

Frequently asked questions

Online screenings?

Can Swedish Institute (SI) provide the Swedish Film Selection 2021 as online screenings, ie movies for streaming services and -platforms?

Unfortunately not. There are technical and copyright issues that needs to be resolved.

During the pandemic, a few film producers have approved the use of foreign online streaming services such as Festival Scope which basically meets the requirements of the industry, but as a general rule the producer must approve and provide the files for screenings in direct contact with the organizer.

The film producers prefer showing their films in physical screenings as a first step until an export contract can be settled which includes streaming on commercial internet platforms.

DCP format

What is DCP and how is this format used?

DCP is the world standard format for movie screenings in cinemas and auditoriums around the world. DCP can be shipped on physical media or downloaded over the internet when sufficient capacity (about 100-120 GB /film) is available on the receiver's side.

The filmmakers prefer DCP for basically the following reasons: 1) The film is shown in its full image and sound quality. 2) There is a copyright protection on the media. 3) It's easy and cost effective to add subtitles in additional languages to a DCP.

Today's feature films require a good sound system in the venue with preferably Dolby stereo 5.1 (which is standard for DCP) or at least 2-channel stereo in order for the film to be reproduced as intended.

Additional subtitles

Can we add subtitles to a DCP?

Yes, SI has created a guide which is describing how additional subtitles can be added to movies on DCP with the help of our technical service. Subtitling can also be made locally and added to a DCP but requires film technicians who have the right type of program licenses. Adding subtitles is usually done with a so-called supplement file which is synchronised and projected with the film during playback.

Films as files

Can we get a file (HD file, .MP4, .mov) on the movie sent to us?

SI has not cleared rights to handle these formats for copyright and quality reasons. The filmmakers are very restrictive with film files (usually .MP4) that easily opens on a PC and is unprotected. However, for the few films that have not reached distribution abroad, it sometimes work to buy a single viewing right directly from the producer. HD or MP4 files can only be delivered with one subtitled language.

Convert a DCP?

Our organizer is not able to screen DCP but has the suggested us to convert a DCP into another format and media. Can we approve this?

No, it is not allowed to make a converted copy of a DCP. SI only cleared rights for screenings from DCP on the premise that the promotion of Sweden is at its best when films are shown in their full quality, preferably with the participation of the filmmakers.

The film boxes

We used to receive a Blu-ray film box containing the movies from SI. Will a new box be sent to us during 2021?

SI is not providing new titles in Blu-ray format from 2021 onwards. The format is dated and not commonly used for projection anymore. Blu-rays have also become easy to copy in with standard PC in a way that the copyright rules do not allow.

For the earlier film boxes 2014-20 that are still in use: We strongly recommend embassies and consulates to be careful when lending a Blu-ray disc to organizers. It's often a good practice to confirm in writing with the organizer how the Blu-ray can be used.

Similar to the Film Selection 2023 the titles in the 2014-22 film boxes/selections are also available upon request from SI in DCP format as a better and safer option than Blu-ray.