

2025 ACTIVITY REPORT

AMSTERDAM
**short
cutz**

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Activity Report 2025

1. Introduction

Shortcutz Amsterdam is a Cultural ANBI foundation dedicated to stimulating, developing, and promoting Dutch film talent, with a strong focus on short films. Our mission is to provide emerging filmmakers with a shortcut by offering visibility, access, and opportunities to connect with audiences, industry professionals, and international networks.

This activity report outlines the key activities carried out in 2025 and how they contributed to our statutory objectives. Throughout the year, Shortcutz Amsterdam continued to support emerging Dutch filmmakers through screenings, public conversations, international exposure, talent development, and new partnerships.

2025 was an important year for the organisation. Shortcutz Amsterdam continued its core activities, including the Weekly Sessionz, the Annual Awards and the International Audience Award, while also further developing projects that expand our role as a platform for emerging talent, local communities, and the wider Dutch film industry.

2. Main Activities in 2025

Weekly Sessionz

In 2025, Shortcutz Amsterdam continued its weekly film programme at Sociëteit De Kring, across the spring and autumn seasons.

Each session presented new Dutch short films, followed by conversations with the filmmakers and the audience. These sessions remained free and accessible, creating a low-threshold platform where emerging talent could present their work, receive feedback, and connect with peers, professionals, and film lovers.

Throughout the year, Shortcutz Amsterdam welcomed a wide range of established industry professionals and special guests, including Norbert ter Hall, Peter Hoogendoorn, Daphne Lucker, Kaja Wolffers, Katja Herbers, Victor D. Ponten, Shariff Korver, Morgan Knibbe, Monic Hendrickx, Max Porcelijn, Hugo Keijzer, Maurice Schutte, Antonia Colodro, and Alaa Hathleen.

These guests joined the sessions to share their experience, discuss their work, and offer practical insights into directing, producing, acting, distribution, streaming, documentary filmmaking, feature development, and the broader Dutch and international film industry. Their presence helped create a direct exchange between emerging filmmakers and more experienced voices in the field.

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The Weekly Sessionz directly contributed to Shortcutz Amsterdam's statutory objective of showcasing Dutch short films, supporting new talent, and creating meaningful encounters between filmmakers, audiences, and the industry.

12th Shortcutz Amsterdam Annual Awards

The 12th Shortcutz Amsterdam Annual Awards took place on 19 January 2025 at Eye Filmmuseum.

The ceremony celebrated the best Dutch short films of the previous year. It recognised emerging talent across multiple categories, including Best Film, Best Director, Best Acting, Best Screenplay, Best Cinematography, Best Editing, Best Documentary, Best Animation, Best Experimental Film, Best Soundtrack, the International Audience Award, and the Rutger Hauer Award.

The ceremony welcomed a strong group of Guests of Honour and industry voices, including Hanna Verboom, Martijn Lakemeier, Laura Hermanides, Cyriel Guds, Ashar Medina, and Jan Harlan, who returned as Jury President. These guests shared reflections and advice with the next generation of filmmakers, reinforcing the Annual Awards' role as more than a prize ceremony.

The jury team included Jan Harlan, Christopher Mack, Elise Schaap, Roel Reiné, Willeke van Ammelrooy, Eddy Terstall, René Wolf, and Laser 3.14.

The Rutger Hauer Award was presented to Halina Reijn, honouring her inspiring career and her role as an example for a new generation of Dutch filmmakers. Her international trajectory, from the Dutch stage and screen to directing internationally acclaimed work, reflects the ambition, courage, and creative independence that Shortcutz Amsterdam aims to encourage in emerging talent.

Beyond the awards themselves, the event functioned as an important networking moment for the Dutch film community, increasing the visibility of selected filmmakers and strengthening Shortcutz Amsterdam's role as a platform for emerging talent.

8th International Audience Award

In January 2025, Shortcutz Amsterdam organised the 8th International Audience Award.

Through this initiative, Dutch short films were presented to audiences in partner cities worldwide. Local audiences watched the nominated films and voted for their favourite, creating international visibility for Dutch filmmakers and strengthening cultural exchange between the Netherlands and other countries.

The International Audience Award continued to be an important part of Shortcutz Amsterdam's mission to bring Dutch short films beyond national borders and to connect emerging filmmakers with international audiences. It also offered the nominated filmmakers an additional promotional platform, allowing their work to travel internationally and reach audiences beyond the Dutch film circuit.

Amsterthem

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In 2025, Shortcutz Amsterdam continued the development and public presentation of Amsterthem, a project focused on telling stories from Amsterdam's different districts through short film.

The project highlights the diversity of Amsterdam and gives visibility to local communities, residents, and emerging filmmakers. By connecting short films with specific neighbourhoods and public screenings, Amsterthem expands Shortcutz Amsterdam's role beyond the traditional film screening space and brings Dutch short film closer to local audiences.

Amsterthem contributes to Shortcutz Amsterdam's objective of promoting cultural participation, supporting diverse voices, and creating new connections between filmmakers, communities, and audiences. The project also reflects Shortcutz Amsterdam's ambition to use short film as a tool for local connection, cultural exchange, and a deeper understanding of the city's different communities.

Shortcutz Greenlight

In 2025, Shortcutz Amsterdam developed and launched Shortcutz Greenlight, a new talent development programme designed to support first-time and early-career filmmakers.

Greenlight focuses on filmmakers who have strong ideas but limited access to resources, equipment, industry networks, or formal film education. The programme provides selected projects with access to professional gear, mentorship, post-production support, and guidance from industry partners.

Through Greenlight, Shortcutz Amsterdam created a new route from idea to production, helping emerging filmmakers take a concrete next step in their careers. The programme also strengthened Shortcutz Amsterdam's collaboration with technical and creative partners, including companies and professional organisations that support new talent through equipment, expertise, mentorship, and visibility.

The programme was developed with the support of partners including Canon, Aputure, Vocas, Filmmore, MiMM, Posta Vermaas, Shure, the Dutch Directors Guild, and the Dutch editors guild NCE. Their involvement enabled Shortcutz Amsterdam to provide selected filmmakers with access to professional tools, technical expertise, mentorship, post-production facilities, and industry guidance.

This initiative directly supports Shortcutz Amsterdam's statutory mission by creating practical opportunities for emerging filmmakers and by making the film industry more accessible to new voices.

Collaborations and Partnerships

In 2025, Shortcutz Amsterdam continued to strengthen its collaborations with cultural organisations, film festivals, industry partners, and professional networks.

These collaborations helped expand the reach of Dutch short films, supported the development of emerging talent, and created new opportunities for filmmakers to access knowledge, equipment, audiences, and professional contacts.

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Shortcutz Amsterdam also continued to build relationships with brands and partners that support young filmmakers through sponsorship, equipment, technical expertise, logistics, mentorship, and post-production facilities. This approach became increasingly important in response to the changing funding landscape and the need to diversify income sources.

By working with both cultural and industry partners, Shortcutz Amsterdam continued to position itself as a bridge between emerging filmmakers, audiences, established professionals, and organisations that can help new talent move forward.

3. Governance & Volunteers

The foundation was supervised by the board of Stichting Shortcutz Amsterdam.

Board:

Maarten Treurniet, Chair

Mira Mendel, Secretary

René Mioch, Treasurer

Janneke van der Wijk, Member

Bobby Boermans, Member

Managing team:

João Carlos Rodrigues, Creative Director

Alexa Rodrigues, Executive Producer

Volunteers:

Shortcutz Amsterdam was supported throughout the year by a dedicated volunteer team. Volunteers contributed to the weekly sessions, hospitality, communication, production support, guest reception, and larger events such as the Annual Awards.

Their contribution remained essential to the continuity and accessibility of Shortcutz Amsterdam's activities. The volunteer team helped keep the sessions welcoming, informal, and professionally organised, allowing Shortcutz Amsterdam to maintain its open character while continuing to serve filmmakers, guests, and audiences.

4. Closing Note

In 2025, Shortcutz Amsterdam continued to advance its statutory objective of presenting Dutch short films and supporting emerging filmmakers.

Through the Weekly Sessionz, the Annual Awards, the International Audience Award, Amsterthem, Greenlight, and our growing network of collaborations, we provided new talent with visibility, learning opportunities, access to professional networks, and a platform to reach audiences in the Netherlands and abroad.

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The year also marked an important step in the further development of Shortcutz Amsterdam. While the organisation continued its core activities, it also invested in new models of support for emerging filmmakers, especially through Greenlight and stronger partnerships with the industry.

Shortcutz Amsterdam remains committed to creating opportunities for new voices in Dutch cinema and to building a more open, accessible, and connected film community.