

## Swiss Series Storytelling Award

Offered by the cultural funds of SSA and Suissimage

### 2026 Regulations for Documentaries Series

The Swiss Series Storytelling Award, offered by the cultural funds of SSA and Suissimage, rewards a Swiss series for the quality and innovation of its storytelling. This prize is awarded alternately: in odd-numbered years, it honors a fiction series, and in even-numbered years, a documentary series.

The 2026 edition is open to documentary series broadcast in 2024 and 2026. The award ceremony will take place during the 32nd edition of the Geneva International Film Festival (GIFF).

#### 1. Eligibility Criteria

- a) Swiss series from all linguistic regions are eligible, provided their first broadcast (live or online) occurred between January 1, 2024, and December 31, 2026, and that all episodes are available within the deadlines communicated by GIFF.
- b) The **submission deadline** for the **Swiss Series Storytelling Award 2026** is set for **August 20, 2026**.
- c) Each series is only eligible once.
- d) All seasons are eligible.
- e) For the year 2026, only documentary series (including animation) are eligible. Reality TV programs are not eligible. Fiction series broadcast between January 1, 2025, and December 31, 2027, may apply for the Award for the 2027 edition.
- f) The main production company must be based in Switzerland. Minority co-productions are eligible only if the creator or lead writer is Swiss or based in Switzerland and a Swiss broadcaster is attached.
- g) Each series must consist of at least four episodes, each lasting between 25 and 75 minutes. For animated series, the total duration must be at least 140 minutes.

#### 2. Nomination Process

- a) A call for submissions is published, targeting production, distribution, or broadcasting companies.
- b) There is no submission fee.
- c) A maximum of 15 series are selected based on eligibility criteria and submission order.
- d) This nomination does not prevent the series from being screened in other GIFF programs, including premieres.

### 3. Submission Material

The following materials are required to participate in the competition:

- The video files or viewing links for all episodes of the series, with subtitles in French and/or German. Works in progress are accepted, but all episodes must be delivered in order to assess the full narrative arc.
- A short presentation file in English, French, German, or Italian.
- The list of credits and digital promotional materials.

### 4. Jury

#### a) Composition:

GIFF selects an independent jury composed of international television industry professionals to choose the winning series from the nominees.

#### b) Procedure:

The jury deliberates in two rounds:

- 1st round: the jury watches 2 to 3 episodes per series.
- 2nd round: the jury views the entirety of the series selected for this second round, between 3 to 6 titles depending on the results of the first deliberation.

The jury's decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

### 5. Prize

- a) The prize is endowed with CHF 20,000, offered by the cultural funds of SSA and Suissimage, for a single documentary series (2026 edition).
- b) The amount is equally split between the creators (those responsible for the narrative universe of the series) and the lead screenwriters (credited as such). **These names must be provided at the time of submission via the form<sup>1</sup>.**

### 6. Award Ceremony

An award ceremony will be organized during GIFF, at which the finalists will be announced and the prize awarded to the winner(s).

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<sup>1</sup> The creator is the person who develops the initial idea for the series and establishes its foundation, while the head writer is responsible for the day-to-day realization of that vision, overseeing the writing of the series.