



Valletta 2018 Foundation & Inizjamed

Poetry on Film

Call for proposals

Application guidelines

For more information, contact
inizjamedprojects@gmail.com

This call for proposals is addressed to **film directors, filmmakers and producers** with an **active interest** in short **poetry films** in general, and in **modern Maltese poetry** in particular.

Film proposals can be submitted by **individuals** or by **teams**. If applying as a team, the proposal should be submitted by an individual representative, but the application should include the signatures of all confirmed members of the team at the time of submission.

Context

Poetry on Film is a Valletta 2018 project in collaboration with Inizjamed which aims to develop the poetry film sector in Malta through **training**, the **commissioning** of short poetry films to be screened at the annual **Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival**, and the **export** of the commissioned films. The project is central to the Valletta 2018 Foundation and Inizjamed strategy **to make poetry more accessible and alive** through collaboration and co-creation across different artistic disciplines and media.

The first poetry film was commissioned for the 2014 edition of the Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival based on two poems by Doreen Micallef as a representative of Maltese poetry of the 1960s, and a second poetry film was commissioned for the 2015 edition of the same Festival, based on a poem by Mario Azzopardi as a representative of Maltese poetry of the 1970s. For the third year of the project, in order to stimulate wider interest and activity in the sector and with a view to supporting the high-quality production of poetry films in Malta, the Valletta 2018 Foundation and Inizjamed have decided to commission **two** poetry films via a **selective process**.

This call for proposals follows the organisation of a *Poetry on Film* workshop, led by director Yasmin Fedda of **Highlight Arts**, on 13th-14th February 2016. Those who attended the workshop are encouraged to submit a short film proposal. Applications are also welcome from interested filmmakers who did not attend the workshop.

The aim of this selection process is to select **one** short film proposal based on one or more poems by **Lillian Sciberras**, and **one** short film proposal based on one or more poems by **Ray Mahoney**. The chosen poems, three per author, can be found in Appendix A. These two authors and six poems have been selected by Dr. Immanuel Mifsud, literary consultant for the *Poetry on Film* project, as representative of Maltese poetry of the **1980s**.

Applicants may choose to submit a single film proposal based on one or more poems by one of the two authors, or two separate film proposals including one based on one or more poems by Lillian Sciberras, and another based on one or more poems by Ray Mahoney.

Following a **pitching session for shortlisted projects**, to take place on the morning of Saturday 9th April, the two selected film proposals will be granted a **maximum budget of € 3,000** each (VAT inclusive), in order to produce the proposed short poetry film by the end of July 2016. This will premiere at the 11th edition of the Malta Mediterranean Literature Festival at Fort St. Elmo, Valletta, on 25th-27th August 2016.

Eligibility

This call for proposals is directed to citizens and/or holders of a residence permit in the

Maltese islands. If applying as a team, only the individual representative submitting the proposal on the team's behalf needs to be a Maltese citizen or resident.

Technical criteria

The proposed short film should be based on **one or more** of the three poems by Lillian Sciberras, or on **one or more** of the three poems by Ray Mahoney, all included in Appendix A in the original Maltese and in English translation.

The proposed short film should be a **minimum length of 4 minutes**, and a **maximum length of 15 minutes**, including credits.

The **Maltese language** should figure prominently in the proposed film. English and/or other languages may also be present. The proposed film should include subtitles in English with a view to export to poetry film screenings and festivals abroad.

Evaluation criteria

The short film proposals will be judged according to **three guiding criteria**, each carrying the same weight:

(a) Engagement with the poem(s)

The proposed short film should show a satisfactory understanding of the chosen poem(s) and maintain and/or enhance the spirit of the poem(s). The film may engage in a form of literary or visual dialogue with the poet, with other works of the poet, or with other literary figures of

(b) Originality

The proposed short film should offer a creative audio-visual interpretation of the chosen poem(s), with its own particular style, and with attention to narrative and thematic structure.

(c) Feasibility

The budget of the proposed short film should be realistic, and the application should provide evidence of sound project management capacity.
the 1980s.

Poetry film proposal

Applications must include a **two-page proposal** which is well-written, clear, offering a creative approach and vision, and showing engagement with the chosen poem(s).

The proposal should include:

(a) A short **synopsis** of the film, followed by a slightly lengthier description of the idea with notes on research, access, character, and visual style.

(b) A **director's note** - *why do you want to make this film?*

Visual or audio-visual material may be attached to the proposal.

Budget – instructions and guidelines

Applicants should provide a **detailed breakdown of the estimated budget** for the proposed short poetry film, up to a **maximum of € 3,000**, inclusive of Value Added Tax.

The sum of €3,000 is inclusive of any other taxes and administration fees, and must include **third-party liability insurance**. If the applicant is already covered by third-party liability insurance related to their daily filmmaking activities, evidence of this insurance cover should be provided.

Applicants can claim their **own time** and that of cast and crew members as eligible costs.

Given that the Valletta 2018 Foundation and Inizjamed will be responsible for the **marketing and publicity** of the selected poetry films, there is **no need** to include these in the budget, except for the creation of a maximum one-minute trailer to be provided, if the proposal is selected, together with the final short poetry film at the end of July 2016.

The seeking of **complementary funding** is permitted, in cash or in kind, but this support must be secured, with documentary evidence, at the time of submission of the application. Supplementary funding **must not exceed 50%** of the total budget for the film. Such collaboration should not augment the scale of the proposed project to the point that the submission of the final film would need to be postponed. Nevertheless, **no commercials or form of product placement** will be permitted in the short poetry film.

All costs eligible for funding under this call must be necessary and reasonable for the completion of the project, and consistent with the principles of sound financial management and accounting practices. The Valletta 2018 Foundation and Inizjamed reserve the right to negotiate amendments to the budget as a condition of funding.

Selection process - Timeline

Wednesday 6 th April, 12 noon	Deadline for submission of applications
Thursday 7 th April, pm	Invitation of shortlisted applicants to pitching session
Saturday 9 th April, am	Pitching session with evaluation board (venue to be announced). Applicants submitting a proposal on behalf of a team may be accompanied by one confirmed member of the crew or cast. The applicant will have up to 7 minutes to pitch their proposal, and may make use of any audio-visual material. This will be followed by up to 7 minutes of questions from the evaluation board.

Third week of April	Signing of film production contract with Inizjamed.
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The evaluation board examining the poetry film proposals and pitches will be made up of:

- One representative of the Valletta 2018 Foundation
- One representative of Inizjamed
- One external evaluator

The pitching session will also be attended by one observer on behalf of Inizjamed.

All decisions of the evaluation board will be final. The evaluation board reserves the right to select only one poetry film proposal instead of two, or none at all, if the expected level of quality is not reached.

Payment procedures and film production - Timeline

The payment of the requested budget (max. € 3,000) to successful poetry film proposals will be made to the beneficiary in three instalments, as follows:

Third week of April	50% of the budget upon signing of the film production contract between the successful applicant and Inizjamed.
Mid-June	30% of the budget upon submission of the following documents to Inizjamed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – final script – 2-page progress report – evidence of casting (where applicable) and production
End of July	20% of the budget upon submission of the following to Inizjamed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – final poetry film ready for public screening – film trailer (max. 1 minute) – certified accounts (breakdown of expenditure, signed by a certified accountant)

Cancellation penalty

If the beneficiary of the poetry film grant, at any point during the duration of the contract, should decide to terminate their contract with Inizjamed before the full term, a termination liability fee amounting to 10% of the grant awarded will be imposed, and is to be paid by the

beneficiary in addition to refunding any budget instalments already received.

Ineligibility

Submitted film proposals containing any of the following content will automatically be disqualified:

- Corporate communications or product placement
- Political propaganda
- Promotion of violence, racism, or pornography.

The contents of the proposed poetry film may not violate the Maltese Constitution.

Likewise, should the produced poetry film include any content that would have made the original proposal ineligible, this will be considered as a breach of the contract signed with Inizjamed and would automatically entail a cancellation penalty as described above.

Screening rights and intellectual property

The Valletta 2018 Foundation and Inizjamed will hold all local and international screening rights to any production commissioned for the *Poetry on Film* project until 31st December 2018.

Intellectual property will lie with the director/producer of the poetry film. The director/producer may show the film privately as part of their portfolio to a potential investor or employer, but may not show the film publicly, nor place the film online for public viewing, before 31st December 2018, unless by written approval of Inizjamed and the Valletta 2018 Foundation, as this may jeopardise the acceptance of the poetry film by film festivals in Malta and abroad.

Inizjamed and the Valletta 2018 Foundation reserve the right to submit the poetry film to local and foreign festivals, as well as to other events related to the European Capital of Culture title. However, the director/producer may request written permission to submit the film to local and foreign poetry or short film festivals for viewing or competition, provided that the request is submitted at least 3 weeks prior to the submission deadline. Should the request be approved, the Valletta 2018 Foundation and Inizjamed will not be responsible for any related costs.

Documents for submission of application

Applicants should send the following documents by e-mail to inizjamedprojects@gmail.com by no later than **Wednesday 6th April at noon**:

- (1) Application form, duly filled in and signed. If applying on behalf of a team, attach signatures of all confirmed members of the crew and cast.

- (2) Photocopy or scan of Maltese identity card or of residence permit.
- (3) A two-page proposal, as described in the relevant section above.
- (4) A detailed budget, taking account of Value Added Tax, any other taxes and administration fees, and obligatory third-party liability insurance.
- (5) A maximum one-page filmography of the applicant. If applying on behalf of a team, include a one-page filmography of each confirmed member of the cast and crew.

Applicants are advised to keep the morning of Saturday 9th April available in the event that their proposal is shortlisted and they are invited to the pitching session planned for that day and time.