

| CALL FOR
PROJECTS |

ANNÉCY FESTIVAL

RESIDENCY

GRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT FOR
AN ANIMATION FEATURE FILM

EDITION 2026

A residency
organised by CITIA



With the support of:



A UNIQUE POSITION

With the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes Region, the Haute-Savoie Department, the DRAC Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, Netflix and the CNC's support, the Annecy International Animation Film Festival supports creation through a graphic development residency for animation feature films.

A key stage in the filmmaking process that needs a great deal of care is the search for a graphic identity and defining the storyboard. Like films with live-action shots it is considered hard work to set the stage that foreshadows the film's cohesion and rhythm.

By "graphic development" we mean all the phases necessary for the director to endorse the graphic universe and the film's visual journey: precutting, cutting, graphic research, storyboard, animatics, etc.

There are a multitude of methods and each artist has their own preferred choice, but they all lead to the same goal, to provide a precise skeleton of all the sequences that constitute the film.

The residency positions itself between the end of the writing stage and the outset of production, like a perfect parenthesis providing time for creation, reflection and graphic evolution.

The Annecy Festival and its market, the Mifa, continue their support for animation feature films by offering a scheme with a time and place for creation, a network set-up, visibility and project monitoring during and after the current edition.



photo : OTIA/E. Perdu

A STIMULATING ECOSYSTEM

Annecy, the world capital of animation film, has been hosting the International Animated Film Festival for over 60 years to bring artists from around the globe together.

Simultaneously, an industry has been developing for the last 10 years at Les Papeteries – Image Factory with animation studios, service providers and training programs of excellence such as **Caribara, Gobelins Paris, Inthebox, Amopix, TNZPV, Gaoshan Animation Studio, Les Indiscrets, Full Story**, to name but a few.

Tomorrow, the Cité internationale du cinéma d'animation will be a brand-new venue to showcase works and welcome audiences.

The policy of supporting animation films in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region makes it a very attractive setting and provides additional opportunities to residents.

This support for creation takes various forms including funding (FACCA from the Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, the Support Fund for Animation Works in Haute-Savoie, the Drôme Aid Fund, etc.) and the presence of key players in the vicinity (Pôle PIXEL, Aura Cinéma, La Cartoucherie, etc.).

ACCESS CONDITIONS

The residency is assigned to a project. It will be up to the director to choose who will be the most apt in the team to benefit from this creative time (the director, storyboarder, associated graphic designer, etc.).

The invitation is individual and only valid for one person.

The producer may seize the opportunity to reinforce his/her team and "relocate" a member, but this will be at his/her own personal expense.

Mentorship will be in **French or English** only, depending on the residents' country of origin.

CITIA will ensure the organisation prior to the residency and its smooth running on-site.

As part of cultural and artistic actions with schools CITIA may request the resident's presence for mediations, meetings or other forms of participation.



REGISTRATIONS OPEN / July 2025

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE / 12th September 2025

SELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT / November 2025

RESIDENCY / current 2026

THE RESIDENCY'S DETAILS

The Annecy International Animation Film Festival will provide the beneficiaries with the use of its network, guaranteeing the residents a top-of-the-range support system and putting them in touch with expert mentors. For example, here are a few of the experts from the Annecy Festival Residency:

- Scriptwriting mentoring (before the Residency begins): **Céline Sciamma, Valérie Zenatti, Sébastien Tavel and Anita Doron.**
- Graphic development mentoring: **Sepideh Farsi, Éléa Gobbé-Mévellec, Benjamin Renner, Tomm Moore, Marc Caro, Graham Annable and Kim Keukeleire.**

IN ADDITION:

- **a tailor-made offer:** identifying the projects' needs and mentor(s) choice(s);
- **an inspiring and stimulating ecosystem and framework:** Annecy, capital of animated cinema
- **welcomes 3 residents at the same time** to create connection and stimulation;
- **an international position:** French and foreign projects are equally eligible;
- **A highlight on the occasion of the International Animation Film Festival and its market, the Mifa,** the current year and/or the following ones.
- **a unique spotlight** on the professional world during the Mifa: the project's promotion and propulsion;
- **project follow-up,** with the CITIA teams committed prior to, during and after the residency, to guarantee the best development conditions for the project.

STRUCTURE AND PROCEDURES

The candidates will be informed of their selection after deliberations early November 2025. The recipient of the residency will be chosen in consultation with the director and producer (if there is a producer involved). A needs assessment will then define the type of support necessary for each project by affiliating the appropriate mentor(s).

Before the residency starts, scriptwriting support can be provided with a mentor to work on the script. On-site, the main mentor will assist with the graphic development, with an attentive ear and sharing valuable expertise the mentor will help to direct the project towards its definitive graphic identity. Mentoring will be established with the resident and producer's agreement (if there is an associate producer), and subject to the expert's availability.

The project leaders selected will be in residence in Annecy for three consecutive months (from the beginning of April to the end of June). The Festival and Mifa week will be the perfect opportunity to showcase the projects (visibility during a Pitch session at the Mifa and meeting professionals) and gauge the interest they raise with possible investors.

Conclusions will be made at the end of the residency, time to review the project's progress and to produce a written report on the residency: assessment of the work carried out and the project's evolution, meetings and contacts made, and planned prospects.

After the residency there will be a progress report to keep a link and follow its support and visibility until the end of the film's production.

SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS ARE ELIGIBLE

- pure or hybrid (integrating live-action shots) animation feature films;
- by authors/directors for whom it is their 1st or 2nd work in this format.

APPLICATION FILES ARE ONLY ACCEPTED AS FOLLOWS

- written in French or English;
- complete (including all the elements required below);
- sent uniquely in PDF format no heavier than 50 Mo;
- by e-mail, to geraldinebache@citia.org (subject: Annecy Festival Residency Candidature);
- and within the allotted time.

Deadline for the dossiers:
midnight 12th September 2025.

CITIA
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CS 50038 — FR-74001 Annecy Cedex
www.citia.org

REQUIRED ELEMENTS

1. **Project identity sheet:** title, author(s), length, target audience
2. **Synopsis:** 10 lines maximum
3. **A short video presentation by the author and about their motivations** (2 to 3 min maximum)
4. **Overall presentation** (detailed synopsis, universe, main characters): 15-20 pages
5. **Project treatment** (15 to 20 pages)
6. **Two scenes with dialogue**, do not send a full script
7. **Graphical elements** (characters, sets, first storyboard sketches, etc.) **and potential animation tests**
8. **Director's statement of intent**
9. **Information concerning the desired work strategies** by doing graphic development during the residency (axes defined by the director and his/her producer, if there is an associate producer): 1 or 2 pages
10. **Financial and strategic note:** budget, secured percentage, subsidies obtained or under review, and production/co-production prospects, etc.
11. **Note on the project's possible educational scope**, especially for school audiences
12. **CV including URL links to previous works** (if applicable)
13. **Signed copy of the internal regulations** (see Annex)

IF THE PROJECT COMES FROM A PRE-EXISTING WORK:

- Title, author(s) and publishing company

It is absolutely imperative to attach a **letter of agreement from the rights holder** to present the project and/or authorize this adaptation.

GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

Ineligible files

Will be refused:

- incomplete files, illegible or not fulfilling the elements requested;
- projects not in the feature film format;
- projects whose narrative or visual maturity is lacking.

PARTICIPATION CONDITIONS

The candidates certify the accuracy of all the elements provided in their application dossier. They confirm to have read the rules and regulations by returning them dated and signed.

SELECTION CONDITIONS

All eligible projects are sent to a selection committee to be read and evaluated.

The committee is composed of animation film professionals: authors, directors, producers, distributors, sellers, as well as representatives from CITIA, the State/CNC, private partners, and local authorities and the residency's partners (advisory opinion). At the outcome of the deliberations all the project leaders will be informed in writing. The committee is not required to comment on the arbitrations effected.

RECEPTION CONDITIONS

Covered

During the residency project leaders will benefit from:

- 1 round-trip transportation (plane or train depending on where the resident is coming from);
- 3 months accommodation in the Commune nouvelle d'Annecy (average rent established by CITIA);
- a workspace ;
- computer equipment available for use according to the terms and conditions stated in the internal regulations;
- a €1,000 monthly grant for creation;
- a mentor available for 8 days maximum to be spread across the 3-month period of residency;
- a Mifa accreditation;
- showcasing the project as part of the arrangements carried out by CITIA, the current year or the following ones.

The residency does not include:

- catering coverage;
- any additional home-Annecy transport during the 3 months;
- requests for specific equipment.

RESIDENT'S CHARTER

The selected project leaders are required to:

- respect the general workings of the residence (conditions of cover, fixed objectives, report, etc.);
- be present in Annecy, during the entire duration of the residency;
- specify their needs with the CITIA teams and their producer (in the event of an associate producer) before the residency and to heed to it;
- provide CITIA with a report about their participation in the residency and inform them of the project's evolution;
- indicate the support obtained in the works' credits with a citation "A project assisted by the Annecy Festival Residency, with the support of the Région Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, the Département de la Haute-Savoie, the DRAC Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes and the CNC";
- authorise CITIA and their partners to communicate on said projects;
- prioritise the Annecy International Animation Film Festival as the showcase to reveal the project's progress (WIP participation, at Annecy Animation Showcase, or the film's registration to a competition);
- send 2 visuals of their project after the residency to enable the partners to communicate on the said projects.

The work done remains the property of the author.

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For more information please contact:

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