



Team Composition & Registration

- 1) **Team Size & Diversity**
Each team must have at least 6 members. Larger teams are encouraged. We advocate for gender balance, diversity, and inclusion of underrepresented individuals in film. Ardán's EDI policy can be found [here](#).
- 2) **Team Member Age**
Team members and performers used should be 18 or older. If under 18, consent from a parent/guardian is required.
- 3) **Final Team List**
Final team members info will need to be submitted by Thursday 17th September 4pm.
- 4) **Registration**
Teams are not considered registered until confirmed by the Little Cinema. Please ensure your team can take part when applying. The deposit is non-refundable.
- 5) **Entrance Fee Deposit**
The cost for entry is a deposit of €50 which will be returned to the team after the Challenge and they have completed their film.
- 6) **Launch Attendance**
At least one team member must attend the Launch on Thurs 24th September 2026 at 7pm in Portershed a Dó & bring a prop. Teams will introduce themselves & get assigned a prop.
- 7) **Line suggestion**
Each team will provide a line in the application form, one of which will be chosen for all teams to use. Lines will be provided to teams in both Irish and English.
- 8) **Genre**
Teams will be given **one** genre to base their film on.
- 9) **Shot Incorporation**
Teams will be given a shot type which they will need to incorporate into their film.
- 10) **Application Opening & Closing**
Applications open at 11am Fri 28th August and close at 4pm on Friday 4th September. Application form is [here](#) Direct link is thelittlecinema.com/48hourapplications/

Production Rules

11) **Filming Window & Location**

All footage must be shot in the competition time period & in Galway City & County.

12) **Permitted Pre-Work**

The only pre-Challenge work allowed is:

- Researching genres & cinematic techniques
- securing locations & equipment
- organising cast & crew for film.

13) **Footage & AI Restrictions**

- No stock footage or AI-generated visuals are allowed.
- All animation must be human-made during the 48 hours.
- Old photographs are permitted, provided usage rights are attained.

14) **Music Use**

- No copyrighted music is allowed.
- Only human composed music made within the 48 hours is allowed.
- Royalty-free music is allowed with attribution in credits.

15) **Writing**

No AI tools are allowed in the generation of a script or ideas for the script.

16) **Language & Subtitles**

Irish language films are encouraged but must have English subtitles.

Film Specs & Submission

17) **Length**

Max run time of 5mins plus 20 seconds credits.

18) **Branding requirements**

Each film must include a provided video slug (start) and jpeg (end). These are not counted in the runtime, and should be kept on the film if submitting to film festivals.

19) **Export**

Export: H264 mp4 or MOV, HD minimum, max file size 3GB, Gamma 2.6 recommended.

20) **Delivery**

Film must be exported by 9am Sunday 27th September 2026, teams have until 10am that morning to deliver the film to us, either digitally to littlecinemagalway@gmail.com or in person to the Portershed.

21) **Late submissions**

Late submissions can still be screened but will not be eligible for any awards.

Judging

22) Eligibility

Only films that meet all the rules will be eligible for the awards.

23) Judging Panel

- Independent experts will judge based on quality, originality and adherence to rules.
- Emphasis will be placed on the effective use of the prop, line, shot and genre in the film. The prop should be integral to the story and used in a natural way.
- Little Cinema Galway & Galway City of Film will have no say in the judging.

Awards

Nominations for awards will be collected through an online form sent to the team captains via email. The form will need to be filled out by **9pm on Saturday 26th September** to allow for design time for the screening.

Nominations not received by that time **will not be considered for the various award categories.**

Note: If a team nominates two people for a category, there is only one award available and only one hoodie guaranteed.

24) The judges will watch the films in advance of the screening and deliberate in the afternoon to allow for a smoother screening. The Award Categories **chosen by Judges are:**

- Best Film (wins €500, entry to Film Fleadh 2026, up to 10 hoodies & award)
- Best Director (wins a hoodie & award)
- Best Cinematography (wins a hoodie & award)
- Best Lead Performer (wins a hoodie & award)
- Best Supporting Performer (wins a hoodie & award)
- Best Editing (wins a hoodie & award)
- Best Writing (wins a hoodie & award)
- Best Music Score (wins a hoodie & award)
- Best Digital Special FX (wins a hoodie & award)
- Best Practical Special FX (wins a hoodie & award)
- Best Make Up (wins a hoodie & award)
- Best Location (wins a hoodie & award)
- Best Set Design (wins a hoodie & award)
- Best Lighting (wins a hoodie & award)
- Best Sound Design (wins a hoodie & award)
- Best Costume Design (wins a hoodie & award)
- Best use of Shot (wins a hoodie & award)

25) Other Award Categories

- Audience Best Film – chosen by audience vote (wins an award & one hoodie)
- Best use of Prop - chosen by team members (wins an award & one hoodie)
- Best use of Line - chosen by team members (wins an award & one hoodie)
- Captains Choice Award - chosen by team captains (wins an award & one hoodie)
- Spirit of the Challenge Award - chosen by Little Cinema (wins an award & one hoodie)

Note: Only officially registered team members can vote in the Line and Prop Awards.

Screening Details

- Sunday 27th September at the Town Hall Theatre. Doors to THT open at 5.30pm.
- Auditorium doors will open at 6.00pm
- Screening will start at 6.30pm sharp
- Each team will introduce their film
- Films will screen in reverse order of hand in – (last handed in gets screened first)
- The awards ceremony will follow the screening after a brief intermission.
- Post-screening we will go to the Rowing Club

Conduct

26) **Violence, language & drugs**

Please avoid the use of excessive violence, excessive bad language or excessive drug use in your film. The screening will be open to the public of all ages!

27) **Filming Conduct**

Be respectful of citizens and businesses while filming. Be polite when asking for permission to shoot in locations and leave any place you may use as tidy as you found it.

Safety Disclaimer

28) **Injuries & Damage**

Little Cinema Galway & the Galway City of Film do not accept responsibility for any injuries, equipment loss or damage which occur in the Challenge, please be careful during it.

Film Usage

- 29) Little Cinema & Galway City of Film reserves the right to use the films as promotional material for future 48 Hour Filmmaking Challenges & the right to screen the films at future film screenings but will always give notice to the team leader in advance.
- 30) The films made will be added to the [48 Hour Challenge Playlist](#) on Ardán's Youtube Channel.
- 31) The Little Cinema & Galway City of Film 48 Hour Challenge organisers may add to or amend these rules at any time prior to the Challenge.

Accommodation

We have teamed up with Woodquay Hostel in Galway City to try to make it easier for those who travel to Galway to get reasonable accommodation.

We have got a fantastic discount from Woodquay Hostel and along with a subsidy from the 48 Hour Challenge budget.

The cost of a bed in a shared dorm room for 4 nights (24th – 27th) is €40. Please indicate in the form if any of your team members need a bed.