

## **ABOUT**

The creation of Lumen – Rio de Janeiro Independent Film Festival came from distinct paths: the first being a long journey of work in festivals by its creators. They spent years programming and curating important festivals in the Brazilian and international scene, such as Indie Lisboa, Brazilian Kids Film Festival, Olhar de Cinema – Curitiba Int'l Film Festival, Festival Ecrã, Indie Festival, among others. In this work, they noticed how independent films go through tricky paths to reach the Brazilian audience. From screenings in programs on the margins of major international festivals to the precarious distribution that often leads to direct releases on online platforms, these films face a narrowing of options for new screenings worldwide, including, of course, in Brazil.

Lumen was born with the aim of expanding the reach of films and filmmakers, presenting to the Rio audience directors from all over the world who are on the margins of major film events but still show relevant, innovative, and, of course, captivating work, yet without a definitive presence in the city. From young filmmakers who use accessible technology to create narratives with friends or by themselves, to already established directors who continue to work under a screening circuit that increasingly prioritizes what happens outside theaters, rather than the direct exchange between films and audiences.

With free admission, Lumen aims to democratize access to these films and approaches. Contemporary cinema is rich, prolific, and, of course, qualitative. Making Rio de Janeiro a route for these filmmakers is a bet on the city as a major cultural hub for this cinematic field, based on the certainty that a production made in Brazil, regardless of its budget and target audience, can reach the screens and have the structure for it to be seen and discussed. From the central area of Rio to the northern zone of the city, Lumen will occupy four venues and promote meetings, debates, lectures, and, of course, many film screenings during the seven days of the event. Brasília will host a traveling version of the event, confirming the relevance of global independent cinema in the first expansion of Lumen. We hope this is the first of many!

## **INTRO**

The Lumen – Rio de Janeiro Independent Film Festival will take place in Rio de Janeiro from November 8th to 15th, with a traveling version in Brasília from December 5th to 7th, offering free admission to the public in both cities. The festival will be held in historic venues in both cities, such as the Cinemateca do MAM, the Centro Cultural Banco do Brasil, and Cine Brasília. More venues TBA. The festival features two competitive programs, one national and one international, as well as special screenings and retrospectives. The festival reserves the right to symbolic awards for this first edition.

## **SUBMISSIONS**

All submissions must be made online through the Filmfreeway platform. Emails with links will not be considered. The submission fee will be used for the production of the event, which is non-profit. By submitting your work to this year's Lumen, you will be contributing to the production of the next edition in 2026. The festival will accept feature

films, mid-length films, and short films from all countries, released after January 1st, 2023. Any film submitted with a release date prior to this will be disregarded. Retrospective proposals should include a note in the submission. There is no time limit for submitted films. For viewing purposes, the film must have English subtitles, and the provided link must remain active until the end of the selection process, with an updated password. There is no exclusivity rule for Lumen, but the festival values films that are making their first appearance in Rio de Janeiro or Brazil. The festival may delay or advance the selection results by a few days, depending on the volume of material and work; the submission fee will not be refunded, regardless of whether your film is selected or not; films that provide incomplete cuts or only a trailer will be disqualified; provisional cuts of films will be accepted as long as the filmmaker agrees to send the final copy within the festival's deadline in case of selection. The festival reserves the right to determine the number of screenings a film will have, ranging from one (1) as a minimum to three (3) as a maximum, with at least one in Rio de Janeiro. Submissions without files will be checked during the process, but no contact will be made by the production team. The festival reserves the right to not invite any international filmmakers selected to attend the event in person due to financial reasons. If a filmmaker is interested in attending to present their film, they must notify us in advance so we can organize a debate and possible promotional actions. If not notified in advance, the festival is not responsible for any actions involving the filmmaker.

## **WAIVERS**

The festival reserves the right to provide fee waivers only in specific cases. If you believe your case fits this nature, please contact us via the email provided on the page. However, due to the potentially high number of emails, we cannot guarantee a response to your request.

## **MATERIAL AND PROMOTION**

In case of selection, the festival will request the complete film material for the website, social media, and event catalog. The festival will ask for the subtitle file in .srt format for translation into Portuguese, and it is irrevocable to submit these files within the deadline, with the risk of disqualification in case of delay. This applies to the exhibition file. We will accept the submission of files via links in DCP, .mov, or h264 without subtitles, so that the Portuguese subtitles can be burned into the file or displayed as electronic subtitles. Hard drives will not be accepted. If selected, the festival may use stills and a short excerpt of a few seconds from the film or trailer to create the event's EPK and for press distribution. The festival will not share film links with critics or journalists interested in covering the event. The submission should be made directly between the press and the production team of the selected film. If selected, the festival will send official laurels for free use in the film's materials. For any changes to the event's materials, such as synopses or film information, please contact the event production team.

## **EXHIBITION**

The festival reserves the right to schedule the film according to the programming proposal set by the production team. Locations and times will be determined by the festival team and may be subject to changes without prior notice, either before or during the event. In the case of an additional screening, the production team will contact the filmmaker for possible authorization. After the screening, the event will not archive the film or make it available to third parties. Lumen does not have an online version, and any online actions or screenings are not part of the festival's production scope. To reserve tickets for guests, it is necessary to contact the production team in advance.

## **FAQ**

**Does the festival have the rights to my film during the event dates?**

No. Our mission is to promote the work, not to own anyone's creation.

**Is the festival competitive?**

Yes, however, for the first edition, we do not offer cash prizes. There will be a certificate and the event's trophy. If the filmmaker is not present at the award ceremony, the awards will be sent by mail.

**When will the results of the submissions be announced?**

By the date specified on our official Filmfreeway page. For more information, please visit our website.

**Do you accept children's films?**

We will not have screenings for a children's audience, but if the film fits the festival's proposal, it will be considered.

**Will you screen video art or installations this year?**

No.

**Do you plan to screen films in public spaces?**

No.

**My film is experimental and low-budget. Do I have a chance of being selected?**

Yes! Submit it!

## **PARTICIPATION TERMS OF LUMEN – RIO DE JANEIRO INDEPENDENT FILM FESTIVAL**

By submitting to Lumen – Rio de Janeiro Independent Film Festival, I confirm that I have read and accept the terms and regulations of the festival. I will provide the festival with any additional information required in accordance with these rules and regulations. I authorize Lumen to screen my film and, if selected, confirm that a copy for screening will be available in the required format for the 2025 festival. I certify that I hold all necessary rights to submit this film to Lumen – Rio de Janeiro Independent Film Festival and that

all rights and permissions have been properly obtained. This film is not subject to any legal action nor is it threatened by any litigation. I hold Lumen – Rio de Janeiro Independent Film Festival harmless from any damage or loss of materials and assume all legal responsibilities in this regard. By accepting these terms, I transfer to Lumen – Rio de Janeiro Independent Film Festival the right to use excerpts from the submitted film, its images, and trailers for promotional and marketing purposes of the film at the 2025 festival, and for other non-commercial uses related to the promotion of the 2025 festival. I agree to indemnify Lumen – Rio de Janeiro Independent Film Festival in the event that such rights have not been properly transferred.