

ENTRY RULES AND REGULATIONS

PREAMBLE

SERIES MANIA LILLE / HAUTS-DE-FRANCE (hereinafter referred to as “Series Mania” and “the Festival”) is France’s premiere home of scripted series, and its first international festival entirely dedicated to the best of scripted series. Series Mania aims to promote works of value from all around the globe, contribute to the evolution of episodic storytelling and encourage the development of the series industry throughout the world.

This non-profit event gathers a substantial and inclusive audience of talents, industry professionals, international broadcasters, journalists, and the general public to appreciate the quality and spirit of today’s best series. For eight festive and stimulating days, Series Mania presents on cinema screens around 50 titles including world premieres and offers Masterclasses with some of the most prestigious artists in the field, public conferences, industry panel discussions, professional opportunities, exhibits and soirées.

Series Mania selects and invites the series that are presented in **International Competition, French Competition, International Panorama Competition, Short Forms Competition, Gala Screenings (Out of Competition), Special Screenings (Out of Competition) and Buyers Upfront.**

The next edition of Series Mania will be held in Lille from **March 21st to 28th, 2025.**

This document is an explanation of the Entry Rules and Regulations governing the submission of series shared with the Festival for consideration for the 2025 edition of Series Mania. The following information shall supersede the contents of the Series Mania FAQ available at <https://help.seriesmania.com/en/>.

By agreeing to the Terms And Conditions outlined at <https://film.series-mania.festicine.fr/en/>, each applicant acknowledges that they have obtained consent from any and all other persons or entities who have any ownership rights, licenses or interests (including intellectual property rights or distribution licenses) of the submitted series, and has read and understood the Entry Rules and Regulations set forth below.

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ELIGIBILITY

Series Mania only accepts **First Seasons** for new scripted series or mini-series (dramas, comedies and short forms) **produced in 2024 or on track for completion in 2025**. Submitted works must be fictional.

The Festival will not accept the following submissions:

- Documentary series
- Animated series
- Children's series
- Series pilots and proofs of concept
- Follow-up seasons
- Re-submissions (series which have already been submitted and viewed by the Festival Programming team for a previous edition of Series Mania are not eligible.)

To be eligible for consideration:

1. Applicants must fully comply with these Entry Rules and Regulations, including all deadlines, entry material and other requirements.
2. Submissions should include **at least the first 2 episodes for series that exceed 40 minutes of length per episode and at least the first 3 episodes for series with a shorter duration**. Submitted episodes must be a set of chronological episodes starting with the pilot episode.
3. Submitted episodes must be in their **original version with English subtitles** unless the original version of the episodes is in French or English. Dialogue lists are not accepted.
4. Work in progress (rough cuts or picture locks with temp color, sound, etc.) are accepted as selection screeners, if completed episodes are available to screen during the Festival. Applicants will be required to provide a list of all incomplete elements (titles, sound mix, color-correction, visual and special effects, etc.)
5. World premieres are preferred in all sections (*details about premiere status requirements per Festival section are found in p. 7 to 10*) but in no case the submitted series must have been exhibited in any French festival and/or released on any channel, platform, streaming service or mobile app available in France before March 28th, 2025. Series listing France as a major country of production must be World premieres.

HOW TO ENTER

Apply online at <https://film.series-mania.festicine.fr/en>

Click “submit” after fully completing the online entry form. Please note that the online entry form will require you to submit a password-protected URL that links to your series.

There is **no entry fee**, submissions are entirely free of charge.

KEY DATES AND SUBMISSION DEADLINE

- October 7th, 2024 – Open call for submissions
- **December 16th, 2024 – Submissions close at 18:00 / 6:00PM (UTC+1)**
All entries must have been completed and received by Series Mania at this time. No submissions will be accepted after this date.
- Mid-February 2025 – Official selection announced.
- March 21st to 28th, 2025 – Series Mania Lille / Hauts-de-France Festival

Series Mania will unveil the selection during a press conference in mid-February 2025.

Due to the increasing number of submissions received, the Festival Programming team is unable to provide individual feedback on selection decisions.

ENTRY MATERIAL

All entries must include the following:

- An official Series Mania entry form properly completed.
- A password-protected streaming link of the required episodes of the series (*details about the number of required episodes are found in p. 6*).

Note: If you are unable to submit your series by URL link, please follow the prompts in the online entry form to contact the Festival Programming team to discuss an alternate method of submission.

Additional material:

- 5 royalty-free unit photos (still photos from the submitted episodes) that the Festival may use for communications purposes in case of selection only.

The episodes of your series must be submitted via a password-protected streaming URL link. Links must remain active and accessible until March 28th, 2025. This streaming link must include a downloadable version of the available episodes. Please prepare this link prior to completing your online entry form.

Note: Submissions may be on a work-in-progress form; however, episodes that are not final cuts must be clearly labeled Work in Progress (“WIP”) or Rough Cut with an indication of what will change or what is missing at the time of submission.

REQUIRED NUMBER OF EPISODES

DRAMA AND COMEDY SERIES

All submitted series must consist of episodes intended to be at least 20 minutes in length:

- For series that exceed 40 minutes in length per episode, including credits, the Festival Programming team will screen the first 2 episodes.
- For series between 20 and 40 minutes in length per episode, including credits, the Festival Programming team will screen the first 3 or 4 episodes.

Drama and comedy series presented in International Competition, International Panorama Competition, French Competition, Gala Screenings (Out of Competition) and Special Screenings (Out of Competition), will feature a **combined runtime of approximately 90 minutes or longer**, including credits.

SHORT-FORM SERIES

All submitted series must consist of episodes intended to be under 20 minutes in length and produced to be aired specifically online:

- For series that exceed 15 minutes in length per episode, including credits, the Festival Programming team will screen the first 3 episodes.
- For series under 15 minutes in length per episode, including credits, the Festival Programming team will screen the first 4 episodes or the full series when available.

Short form series presented in Short Forms Competition will feature a **combined runtime between 30 and 45 minutes**, including credits.

FESTIVAL SECTIONS AND AWARDS

Series Mania's program consists of several different sections, curated in-house by the Festival's programmers. Series Mania does not receive submissions for specific categories. Series invited to participate at Series Mania will be included in the section determined most appropriate by the Festival Programming team, in their sole discretion.

In 2025, the Festival sections will include the following categories:

» IN COMPETITION

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

World or International Premieres section: series that have not yet been broadcast on television (free-access, digital, cable or satellite) and/or released on any platform or streaming service and/or exhibited in any festival taking place before March 28th, 2025 are eligible. Exceptions may be considered for series exhibited at local previews or market screenings, and for series released after September 1st, 2024 strictly in their country of origin. **World premieres are given priority**, provided all other criteria are met. French productions (with 50% or more of the financing originating within France) must be World premieres.

An international jury of personalities from the world of series and culture will confer:

- the Grand Prix
- the award for Best Writing
- the award for Best Actress
- the award for Best Actor

This category is also eligible for the Audience Award.

INTERNATIONAL PANORAMA COMPETITION

World, International, European or French Premieres section: **only series released after September 1st, 2024 outside of France will be accepted.** The series must not have been broadcast on French television (free-access, digital, cable or satellite) and/or released on any platform or streaming service available in France and/or exhibited in any French festival taking place before March 28th, 2025. **World premieres are given priority**, provided all other criteria are met.

An international jury of personalities from the world of series and culture will confer:

- the award for Best Series
- the award for Best Directing
- the award for Best Actress
- the award for Best Actor

A student jury will confer the Student award for Best Series.

This category is also eligible for the Audience Award.

FRENCH COMPETITION

World Premieres section: **Only French productions are eligible in this category.** The series must not have been broadcast on any television channel (free-access, digital, cable or satellite) and/or released on any platform or streaming service and/or exhibited in any French or international festival taking place before March 28th, 2025.

An international press jury will confer:

- the award for Best Series
- the award for Best Actress
- the award for Best Actor
- the award for Best Musical Score

This category is also eligible for the Audience Award.

SHORT FORMS COMPETITION

World or International or European or French Premieres section: **Only series released after September 1st, 2024 outside of France will be accepted.** The series must not have been exhibited in any French festival and/or released on any platform, streaming service or mobile app available in France before March 28th, 2025. **World premieres are given priority**, provided all other criteria are met. French productions must be World premieres.

An international jury of personalities from the world of series and culture will confer the award for Best Series.

A high school jury from Hauts-de-France will confer the High School award for Best Series.

Note: All awards in the above-mentioned categories are honorary.

» OUT OF COMPETITION

The Out of Competition sections of Series Mania serve to promote a wide range of series, generating major audience interest and ensuring that all who wish to enjoy the Festival program can do so.

GALA SCREENINGS

Gala Screenings roll out the red carpet to the glamorous, high-profile, and highly anticipated titles that have a big impact on the television calendar. They honor major television personalities, stars of the small screen, and Festival alumni.

SPECIAL SCREENINGS

Special Screenings include Documentary series, iconoclastic genre series, tributes to past favorites in the presence of their cast and crew, and New Season Premieres (exclusive previews of the next installments of successful, fan-favorite series returning for more). They also cast a light on restored copies of classic series and long-forgotten gems, contributing to a better understanding of the history of serial storytelling.

Note: Acceptance into the above Out of Competition sections are by invitation only and do not receive submissions. The Festival will extend invitations to series selected in these categories.

DEFINITION OF PREMIERE STATUSES

World Premiere: The first official screening of the series. The series has not been presented or released anywhere.

International Premiere: The first screening outside the country of origin. The series has only been presented and/or released in its country of origin.

European Premiere: The first screening in Europe. The series has only been presented and/or released in its country of origin and in additional territories outside of Europe.

French Premiere: The first screening in France. The series has yet to be presented or released in France.

No Premiere: the series has already been presented and/or released in France, it is therefore not eligible for submission and will not be considered by the Festival.

Note: World premieres are preferred in all sections.

FESTIVAL SCREENINGS

Selected series will screen at the Nouveau Siècle, the UGC Ciné Cité Lille, Salle Descamps – CCI and the Majestic movie-theaters between March 21st and 28th, 2025. Series Mania is a non-profit event and admissions to screenings are entirely free. Screenings will be presented by a journalist, TV specialist, representative of the series or a member of the Festival Programming team and can be followed by a Q&A session with the cast and crew.

PREMIERE SCREENINGS MATERIAL

Selected series will be screened in High Definition (DCP), in its original version with French and English subtitles. The right holders will provide high-definition supports (DCP) in their original language and with English subtitles.

PUBLIC ACCESS TO SERIES MANIA+

The public audience of the Festival will find the first two episodes of each series in the official selection on the Series Mania+ platform.

This service is based on the Cinando.com technology, using streaming with a secured watermark and individual access. The access to episodes will be limited to 48 hours after the start of the official premiere screening in Lille.

COMMUNICATION AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL

The Festival reserves the right to communicate on the selection ahead of the Festival. The synopsis for each series will be written by the Festival's team.

If your series is selected, the rights holders will be required to submit **three 60-second sequences** for communications purposes that the Festival may use for trailers and promotional clips/videos.

The rights holders will also be required to submit **5 unit photos** (royalty-free until March 2026), from the screened episodes (no promotional material) that the Festival may use for press purposes and the official program.

The award winners, as well as the producers and distributors of the winning series are under the obligation to include the awards received and the Series Mania logo, on all promotion materials (credits, poster, trailer, press kit, website).



FOR ANY QUESTION REGARDING THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS, PLEASE SEND AN EMAIL TO:
PROGRAM@SERIESMANIA.COM