

#8

European Workshop for Film Criticism

Regulations

Framework

The European Network for Film Discourse (The END) and short film magazine Talking Shorts are organising the **8th edition** of the European Workshop for Film Criticism: **two week-long workshop sessions** for aspiring film critics set during film festivals in Leuven, Belgium (**Leuven Short Film Festival, December 2025**) and Vilnius, Lithuania (**Vilnius Short Film Festival, January 2026**).

The two workshop units will explore **written film criticism** and **festival coverage** in various lengths and formats. At Leuven, the focus will be on the “film review” and all that it can entail. What does it mean to write criticism? What is it, and what is it not? How can you incorporate as many varieties of experience and craft into a single text? What are the blind spots we’re working against and possibly even with? All of this will be explored through a **craft approach**: building possible answers to these questions from the written drafts of the participants themselves.

In Vilnius, the focus will be on **essayistic long-form writing**, building upon the preliminary answers and new questions encountered during the first leg of the workshop. Ours is an aesthetics of abundance without losing sight of focus and sharpness, as the guiding question will always be: what is a short film, and how does it work in the given programming context and the world in which we live?

The workshops will be held in English. There will be tasks assigned before each workshop, as well as additional editing between or after the workshops. Participants will receive 1:1 editorial guidance from the workshop’s tutor and guest mentors throughout the two festivals. A selection of their texts will be published on Talking Shorts.

Timeline

2—7.12.2025

Workshop at Leuven Short Film Festival (Belgium)

21—26.01.2026

Workshop at Vilnius Short Film Festival (Lithuania)

Arrival and departure dates may vary depending on your place of residence. A more detailed timeline of the workshop schedule will be shared prior to the start of the first workshop leg.

Tutor

The tutor of this tandem workshop will be **Michaël Van Remoortere**. A writer and film critic, he has published both online and in print in a variety of magazines and platforms, including Talking Shorts and photogénie. Van Remoortere has a background in philosophy and literature and is interested in bringing these influences into the world of film criticism. Since 2023, he has taught Cinea's Critics Workshop at Film Fest Gent. By the start of this workshop, he hopes to have finished the final draft of his first novel.

Eligibility

The workshop is aimed at anyone over the age of 18 interested in critical and discursive work about (short) films and can participate in both units of the tandem workshop.

The application is available for European residents who:

- are over the age of 18;
- have a strong interest and motivation to gain insight into journalistic and criticism practices;
- are eager to learn/be mentored by industry professionals;
- are proficient in English (speaking and writing);
- can attend the programme fully, i.e., participate in both units of the tandem workshop in Leuven and Vilnius.

Please note:

- applications in languages other than English will not be accepted;
- incomplete applications will not be accepted;
- during the application process, additional materials will be required to be attached, such as a curriculum vitae (CV) in English;
- a (writing) sample is compulsory to help evaluate the candidate's (writing) skills: please include a piece of writing (a film review, interview, essay, dispatch, etc.) that you worked on and was published after January 1, 2024—don't forget to include a brief description of the outlet it appeared in, and include a valid URL to its original version.

Applications are open **from September 1 to October 5, 2025**.

The results will be communicated by October 20, 2025.

Selection Process

Six participants will be selected for the European Workshop for Film Criticism #8.

- a minimum of two different readers will process each application;
- applications can not be withdrawn after selection, except at the sole discretion of the workshop organisers;
- the workshop organisers reserve the right not to provide any feedback, comments, or any other information regarding the selection or non-selection of any application.

Fees and Logistics

The participation fee is **€150,-** in total.

In return, the hosting festivals offer:

- accommodation (single hotel room) in Leuven and Vilnius;
- partly covered travel expenses (up to €150 per festival);
- breakfast, lunch, and dinner during the workshop;
- full accreditation that grants access to all screenings and other festival events.

Contact

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Project Coordinator

A Project By

The European Network for Film Discourse (The END)

The European Network for Film Discourse consists of 8 unique and diverse European short film festivals—**Filmfest Dresden** (DE), **Vienna Shorts** (AT), **Curtas Vila do Conde - International Film Festival** (PT), **Lago Film Fest** (IT), **FeKK Ljubljana Short Film Festival** (SI), **Bucharest International Experimental Film Festival** (RO), **Kortfilmfestival Leuven** (BE) and **Vilnius Short Film Festival** (LT)—and is funded by the Creative Europe MEDIA programme.

The network's primary purpose is to promote critical film discourse by and for a younger generation and to familiarise new audiences with a flourishing European film landscape.