

Twelve short films compete for awards at the 8th Menorca Doc Fest

Twelve international documentary short films and four Balearic ones are competing for awards at the **8th Menorca Doc Fest**, the island's documentary film and photography festival sponsored by [Fundació Foment de Turisme de Menorca \(FFTMM\)](#). This year the festival focuses on childhood and youth, the feminist perspective, memory and archives as raw material, threatened communities and territories, and humanity's increasingly strained relationship with its environment.

The **international section** brings together twelve short films shot in Spain, Peru, Chile, Kosovo and Asturias, among other places. In Lagartera, Lita returns every summer to a village where tradition weighs more heavily than she does, and it is through this return that Irene Baqué builds **Mal de Madre**. In the Peruvian Amazon, **Wainitai**, by Pablo García-Vizcarra, portrays a young Awajún woman who questions her community's gender roles, while **El Congelador**, by Raúl De La Fuente and Amaia Remírez, follows a girl who escapes a child prostitution ring and sets out on a quest for justice. **Pedro Tomás Explica El Mundo**, by Kornelijus Stučkus, portrays a man who interprets in his own way the jungle, the gods, or the strange black desert left behind by a volcano on La Palma, and **Two Lives In Tight Socks**, by Rilindje Sadiku and Besim Ugzmajli, depicts a pregnancy experienced in Kosovo, laden with precarity and a migratory dream of Canada.

Another thread explores cities shedding their skin: **Eject: el último rebobinado**, by Martin Desoto and Senin Porto, takes as its starting point the closure of video rental stores amid the rise of streaming platforms and AI, and **Princesa, 20**, by Marina Freixa Roca, turns a home video camera into an unintentional archive of a decade of transformation in downtown Barcelona. The bicycle becomes a symbol of female freedom in **Cara De Bicicleta**, by Amaia Nerekan Umaran and Itziar Zorita Agirre, and collective rage takes the form of satire in **No Als Pòalets**, by Laura García Andreu. Albert Kuhn revisits family photographs and silences in **Dreams For A Better Past**, and in **Baisanos**, by Andrés Khamis Giacomán and Francisca Khamis Giacomán, identity and return are explored between Chile and Palestine through a football club. The section closes with the rural mystery of **Una mujer que conocí llamada Yudita**, by Rodrigo Agüeria.

The **Balearic entries** speak, above all, of territory and return. In **Souvenir**, Macià Florit Campins turns a Menorcan stone confiscated at the airport into the protagonist of an odyssey that is, in truth, a critique of the islands' touristic overcrowding. Carles Bover returns, ten years later, to a shoot in Gaza in **El Ressò De La Mirada** —recently awarded Best Documentary Short Film at the Premios Fugaz— to reflect on the weight of filming pain

and the responsibility of whoever shows it. Diego Poncelet brings the skateboarding and life philosophy of a young man from Medellín to Mallorca in Diciembre, and Jordi Nadal Perelló recovers, in *L'últim vaquer de Hollywood*, the extraordinary story of a Mallorcan who worked with John Wayne right at the heart of the film industry's Mecca.

The awards: two days of screenings and the results, October 9–10, in Es Mercadal

The sixteen short films will be screened on **October 9 and 10** at the **Sala Multifuncional des Mercadal**, with a ticket price of €3, and it is on Sunday, **October 10**, during the closing ceremony at 8:15 p.m., that the winners will be announced. **The Ullastre Award** will honor **Best Documentary**, and another award will go to **Best Balearic Documentary Short Film**. There will also be the **Aula Doc Award**, part of the educational project that travels to schools across the island to work on cross-cutting themes related to documentary film. To be eligible for the 2027 **Premios Fugaz for Spanish short film** —an award promoted by CortoEspaña, comparable to the Goya Awards in this category— the short film must be a national production. The audience attending the screenings will have the final say through their own **Audience Award**.

The jury for the Ullastre Award for best short film is made up of **Joan Carles Martorell**, a graduate in Audiovisual Communication linked to film production, university teaching, and direction and programming at IB3; and **Anna Petrus**, a Menorcan filmmaker, programmer and researcher based in Barcelona, currently a programming advisor at Sheffield Doc Fest and a professor at UPF and ESCA; and **Xavi Herrero**, director de Ibizacinefest.

Menorca Doc Fest is an initiative of FAR Cultural, sponsored by the FFTM and supported by the Fundació Guillem Cifre de Colonya, the Consell Insular de Menorca, and the Institut d'Estudis Baleàrics. The Ullastre Award is sponsored by the Fundació Guillem Cifre de Colonya, while the Balearic Award is supported by the Consell Insular de Menorca Language Advisory Service.

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