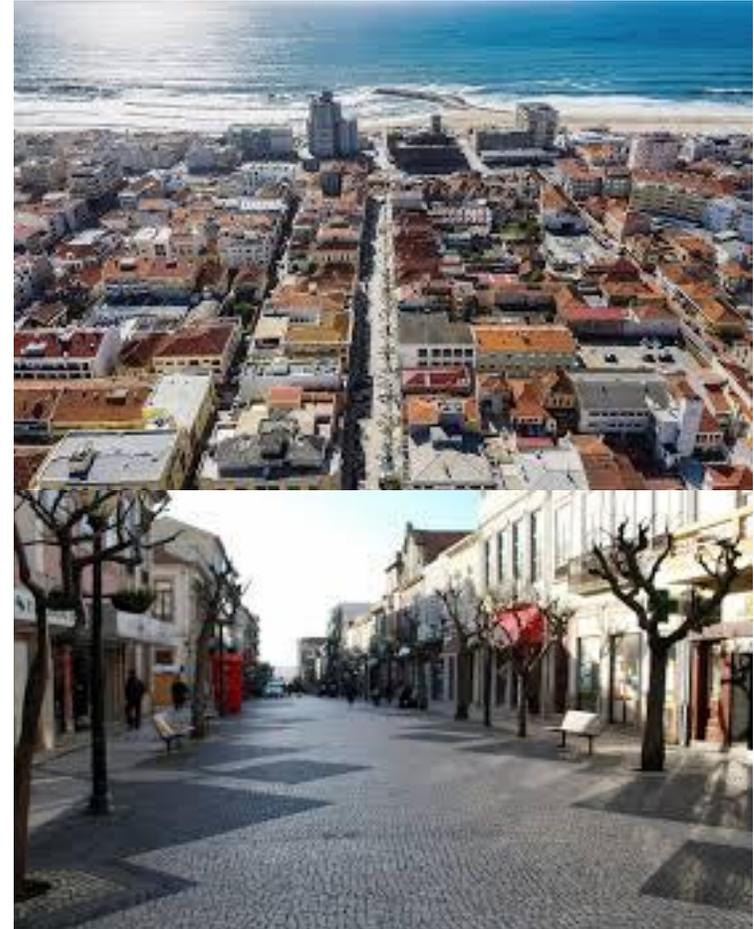


Espinho

Known once as the Queen of Costa Verde, Espinho is a city on the Atlantic coastline, 19 km from Porto. It is home to a small urban municipality, with 8 km of coastline, famous for its beautiful beaches, the centennial fair, the various possibilities in the areas of tourism and leisure and the Casino.

Espinho is a modern city and a tourist resort of high level that receives thousands of domestic and foreign visitors throughout the year. There are two fundamental reasons for this: first, the fact that the city has one of the best climates in Europe; second, the fact that it is a competitive area, creates tourist attraction and development.

The construction of the city itself is also an important factor, because it has a unique geometry which consists of wide streets, with their names being numbers, making navigation extremely simple in town for any visitor.





Accommodation at FEST Partner

Every year, we establish partnerships with several hotels in Espinho to offer accommodation options to our participants. Currently, the final list of options is still being finalized. The price range typically varies between 10€ * and +100€ per night, depending on the accommodation type and availability. More information will be available soon on the accommodation page of our website. Below is a selection of our usual partner hotels:



Youth Hostel



18th Street Hostel



Hotel M



Hotel Apartamento Solverde



Hotel Exe Praia Golfe



Hotel Solverde Spa & Wellness Center

* 10€ refers to the nightly rate at Espinho's municipal camping option



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20 — 28 JUN 2026

PARTNERSHIPS

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www.fest.pt

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