

#10

European Workshop for Film Criticism

Regulations



Framework

The **European Network for Film Discourse (The END)** and short film magazine **Talking Shorts** are organising the 10th European Workshop for Film Criticism, a two-part intensive programme for emerging film critics. The workshop will unfold during **Lago Film Fest** (Italy, July 2026) and **Bucharest International Experimental Film Festival** (Romania, September 2026).

This year's edition centres on the **blending of film criticism and interview**, led by Yun-hua Chen. Over two immersive weeks, participants will delve into film critique, interview techniques, and festival coverage, combining theoretical input with hands-on technical expertise—from **approaching short-film criticism to conducting interviews and ethically integrating them into an essay**. By the end of the programme, each of the six participants will have developed and completed two essays.

The workshop consists of **five workshop days in each city**, complemented by **extensive film screenings** at both festivals to inspire and inform the critical work. Throughout the process, participants receive **one-on-one editorial guidance** from the tutors and guest mentors, with a selection of the finished essays featured on Talking Shorts.

All sessions will be conducted in English.

Timeline

20–26.07.2026

Workshop at Lago Film Fest (Italy)

23–29.09.2026

Workshop at Bucharest International Experimental Film Festival (BIEFF)

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

Yun-hua Chen holds a PhD in Film Studies from the University of St Andrews in Scotland and is a Taiwan-born film scholar, critic, and curator based in Berlin. She is an associate editor at Film International, an editor for Cinema of Commoning at Sinema Transtopia, and contributes as a film critic to Filmexplorer, the Goethe-Institut's online platforms, Cinébulletin, Talking Shorts, Cinephilia, and other publications. Her monograph *Mosaic Space and Mosaic Auteurs* was published by Neofelis Verlag in Berlin. She is currently a member of the selection committees for Berlinale Shorts, Berlinale Forum, and Dokufest in Kosovo. She also sits on the advisory board of the German Film Critics Association (VdFk). Previously, she was the festival director of dokumentART in Neubrandenburg, Germany. She has served as a jury member at film festivals including Vila do Conde, Las Palmas, EMAF, and Beldocs, among others.



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 Lago and Bucharest.

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;
- to help us evaluate your criticism skills, please include a piece of writing (a film review, interview, essay, dispatch, etc.) that you worked on and was published after January 1, 2025;

The call is open **from March 16 to April 20, 2026.**

The results will be communicated by May 1, 2026.

Selection Process

Six participants will be selected for the European Workshop for Film Criticism #10.

- 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 in Lago and Bucharest;
- 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

Niels Putman

niels@talkingshorts.com

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.