



Commemorates it's Fifth Year ! !

Short Shorts Film Festival 2003

Starts on June 7th and goes on tour around the country!

Japan's premiere festival for short film transcends national borders.

The Short Shorts Film Festival was the first of its kind in Japan to showcase short films. Founded in 1999, the festival now commemorates its fifth year. Short films can run from one or two minutes to as long as 30 minutes, and cover any number of genres including comedy, suspense, human interest and animation. Demanding budgets of money and time force young filmmakers to focus their creativity and resourcefulness and give short films unexpected depth and intensity. The short film continues to be an avenue for the innovator in the field of filmmaking and a proving ground for aspiring filmmakers. Film greats such as Lucas, Spielberg and Besson all used short films to promote themselves to the world.

The SSFF uses the short film to encourage international exchange in the visual arts. In the last four years, the film festival has attracted audiences of over 80,000 in six cities (seven venues) around the country. In addition to the national tour, for the past two years SSFF has kicked off its international tour with screenings in Los Angeles and for the past three years the tour has culminated with screenings in Singapore. Audiences abroad are excited by the opportunity to experience this unique International Visual Arts Exchange with roots in Japan.

In it's fifth year, the SSFF 2003 received over 1,300 film entries from 56 countries and continues to grow as a truly international film festival. As a central figure in Asia's short film movement, the festival hopes to: 1) discover and foster new talent 2) invigorate ties between the arts and the local community 3) promote cultural exchange 4) develop a new generation of visual contents.

Special 5th Year Anniversary Project:

Featuring the Works of Academy Award®-winning Directors!

MAESTRO SHORT SHORTS

In it's first year, the Short Shorts Film Festival screened George Lucas's short films and in successive years, the festival has always welcomed the early works of famous directors. As a commemorative fifth year special, the festival committee brings to you the early works of five famous directors including two of this year's Oscar winners: Roman Polanski who won Best Director for "the Pianist" and Pedro Almodovar who won Best Original Screenplay for "Talk To Her".

This Year's Highlights: Academy Award® Winning Short Films!

ACADEMY SHORT SHORTS

Academy Award® Winning Short Films

WAR & PEACE SHORT SHORTS

International films that feature the theme of War and Peace will be shown in every program. And a selection of powerful films that deal with human nature in conflict will be highlighted in a special program.

60 SECOND SHORT SHORTS

A different film from the Leunig series of sixty-second animated shorts from Australia will screen in each program.

Special Screenings and Talk Show Held at the new Roppongi Hills Garden Arena.

We will retain our home base at the Laforet Museum in Harajuku, but we will set up a special screening and talk event at the Garden Arena in the newly opened Roppongi Hills. Themes that will be discussed include the future of the visual contents industry from both business and academic perspectives.

From the “Short Film Movement” to “Creating of a Global Visual Arts Community”

The short film is at the very core of the visual arts culture. Through short films, the blue prints for the future of visual arts in the information age, we would like to create a 21st Century community where artists from all over the world can come together unbound by national borders. And all this will begin in Japan.

Thinking of the Visual Arts Culture, Visual Industry and Technology

The first short films in the 1890s were mostly for proving the technology, and the format continues to lie at the center of innovation. Throughout the 20th Century, the visual arts have developed hand in hand with rapidly advancing technology. As we enter the 21st Century, we feel we are in the midst of the information age revolution, and we feel that the relationship between the visual culture and technology is vital.

We cannot ignore the many people who over the past five years have helped us produce first the American Short Shorts Film Festival and now the Short Shorts Film Festival.

With each year, our network grows, enabling us to produce an ever-evolving festival.

We are thankful for the support of the following:

George Lucas and Roman Polanski

George Lucas believed in our vision and cooperated by providing his works for our very first festival. He continues to support our work year after year, and he has written us a letter in support of this year's festival. Short Shorts is the only film festival in Japan to which George Lucas lends his support.

Academy Award[®] -Winning director Roman Polanski has also sent a letter of support for the Japanese visual creators. As an artist with roots that stem from short films, he offers sage advice for upcoming short filmmakers.

Venue Cities

This festival is produced in cooperation with the local governments, the chambers of commerce, the stores and volunteer groups at all of our venue sites. This year, the festival will tour Sapporo, Matsumoto, Nagoya, Osaka and Fukuoka.

As in previous years a film will be chosen for the following award categories..

Short Shorts Award: winning film selected by the Organizing Committee

Special Jury Award: winning film selected by an honorary panel of judges

Audience Award: winning film determined by audience votes

Our special panel of judges includes (in alphabetical order) Roger Gonin, founder member of Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival; Kiyoshi Kurosawa (director); Tetsuo Nagata, cinematographer based in Europe, and Gregory Starr, Editor in Chief of Premier Magazine (Japan) (One more judge to be announced.)

Ballots will be distributed to audiences and tallied to determine the winning film. (Tokyo Site only.) The results of the tally will be calculated and announced on the festival homepage.

This Year's Films

We have selected award-winning films from all over the world; though they have been honored at festivals around the globe, all of the films in our Official Selections have never before been seen in Japan.

Official Selections

This year we received over 1,300 submissions from 56 countries around the world. 46 films from 21 countries have been selected for the official program.

International Selections (Six Programs)

All Japanese premieres.

National Selection (one program)

Japanese films and international films with Japanese themes.

Academy Short Shorts

We are pleased to present past winners of the Academy Award® for Best Live Action Short and Best Animated Short

Maestro Short Shorts

Introducing the short films of five world-renowned directors, including two of this year's Academy Award® winning filmmakers. George Lucas, Martin Scorsese, Tim Burton and Jane Campion are just some of the names whose works have been featured in our earlier festivals. To commemorate our fifth year, we present a stellar lineup of 5 international feature filmmakers:

(in alphabetical order)

Pedro Almodovar (Spain)

Wrote and Directed *All About My Mother* (1999), for which he received the Academy Award® for Best Foreign Film in 2000. Won best Original Screenplay for *Talk to Her* at this year's Academy Awards®.

Jan Kounen (Holland/France)

Began a new trend in movie entertainment with *Doberman* (1997). His short film "Le Dernier Chaperon Rouge" stars French muse Emmanuelle Béart and was cinematographed by Tetsuo Nagata, one of this year's judges for the Special Jury Award.

Fernando Meirelles (Brazil)

Directed *City of God*, an official selection of the 2002 Cannes Film Festival and of the 2002 Tokyo International Film Festival. The feature is based on the short film "Golden Gate" which makes its Japanese premiere at SSFF.

Alexander Payne (USA)

Directed and wrote screenplay for *About Schmidt*, which won Golden Globe® Awards for Best Actor and Best Screenplay and was nominated for Golden Globes® for Best Picture and Best Director.

Roman Polanski (Poland/France)

Directed and wrote screenplays for *Rosemary's Baby* (1968), *Tess* (1979). Won Best Director for *The Pianist* at this year's Academy Awards®.

Tokyo Special Screenings: War & Peace Program

International films that feature the theme of War and Peace will be shown in every program. And a selection of powerful films that deal with human nature in conflict will be highlighted in a special program.

60 Second Short Shorts

Each program includes a selection from the Leunig series, 60-second animated films based on the cartoons of Australian Michael Leunig. Don't blink or you might miss Mr. Leunig's piercing observations of life.

Second Annual Kick-off screening in Hollywood to precede the national tour in Japan!

The Short Shorts Film Festival is the only touring festival in Japan. This year, starting in Tokyo, the festival will travel to 6 cities nationwide (see attached for details). In addition to the screenings, look forward to each venue's unique opening parties and talk shows.

The Hollywood kick-off screening will be held at the Egyptian Theatre for the second year in a row. The festival will celebrate its Japanese roots with a private screening and reception and two days of public screenings in the film capital of the United States from April 29th to May 1st.

The Short Shorts Film Festival continues to evolve, so stay tuned!



Promotional Activities

Short Shorts Film Festival 2003 Main Visual

Commemorating its 5th year, the main visual for the festival this year is a clear-cut design of the number "5" made out of film. The high contrast blue and yellow color scheme adds special emphasis to the number. A complete change from the design of human faces used in the past four years, this new visual poses a new style and expresses great enthusiasm for a new beginning.



"Short Shorts Film Festival 2003" Official website

The official website of the Short Shorts Film Festival will be launched shortly. It will be loaded with information about the film festival, interviews with filmmakers, diaries of people involved in the festival, information about the venues, and other details.

The URL is www.shortshorts.org

The websites from previous festival years can also be accessed at this URL.



「Short Shorts Lounge」 Website

「Short Shorts Film Festival 2003」 Program Schedule (Tentative)
Laforet Museum Harajuku / Main venue in Tokyo

	11:30-13:20	13:50-15:40	16:10-18:00	18:30-20:20
June 7th (Sat)	/	War & Peace	A	B
June 8th (Sun)	C	D	E	Academy
June 9th (Mon)	F	Japan	A	War & Peace
June 10th (Tue)	B	C	D	Academy
June 11th (Wed)	Japan	E	F	Closing

Theater will be cleared after each showing
A-F: International selection

Roppongi Hills Special Programs (Tentative)

June 7th (Sat)	Symposium and Late show
June 8th (Sun)	Symposium and Late show

Timetable to be announced

On sale from April 24th (Thu) at Ticket Pia

June 7th (Fri) – 11th (Wed)

Laforet Museum Harajuku (Laforet Harajuku 6th Floor, 1-11-6 Jingumae Shibuya-ku, Tokyo)

Tickets One Program In advance 1200 yen / Day of issue 1500 yen
(incl. Tax)

Tickets - Please specify desired Program or Day at time of purchase.

Student Rates – Students may purchase tickets at the “In advance” ticket price at anytime (please present student ID card at the ticket counter)

Reference numbers are distributed to ticket holders upon arrival.

Ticket Sales: Ticket Pia : Telephone : 0570-02-9999 (operator)
 Telephone : 03-5237-9966 (touch tone)
 P-code / One Program : 500-033
 @Ticket Pia : <http://t.pia.co.jp/>

contact : Committee for Short Shorts 03-5214-1233

「Short Shorts Film Festival 2003」

Tentative Schedule

[Tokyo]

Dates : June 7th (Sat) - 11th (Wed)
Reception party to be held on the 6th
Venue : LAFORET MUSEUM HARAJUKU
Special Venue : Roppongi Hills Arena
Organizer : Committee for Short Shorts

[Sapporo]

Dates : June 10th (Tue) – 15th (Sun)
Opening party to be held on the 10th. The Film Festival itself will be held for 5 days from the 11th.
Venue : URBAN HALL (Sapporo)
Organizer : Committee for Short Shorts in Sapporo

[Osaka]

Dates : June 19th (Thu) – 22nd (Sun)
Venue : BIG CAT 4F Big Step America-Mura
Organizer : Committee for Short Shorts in Osaka

[Matsumoto]

Dates : June 21st (Sat) – 22nd (Sun)
Venue : Piccadilly Hall
Organizer : Committee for Short Shorts in Matsumoto

[Nagoya]

Dates : June 21st (Sat) – 27th (Fri)
Venue : Century Cinema (NAGOYA PARCO EAST 8F)
Organizer : Committee for Short Shorts in Nagoya

[Fukuoka]

Dates : June 25th (Thu) – July 21st (Mon) 2003
Venue : ART GALLERY ARTIUM PRESENTED BY MITSUBISHI-JISHO
Organizer : Committee for Short Shorts in Fukuoka

Inquiries from Media:

《Printed photos, positives, videos are available for rental》

Sunny Side Up Inc.

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Committee for Short Shorts

TEL. 03-5214-1233

[A message sent from Roman Polanski to Short Shorts Film Festival 2003]

ROMAN POLANSKI

Paris, le 11 mars 2003

“Short film is a great first step for a budding filmmaker. That’s how I made my beginnings. Festivals of short movies gave me an opportunity to show my first efforts to the public and press. But it is a difficult discipline. To certain extend it’s harder to make an excellent short than an excellent full length picture.

Short form requires a specific, concise construction–no room for a padding!
Many short movies look like lost reels of full length feature, alas! Be ware...! And good luck.”

「新進監督にとって、ショートフィルムは大きな第一歩だ。私の始まりもそうだった。自分の「第一歩」が、一般やメディアの目に止まる機会を与えてくれたのは、多くの短編映画祭だった。ショートフィルムは試練でもある。長編の秀作を撮るより、ショートの秀作を完成させる方が難しいとも言えよう。

短いフィルムには、明確で簡明な構造が要求される。無駄に詰込むスペースは無いのだ。不幸にも、長編映画の失われたリールを継足した様なショートフィルムがあまりにも多い事！要注意！そして、幸運を。」