

DATES OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED FOR THE 72ND EDITION OF THE TAORMINA FILM FESTIVAL
TIZIANA ROCCA CONFIRMED AS ARTISTIC DIRECTOR FOR THE 2027/2028 BIENNIUM AS WELL



Taormina | 10 – 14 June 2026

Taormina, Wednesday, March 18, 2026 – The dates for the 72nd edition of the Taormina Film Festival have been officially announced: the Festival will take place from **June 10 to 14, 2026**. The Festival is organized by the **Fondazione Taormina Arte Sicilia**, directly promoted by the **Department of Tourism, Sport and Entertainment of the Sicilian Region**, with the support of the **Ministry of Culture – Directorate-General for Cinema and Audiovisual**. The artistic direction is entrusted to **Tiziana Rocca**, who has also been confirmed in this role for the **2027/2028 biennium**.

Submissions for this new edition will officially open tomorrow, with the deadline set for **May 25, 2026**. The Festival will be structured into four sections: the **International Feature Film Competition**; the **Out of Competition** section; the **Special Events at the Ancient Theatre**; and the new **Short Film Competition** section, dedicated to films shot in Sicily and aimed at promoting and enhancing the region. The films selected for the programme will span all genres, giving voice to current issues and themes of strong cultural impact. They will be presented as at least **national premieres** and will come from countries and filmmakers all over the world, in keeping with the Festival's international spirit.

The full regulations and submission details are available at:
<https://filmfreeway.com/TaorminaFilmFestival2026>

Tiziana Rocca, Artistic Director of the Festival, stated: "I am deeply honoured to return as Artistic Director of the Taormina Film Festival for its 72nd edition. Taormina has always represented a special place for international cinema: a bridge between cultures, stories and talents from all over the world.

My commitment will be to further strengthen the identity of the Festival, preserving its prestigious tradition while at the same time looking enthusiastically toward the future of cinema, making room for new voices, great auteurs and productions capable of moving audiences and inspiring reflection. We will work to build an edition that celebrates cinema in all its forms, once again turning Taormina into a privileged meeting point for artists, professionals and the public. I am delighted to contribute

once more to writing a new chapter in the history of this extraordinary Festival. In this regard, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to everyone, from the representatives of the Sicilian Region to Commissioner Campo, for the trust they have placed in me and renewed for the next biennium.”

Bernardo Campo, Extraordinary Commissioner of the *Fondazione Taormina Arte Sicilia*, added: *“As we approach the 72nd edition of the Taormina Film Fest, which will be held from June 10 to 14, 2026, I feel it is my duty to underline how this event today, more than ever, represents an operation of cultural engineering in the field of the seventh art, of fundamental importance for our Island. We are not simply talking about a film showcase, but about the stewardship of an intangible asset of significant heritage value: the Taormina Film Festival, founded in 1955, which is the second oldest film festival in Italy. This historic legacy is not merely an academic point of pride, but an economic pillar that we must defend with determination.”*

Felice Panebianco, Superintendent of the *Fondazione Taormina Arte Sicilia*, stated: *“Innovation and tradition: once again this year, the Taormina Film Fest will represent the perfect synthesis between its history — with its rituals and a city transformed into a vast open-air set — and its desire to project itself into the future, with particular attention to the sustainability of the events in the programme.”*

Elvira Amata, Regional Councillor for Tourism, Sport and Entertainment of the Sicilian Region, declared:

“A Festival that confirms itself, year after year, as a cornerstone of our territorial promotion thanks to its extraordinary ability to represent not only an authentic celebration of great cinema, but also a vital driver for Sicily’s tourism economy. Through the silver screen, Taormina once again reaffirms itself as a world stage, capable of showcasing the truest Sicily and expressing that perfect union between the majesty of the Ancient Theatre, a jewel of our extraordinary heritage, and the dynamic vitality of today’s film market.

We continue to invest with determination, in a choice consistently shared with the regional government, to further strengthen the content of the Festival, which now — and we say this with pride — represents an unmissable and highly anticipated event for the many enthusiasts of the sector and visitors alike. Sharing this year’s edition with the General Assembly of FACE and the representatives of fourteen European nations also helps send an important message of dialogue and cohesion from the Mediterranean.

This year as well, we aim for a Festival capable of offering a deeply immersive experience, able to attract an elite tourism segment interested in the beauty of our towns and in our cultural identity. The renewed confidence in Tiziana Rocca, to whom I extend my best wishes for her work, ensures the necessary and strategic continuity to consolidate the international positioning of the Taormina brand. We are ready to experience a season of major premieres and the promotion of young talents, with the full and firm awareness that cinema remains the most powerful instrument to move

audiences and, at the same time, to promote throughout the world the image of a modern, welcoming and culturally forward-looking Sicily.”

*During the Festival, the **FACE General Assembly** will take place. FACE, the **Federation of European Film Academies**, brings together **14 organizations from as many countries**, in addition to the **European Film Academy**. This prestigious event, which for the first time also involves the Taormina Festival, aims to examine the state of health of European cinema and map out its future direction.*

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