
SHORTSHORTS

FILM FESTIVAL & ASIA 2010

Press Release Vol.02

Committee for Short Shorts
Committee for Short Shorts Asia
4F SSU Bldg. 4-12-8 Sendagaya Shibuya-ku
Tokyo 151-0051 Tokyo
Phone: +81-3-5474-8201/Fax: +81-3-5474-8202
www.shortshorts.org

Japan Tourism Agency/Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia presents Let's Travel! Project Special Presentation “Heaven's Island” starring Shuji Kashiwabara and Rina Chinen World Premier at Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2010

TOKYO, March 30, 2010 – Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA) 2010 (June 10-13, 16-20), hailing from Japan and accredited by The Academy Awards®, this is one of Asia's top short film festivals. The festival committee is proud to announce its completion of “Heaven's Island (Seishun Mandara!)”, a short film directed by Naoko Tajima and produced in conjunction with the Japan Tourism Agency. This joint venture was made possible under the “Let's Travel! Project” campaign, which was launched in 2009.

“Heaven's Island” starring Shuji Kashiwabara and Rina Chinen, showcases the scenery and charm of Taketomi Island in Okinawa. The press conference and screening event held on March 30 (Tues.) at the Japan Tourism Agency to announce the completion of the film was attended by Yuji Fujimoto, Parliamentary Secretary for Land, Infrastructure and Transport, Hiroshi Mizohara, commissioner of the Japan Tourism Agency and Tetsuya Bessho, actor, and SSFF & ASIA representative. “Heaven's Island” will premiere as a featured film at the SSFF & ASIA 2010 in Tokyo, Japan.

“Heaven's Island”



Director: Naoko Tajima Casts: Shuji Kashiwabara, Rina Chinen

Synopsis: Satoshi (Kashiwabara) returns to Taketomi Island for the first time in 15 years to take part in his grandmother's 97th mandala birthday party. This is a special event unique to this island, which focuses on celebrating the guest of honor's longevity. On Taketomi, Satoshi reunites with his childhood friend, Miki (Chinen). However, the two arrive at Satoshi's grandmother's house and are dumbfounded to discover she has just passed away!

The next day, Miki finds a diary in elder lady's room. Upon reading the secrets of the now deceased grandmother, Satoshi and Miki discover that the seemingly matronly woman always had a special place in her heart for someone other than her husband! Even more surprising was that she was looking forward to seeing this person again at her mandala celebrations. Who could this mysterious fellow be? (Taketomi only sports a population of 350.) In order to fulfill Satoshi's grandmother's wish, they decide to mourn her passing as a mandala celebration instead of a funeral. And they find out that her secret love was someone they never imagined...

Cast



Shuji Kashiwabara

Actor & musician Shuji Kashiwabara was born 1978 in Yamanashi Prefecture, Japan. He debuted as an actor in the TV drama "Ningen Shikkaku". He won Best Actor at the Japan Movie Critics Award in 2000, for his role in "Suri (Pickpocket)". His other films include "Kyo no Dekigoto(2004)" and "Kamyu Nante Shiranai (Who's Camus anyway?)(2006)". Besides his acting career, he has his own rock band called "No' where" with his brother, Takashi Kashiwabara who is also an actor. Shuji's other interests include playing guitar, drums, and snowboarding.



Rina Chinen

Singer & actress, Rina Chinen was born in 1981 in Okinawa. She debuted in 1996 with the single "Do Do for Me." She received the Best New Artist Award at "The 39th Japan Record Award" in 1997. Since 1998, she appeared regularly on NTV's "The Yoru Mo Hippare" program on TV. She also has a career as a stage actress, with hit musicals starring in musicals like "Les Miserables," "Miss Saigon," and "Dance of Vampire."

About "Let's Travel! Project"

SSFF & ASIA along with the Japan Tourism Agency (Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport) launched a new competition titled "Let's Travel! Project" last year. In part to promote domestic tourism and to show the allure of Japan, this project called for short film entries with "It's Fun to Travel," "I Want to Travel" and "I Feel like Traveling to Japan" as the central themes. Seventy-one short films highlighting the beauty and joy of traveling in Japan were submitted with locations ranging from Hokkaido to the north and Okinawa to the south. Out of these, nine films were selected to be screened. In this year's festival, aside from the premiering of "Heaven's Island," a special screening will be held for the noncompetitive titles in the category as well the nine selected films.

After the film festival, these films will be made available online for both the domestic and international market in an effort to further promote tourism in Japan.

At the festival's award ceremony on June 20 (Sun.), one of these nine officially selected film will receive the award for the best short (Minister's Award, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism) in the category.



Official nominees for the competition category

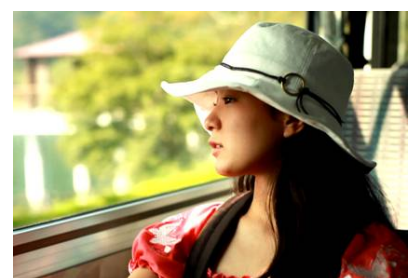
Seventy-one films in total were submitted with locations ranging from Hokkaido to the north and Okinawa to the south, and nine short films were selected. (Here is a partial list of the selected films.)



*Time of the Northern Akita
(Akita Pref.)*



past in the future (Fukuoka Pref.)



*Harness - A Walk along the
Clover Avenue (Shizuoka)*

Special Screening

GALAXY EXPRESS 999 DIAMOND RING

07/22/2009, "999" arrives at Kagoshima where the total eclipse is imminent. Tetsuro gives Takeru, who dreams of being an astronaut, a pass for "999." Tetsuro tells him, "It's up to you whether this pass works or not." It's been 25 years since the last total eclipse could be viewed from Japan. What will Takeru do...



©松本零士・東映アニメーション

Festival Outline

■ 「Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2010」

<TOKYO>

Venue 1 : Omotesando Hills, Space O
Omotesando Hills Main Building B3F, 4-12-10 Jingumae, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo
Date : June 10th, Thu. – June 13th, Sun. 2010

Venue 2 : Laforet Museum, Harajuku
Laforet Harajuku 6th floor, 1-11-6 Jingumae Shibuya-ku, Tokyo
Date : June 16th, Wed. – June 20th, Sun. 2010

<National Tour: Yokohama>

Venue : Brillia Short Shorts Theater
2F Filmee, 5-3-1 Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa 220-0012
Date : June 12th, Sat. – June 20th, Sun. 2010

Organizer : Committee for Short Shorts/Committee for Short Shorts Asia

※Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2010 Homepage: <http://www.shortshorts.org/2010/>

※Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2010 Official Website will be available on May 1st, 2010.

※Ticket sales will start on May 15th, 2010.

■ All-Night Screening * Programs to be announced.

Venue : TOHO CINEMAS Roppongi Hills
Keyakizaka Complex, 6-10-2 Roppongi Minato-ku, Tokyo
Date : June 11th, Fri. – June 12th, Sat. 2010

▼ National Tours

Yokohama(Kanagawa)

*Detailed information: TBA

▼ International Tour

Mexico (Mexico City) Festival Date: September 2nd, Thu. – 10th, Fri. 2010

* This year will be fourth time the SSFF & ASIA will be held in Mexico City.

Awards

The following awards will be given to films submitted in the competitions.

* Of the awards listed below, all awards except for the "Audience Award" will be **selected by jury members**. (Jury members to be announced). Winners in the competitions will be awarded accordingly at the Award Ceremony on June 20th, 2010.

«Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2010»

Awards

Grand Prix: 1 winner will be selected from the 3 main competitions listed below.

International Competition:

«Best Short Award» x 1

«Audience Award» x 1

Asia International Competition:

«Best Short Award» x 1

«Audience Award» x 1

Japan Competition:

«Best Short Award» x 1

«Audience Award» x 1

<Special Competition>

STOP! Global Warming Competition:

«Best Short Award (Minister's Award, the Ministry of Environment)» x 1

«J-WAVE Award» x 1

Let's Travel! Project

«Let's Travel! Project Best Shorts Award (Minister's Award, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism)» x 1

«Audience Award» x 1

<New Competition>

Music Short PV Competition:

«Music Short PV Competition Best Short Award» x 1

Music Short Creative Competition:

«Music Short Creative Competition Best Short Award (Faith Wonderworks Award)» x 1

«Audience Award» x 1

FRED Best Actor Award x 1

FRED Best Actress Award x 1

* As an additional prize, the Governor of Tokyo Award will be given to Best Short Award winners in Asia International/Japan Competitions.

*Audience Award will be given to 1 film each from International/Asia International/Japan/STOP! Global Warming Competition/Let's Travel! Project/Music Short Creative Competition.

Note: The above are tentative details.

■ For General & Press Inquiries

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia

Attention: Miwako Kikuchi

TEL: +81-3-5474-8844

E-mail: miwako@shortshorts.org
