

The Arts of Survival Documentaries film competition

The Tartu 2024 foundation, Estonian Film Institute and NGO Tartu Filmiselts invites filmmakers to take part in a creative contest looking for ideas for short films capturing Southern Estonia.

The aim of the contest is to find different topics and authors who will present Tartu and Southern Estonia in artistically exciting ways. The short films would be works of their own but at the same time would form a single cultural code – the collection of short documentaries “Arts of Survival”.

The films in the short film collection are internally divided into two – emic-etic (“inside and outside”) perspectives known from anthropology. As a result, a symbiotic cultural interpretation is born. The perspective of Estonian filmmakers offers a portrayal from a person operating within the culture, storing what is considered important internally, while international directors bring an external perspective to the project. Their cameras capture the socio-cultural processes happening in Southern Estonia from the outside, thus highlighting cultural patterns that are not so clearly noticeable from within while adding unique personal details.

According to Kaarel Kuurmaa, the Artistic Director of the Arts of Survival Documentaries, it is the first time capturing the culture and history of Southern Estonia on such a scale: “Documentaries are such a unique form of art as they simultaneously create and capture real life. The local people and scenery are a source of inspiration for the artist, from which the documentarians start to paint on a new canvas with their tools i.e., cameras and microphones.”

As said by Filipp Kruusvall, an expert at the Estonian Film Institute: “It is unique that the Arts of Survival Documentaries brings so many different world-renowned filmmakers to Estonia at the same time. It is likely that their stay in Southern Estonia, the master classes, and the films they will produce will be significant for Estonian culture and enrich Estonian cinematography.”

By 1st December 2022, the following documents must be submitted to tartufilmiselts@gmail.com:

- Reasons for choosing the topic and/or main character (1-2 pages)
- Theme, concept, and visual approach of the film (1-2 pages) and if possible, visual sample material
- treatment or first script draft (1-3 pages)
- Estimated production budget
- Production schedule
- Possible creative team of the project (cinematographer, editor, composer etc.)
- The possible main producer of the project and possible co-producers

The ideas for the short films are evaluated by a jury consisting of representatives from the Tartu 2024 foundation and the Estonian Film Institute as well as experts from the cultural and creative sector. Consideration will be given to the idea, content, and feasibility of the film to be produced as well as its compatibility with the overall concept of the Arts of Survival. The jury will select up to 8 ideas that will go into production. The production of documentary films is financially supported by the Estonian Film Institute and The Tartu 2024 Foundation. The grant allocated per production within the project is up to 34,250 Euros. Additional required funding of at least 15% needs to be subsidized from other sources (Cultural Endowment of Estonia, International co-production, film producer's own contribution). The expected length of the short film is 8-22 minutes and filming will take place between January-December 2023. The films will be finalized by February 2024. The finished films will be presented as a single collection in cinemas in the spring of 2024 on different screens across Estonia. The rights to the short films will remain within the production companies but The Tartu 2024 Foundation can screen and use these films for non-commercial purposes.

SCHEDULE

Date	Action
1 December 2022	Deadline for submitting ideas
December 2022 - January 2023	Disclosure of the results to the participants
January – February 2023	Signing a contract with producers
March 2023	Publicizing the results in media
1 January 2023 – 31 December 2023	Production of short films, development of marketing and communication plan in cooperation with NGO Tartu Filmiselts and The Tartu 2024 Foundation
1 January 2024 – 1 March 2024	Post-production of short films
1 March 2024	The deadline for submitting finalized short films
11 May 2024	Premiers of short films
May 2024 – December 2024	Distribution of short films within the framework of the European Capital of Culture Tartu 2024 events

The Tartu 2024 and Arts of Survival Documentaries follow environmentally friendly ways of organizing and expects the same creators and partners involved in the projects. The films must contain both Russian and English subtitles and descriptive translation.

More information:

[Tartu 2024 Arts of Survival Documentaries](#)

[European Capital of Culture Tartu 2024](#)

[Arts of Survival values](#)