

# OPEN CALL

KURZFILME

08.11.2026

SHORT  
FILMS

# ZEITZEUG\_SETS OUT/ BREAKS OPEN

*ZeitZeug\_* is setting out for the next festival in 2027!

From **April 21 to 25, 2027**, we are inviting artists from the German-speaking region and beyond to show their works in Bochum. In addition to its core program categories of visual and performing arts, the festival is featuring a short film section for the third time. We are looking for **your short films**.

ZeitZeug\_Festival sees itself as a connecting platform for young and emerging artists. Our goal is to support **artists on the cusp of a professional career**. In various independent venues and exhibitions spaces, they can present their work to a broad audience and connect with Bochum's independent cultural scene. The festival program offers a space to experiment, try out new formats, fail, and explore together. The short films will be screened at a locally well-known arthouse theater. This gives our filmmakers the opportunity to engage with a broad, interested audience, with one another, and with the festival team.

We want to explicitly invite applications by People of Color, queer people and disabled people. Our goal is to make the festival as accessible and safe as possible for everyone. You can find further information about the festival, our work as well as impressions from the past years on **[www.zeitzeug.net](http://www.zeitzeug.net)**.

# **\_WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR**

This year's motto is **ZeitZeug\_bricht auf: ZeitZeug\_sets out/ZeitZeug\_breaks open**. In German, it is an ambiguous expression that describes both the act of departure, of saying goodbye and setting out on a new path as well as breaking something (violently) open. We invite you to show works that engage with that ambiguity and complexity. You can imagine destinations that are worth setting out for, as well as those that one is forced to travel to. You can describe both the future and possible alternative futures artistically. At the same time, our festival motto provides a space to explore and demonstrate the breaking open of current structures that have often developed over a long period of time. We invite you to question the construction of our present and to turn the sometimes destructive process of breaking things open into something productive.

Submitted short films can be personal and (auto)biographical in nature, or they may address broader social issues. We also welcome submissions that approach the topic through philosophical, historical, or scientific perspectives.

Further information on the application can be found on the next slides as well as on our website!

# **\_FACTS**

The festival takes place from April 21 to 25, 2027 in Bochum. To ensure a fruitful festival experience for everyone, we want to foster interdisciplinary exchange and networking among the artists. We would like to invite you to attend the festival in person and to participate in an artist talk or another conversation format with the other filmmakers after the screening. We would be delighted if you could stay in Bochum before and/or after your event.

For the duration of the festival we offer you an artist's fee and catering, as well as accommodation if necessary. We cover travel costs according to the Landesreisekostengesetz NRW. Please note that due to our limited financial means, we can only invite one person to the festival, if other people involved in the project want to travel to and stay in Bochum at their own expense, we happily invite them to the festival as well.

# **\_APPLICATION**

What we need from you:

Completed application form on **[www.zeitzeug.net](http://www.zeitzeug.net)** with

- Short description of your film
- A link to access your film online (i. e. Vimeo); a submission on physical drive is possible if needed
- If available, additional visual material (stills, trailers etc.)

Please submit your application by **November 8, 2026.**

Feel free to follow our updates on Instagram and our website.

If you have any questions, please contact us at **[festival@zeitzeug.net](mailto:festival@zeitzeug.net)**

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