

**OFFICIAL STATEMENT
ON THE
2023 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FILM FESTIVAL “WE”
(IYFF “WE”)**

City of Moscow

August 23, 2023

1. General Provisions

1.1. This Official Statement defines the procedure for running the International Youth Film Festival “WE” (hereinafter referred to as the “Festival”), the requirements for submitted works, the procedure for their submission, and the timing of the Festival.

1.2. The organizer of the Festival is the Moscow Regional Organization of the All-Russian Public Organization “Union of Cinematographers of the Russian Federation” (Moscow Regional Union of Cinematographers of Russia) (hereinafter referred to as the “Organizer”).

1.3. Capturing the essence of the Festival’s core ideas, the Organizer, drawing from the art of cinematography, its techniques, and potential, empowers the next generation of filmmakers to explore the lives and stories of ordinary people whom they can take pride in, to delve into the depths of human characters and unveil the faces of their contemporaries, proposes teenagers and young adults to look around and discover the modern heroes whose lives serve as a wellspring of inspiration, whose highly moral actions inspire following them. The Festival offers its participants an opportunity to show the images of those they want to tell about through the genre that resonates with them the most, be it documentary or fiction film.

1.4. The festival will be held on the territory of Russia in the period from September 24, 2023 to December 24, 2023. From December 25, 2023 to April 25, 2024, non-commercial screenings of the Festival’s participating films will be held in the regions of Russia and international venues, as part of the Echo of the IYFF “WE” (hereinafter – the “Echo”).

2. Tasks and Objectives

2.1. Objectives of the Festival shall be:

2.1.1. inspiring teenagers and young people with essential traditional moral and spiritual values, life, dignity, patriotism, citizenship, high moral ideals, strong family bonds, creative endeavors, the priority of the spiritual over the material, humanism, justice, mutual assistance and respect, as well as historical memory, etc.;

2.1.2. spotlighting and supporting talented young creatives in the cinematic realm;

2.1.3. providing a platform for creative youth to embark on their journeys in the film industry;

2.1.4. showcasing short films (hereinafter – “Films”) crafted by talented young filmmakers from various regions to a global audience;

2.1.5. fostering cultural exchange, mutual understanding, and collaboration among filmmakers from around the world;

2.2. Tasks of the Festival shall be:

2.2.1. Expanding the infrastructure for screening films for youth.

2.2.2. introducing the audience to new film-making formats.

2.2.3. facilitating the exchange of experience and knowledge between industry professionals and young filmmakers from the regions of the Russian Federation and friendly countries.

3. Festival Management:

3.1. The overall organization of the Festival falls within the responsibility of the Festival Managers, whose functions include:

3.1.1. Formation of the Festival’s Management (hereinafter referred to as the “Management”).

3.1.2. Attracting financing and partners.

3.1.3. Formation of the Festival’s jury.

3.2. Festival Director – organizing secretary, board member of the Moscow Regional Union of Cinematographers of Russia IPO LLC, Litvinov, Yuri Alexandrovich

4. Festival’s Management

4.1. The Management’s functions include:

- 4.1.1. Accepting applications for participation in the Festival.
- 4.1.2. Creating the Festival's program.
- 4.1.3. Organizing film screenings, master classes, creative meetings, and roundtable discussions as part of the educational and business program of the Festival.
- 4.1.4. Inviting members of the jury and coordinating the work of the Festival's jury.
- 4.1.5. Inviting guests and representatives of the media, specifying the time frames and conditions of their stay and accreditation at the Festival.
- 4.1.6. Interacting with participants in the competition and out-of-competition programs of the Festival.
- 4.1.7. Collaborating with Festival's venues, in particular as part of the Festival's "Echo".
- 4.1.8. Organizing the Festival's information and advertising campaign.
- 4.1.9. Moderating the Festival's website and managing the Festival's social media pages.

5. Festival Jury:

- 5.1. The competitive program of films will be assessed by a professional jury of the Festival.
- 5.2. Chairperson of the Festival's Jury is Syomina, Natalya Mikhailovna – Russian media manager, film producer, general director of the Moscow International Film Festival, academician of the Golden Eagle Film Academy, professor of the Academy of Cinematographic and Theatrical Art of N.S. Mikhalkov, professor of the Department of Film Art of the Moscow State Institute of Culture. The Chairperson of the Jury shall have 2 (two) votes.
- 5.3. The jury for the fiction film competition consists of renowned masters of the film, television and culture (at least 5 (five) individuals).
- 5.4. The jury for the documentary film competition consists of renowned masters of the documentary filmmaking, television and culture (at least 5 (five) individuals).
- 5.5. To determine the best story of human heroism in the "Hero of Our Time" nomination established within the documentary film competition, a public expert jury shall be formed from prominent public figures of Russia and friendly countries with a minimum of 5 (five) members.
- 5.6. No individuals involved in the creation or commercial distribution of films participating in the respective competition can be members of the jury.
- 5.7. All jury members are required to refrain from making public statements regarding the competition films until the official announcement of the results at the Festival's closing ceremony.

6. Festival Program:

- 6.1. The 2023 Festival's competition program includes Russian and international short films created after January 1, 2022, with a runtime not exceeding 26 minutes (including credits), promoting the core ideas of the Festival as per section 1.3 of this Official Statement.
- 6.2. The Festival program comprises:
 - 6.2.1. Competition program for participants in the 12-17 age category:
fiction films from Russian and international productions;
documentary films from Russian and international productions.
 - 6.2.2. Competition program for participants in the 18-35 age category:
fiction films from Russian and international productions;
documentary films from Russian and international productions.
 - 6.2.3. Out-of-competition program of Russian and foreign documentaries about people with disabilities and/or films created with their direct involvement "We are together!"
 - 6.2.4. In each program nomination, a minimum of 7 (seven) films participate.
 - 6.2.5. The Festival's Management gives priority to films addressing the themes of friendship, loyalty, unity, honor, love, compassion, mercy, respect, hard work, responsibility, patience, sincerity, and other moral and spiritual values mentioned in the Presidential Decree of the Russian Federation dated November 9, 2022, No. 809, on the Approval of Fundamentals of Public Policy for Preservation and Strengthening of Traditional Russian Moral and Spiritual Values.
 - 6.2.6. The Management reserves the right to include individual short films with a runtime exceeding 26 minutes in the Festival program.

7. Participation in the Festival:

- 7.1. Participation in the Festival is free of charge. Authors or a group of authors can simultaneously submit an unlimited number of films in each category.
- 7.2. Films of both Russian and international production can participate in the Festival.

7.2.1. Competition program films made in foreign languages or in other languages of the peoples of the Russian Federation are screened with Russian subtitles. Competition program films made in the Russian language are screened with English subtitles.

7.2.2. In cases where film owners cannot provide versions with Russian and/or English subtitles, the Management may perform translation and subtitling independently. Owners of these films, upon the Management's request, provide subtitle files with time codes (dialogue lists in the original language of the film). The deadline for submitting such films – until November 14, 2023 (by 23:59 Moscow time).

7.3. To participate in the selection, you need to submit an application through the online system on the Festival's website <http://wefest.ru/> in the "Submit an Application" section.

7.4. Applications for participation are accepted from September 24, 2023, through November 24, 2023 (until 23:59 Moscow time). Applications submitted after the above date will not be considered.

7.5. An application for participation in the Festival shall include the following materials:

- title of the work in the primary language;
 - title of the work in Russian;
 - country of production;
 - year of release in the country of production;
 - duration (timing) of the film;
 - age limit;
 - film synopsis in Russian (no more than 1000 characters);
 - name of the director;
 - name of the cinematographer;
 - names of actors (for feature film) and characters (for documentary film);
 - phone number of the director and applicant;
 - e-mail of the director and applicant;
 - has the film been showcased previously? List the festivals;
 - awards;
 - rights holder, company and full name of the individual;
 - phone number of the rights holder;
 - (Ppassword-protected, if requested) – Provide a link to any file-sharing service;
 - link to the director's and/or applicant's page in the Russian social network VKontakte;
 - link to the materials for the Festival catalog and website (press release, biography and filmography of the director in Russian, photo of the director and main characters of the film (300dpi), poster/placard or 3 (three) still images of the film, trailer/cut of the film (if available) – any file-sharing service.
- Link to a subtitle file with time codes (dialogue sheets in the original language of the film) – any file-sharing service.

7.6. Management is ready to provide personal assistance to participants in the 12-17 age category in submitting their applications for participation in the Festival.

7.7. 7.7. Rejection of Participation:

7.7.1. Films that contain the following are banned from participation in the Festival program:

- information prohibited by the Legislation of the Russian Federation for distribution;
- foul language and indecent expressions.
- stories and footage advertising or promoting drugs, alcohol, smoking and other bad habits, scenes of cruelty and violence;
- advertising of companies, services and products in an explicit or covert manner.

7.7.2. Films that were rejected distribution certificates on the grounds referred to in sub-clauses "b" to "d" of clause 18 of the Rules of Issuance, Rejection to Issue and Revocation of Film Distribution Certificates, approved by Decree of the Government of the Russian Federation dated February 27, 2016 No. 143 on Approval of the Rules of Issuance, Rejection to Issue and Revocation of Film Distribution Certificate and the Rules for Maintaining the Public Film Register", or films for which distribution certificates were revoked on the ground referred to in sub-clause "e" of clause 20 of these Rules of Issuance, Rejection to Issue and Revocation of Film Distribution Certificates are not admitted.

7.7.3. Films that have participated in the Festival in the past shall not be admitted.

7.7.4. In case of discrepancies between the information provided by the authors, including that stated in the application, and reality, the Management may disqualify dishonest participants with a review of the results. Any expenses incurred by such participants are nonrefundable.

7.8. The Management reserves the right for the final decision to reject participation of a film in the Festival program if it does not meet the requirements outlined in this Official Statement, as well as the objectives of the Festival, without commenting on its decisions or explaining the reasons for such rejection.

7.9. Upon confirmation of their registration, participants receive the official Festival logo and shall ensure its placement on all promotional and marketing materials during the Festival period.

- 7.10. The Management does not cover expenses for the stay (transportation, accommodation, meals) of film authors who wish to present their film at the Festival venue.
- 7.11. The Management reserves the right to invite guests regardless of their direct involvement in the creation of films participating in various Festival programs.
- 7.12. The Management has the right to invite exceptional figures in the fields of culture, cinema, and entertainment, as well as representatives of the business and political elite to participate in the Festival.
- 7.13. The conditions of stay for Festival guests may be specified in personal invitations.
- 7.14. The Management has the right to decide at any time to revoke accreditation from any accredited individual and restrict their presence at Festival events without giving reasons.

8. Festival Stages

8.1. Qualifying Round:

8.1.1. Acceptance of applications according to the deadlines set in clause 7.4 of this Official Statement, and creation of the long list. The Management has the right to request and/or clarify any information regarding the application. In case the Management identifies instances of misrepresentation, they have the right to reject the application.

8.1.2. Selection of works for the competition program and compilation of the shortlist, with publication on the Festival's internet resources no later than November 30, 2023.

8.1.3. Creating the out-of-competition Festival program.

8.2. Running the Competition:

8.2.1. Competitive screening of works from the shortlist by members of the professional and public jury.

8.2.2. Determining the winners in the Festival categories.

8.3. The Festival awards ceremony no later than December 24, 2023.

8.4. Conducting the Echo of the Festival in accordance with clause 1.4 of this Official Statement.

9. Criteria of Assessment of Competitive Works:

9.1. Criteria of Assessment of Submitted Films:

- relevance and social significance, alignment with the idea, tasks and objectives of the festival;
- completeness and expressiveness in conveying the main theme and additional plot lines;
- originality of the directorial approach;
- expressiveness of acting;
- dramaturgy, artistic integrity of the film;
- innovation, creative innovations and creative approach in the solutions used in the creative process;
- quality and effectiveness in addressing creative and technical issues in the presented film.

10. Awards:

10.1. The winning films will be determined by the Festival jury and announced at the awards ceremony.

10.2. Festival award nominations:

- "Best Short Feature Film" in the 12-17 age category (awarded to the film's director);
- "Best Documentary Short Film" in the 12-17 age category (awarded to the film's director);
- "Best Actor" in a film in the 12-17 age category;
- "Best Short Feature Film" in the 18-35 age category (awarded to the film's director);
- "Best Documentary Short Film" in the 18-35 age category (awarded to the film's director);
- "Best Cinematography" in a short fiction film in the 18-35 age category;
- "Best Cinematography" in a short documentary film in the 18-35 age category;
- "Best Actor's Work" in a fiction film in the 18-35 age category;
- "Hero of Our Time";
- "WE are Together!" (out of competition).

The winners are expected to personally participate in the award ceremony.

10.3. The jury has the right not to determine winners in categories or to determine multiple winners in one or more categories. They may also establish special awards and special diplomas. The awarding of special diplomas and special prizes is optional.

10.4. By a separate decision of the jury, the Grand Prix of the Festival may be established.

10.5. Nominees and winners of the Festival shall attend the award ceremony at their cost and expense.

10.6. Festival winners are awarded with diplomas and non-monetary prizes. Nominees, up to 3 (three) in each competition, are awarded finalist diplomas of the Festival. Participants are awarded participant

diplomas of the Festival. The conditions for awarding recipients of special prizes are determined by the Management and the Festival's partners. If a participant cannot attend the Festival, a copy of the diploma is sent to them by email, and the prize, if any, is sent by Russian Post.

11. Processing of Personal Data and Intellectual Property.

11.1. Submitting an application for participation in the Festival implies the participant's consent to the processing of their personal data in accordance with Federal Law dated July 27, 2006 No. 152-FZ on Personal Data. The Management processes the participant's personal data solely for the purpose of organizing the Festival.

11.2. Submitting an application for participation in the Festival implies the conclusion of a licensing agreement between the participant and the Management, according to which the Festival participant (licensor) gratuitously grants the Festival organizer (licensee) the right to use the audiovisual work – a film presented by the participant, as follows:

- presentation of the film for the purpose and during the period of the Festival;
- presentation of the film for the purpose and during the period of the Echo of the Festival;
- public screening of the film for the purpose and during the period of the Festival;
- public screening of the film for the purpose and during the period of the Echo of the Festival;
- use of the film trailer, frames, slides, and other film fragments lasting up to 3 minutes for publications in the media and on the Internet for the purpose of the Festival.

Public screening refers to any demonstration of the film on a screen, in a place open to visitors, or in a place where there is a significant number of individuals that are not included in the family ambience.

11.3. The right to use the film in the specified ways is transferred on the terms of a simple (non-exclusive) license for the duration of the Festival and in relation to the territory of the Russian Federation, as well as on the Internet.

11.4. The Organizer of the Festival may issue sublicenses to third parties without additional written approval from the Festival participant, provided the provisions of this Official Statement are observed.

11.5. The use of films is only possible for the purpose of organizing the Festival.

11.6. Submitting an application for participation in the Festival certifies that the Festival participant warrants that they have all the necessary rights (exclusive rights or permission from the copyright holder) to submit such a film to the Festival. Liability for any claims and lawsuits from third parties related to copyright and related rights lies with the Festival participant who submitted their application and film, with an obligation to settle claims on their behalf and at their own expense.

11.7. In the event of claims by third parties regarding the ownership of rights to films submitted for participation in the Festival, the Management reserves the right to withdraw the participant's film from the competition and remove it from the Festival program at any stage, pending an investigation.

11.8. The Management warrants that it will not use and transfer films to third parties for commercial purposes and reserves the right to use photographs, slides, and film fragments (lasting no more than 3 minutes) for publications in the media.

11.9. For the purpose of building a positive image of the Festival and perform the work related to Festival preparation:

- demonstration of films by the Festival organizers is carried out as part of the Festival events without payment of royalties to their copyright holders, so as the materials presented at the Festival by participants and the rights to use them are transferred to the Festival organizers free of charge;
- the use of images and frames taken from films presented at the Festival on the Internet, in printed publications, on television, on information boards, on souvenir products, etc., is also allowed by the copyright holders of such films at no charge.

12. Organization of Film Screenings as Part of the Echo of the Festival

12.1. Requirements for venues for film screenings of the Echo of the Festival:

- availability of our own staff to support events, including film screenings;
- provision of your own equipment for reproducing sound and video materials in the hall;
- independent implementation of the Festival's information campaign to invite spectators;
- carrying out screenings of provided films in accordance with the terms of the Agreement concluded between the Festival organizer of the and the venue;

12.2. Festival venues are prohibited from using films received as part of the Festival for commercial purposes, as well as from posting them on the Internet.

13. Cooperation

13.1. The Management of the Festival invites partners for collaboration, and personalized sponsorship packages are arranged for them.

14. Final Provisions

14.1. The Management reserves the right to amend the Official Statement on the Festival during preparation for holding.

14.2. Submitting an application for participation in the Festival implies the full and unconditional consent of the participant, author (or group of authors) with all the conditions outlined in this Official Statement.

14.3. All conditions and deadlines specified in this Official Statement are mandatory. Otherwise, the Management reserves the right to exclude a film from the Festival program at any stage.

14.4. To cover the work of the Festival, the media shall submit an accreditation request for their correspondents to the Management. The Management may reject accreditation to a representative of the media without giving reasons.

14.5. The Management may address issues not mentioned in this Official Statement in accordance with the common practice of running international film festivals on the territory of the Russian Federation.

15. Contact information:

Moscow Regional Organization of the All-Russian Public Organization “Union of Cinematographers of the Russian Federation”

Address: 123056, Moscow, 13 Vasilevskaya St., bldg. 1 (Central House of Cinema)

Telephone: +7 (495) 532-69-07

email: org@mosreg.film

web: <http://mosreg.film/>

VK: <https://vk.com/mosregfilm>

Festival's web: <http://wefest.ru/>

Festival's VK: <https://vk.com/wefestival>