

Press Inquiries:

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia
Attention: Miwako Kikuchi
TEL: +81-3-5474-8844
E-mail: press@shortshorts.org
www.shortshorts.org

**The 2011 Grand Prix & competition Best Short selections
have been made.**

**The Grand Prix short film is eligible for nomination at next
year's Academy Awards®.**

The Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA) 2011, an Academy Awards® accredited festival is also one of the biggest international short film festivals in Asia. This year's Grand Prix Award & the Best Shorts of the various competitions have been selected by the official juries. The Grand Prix & Best Short selections will be screened at the Brillia Short Shorts Theater (5-3-1 Filmee 2F, Minato Mirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama; <http://www.Brillia-SST.jp/>) as the Festival Special Programs from Wednesday, June 29, through Wednesday, August 31, 2010.

<Official Competitions>

In the competitions, 5 jury members selected the Best Short from the 3 main categories; the International competition, the Asia International competition, & the Japan competition. In addition, 1 Grand Prix is selected from the 3 Best Short films. The Grand Prix selection is eligible for nomination at the following year's Academy Awards®. The official jury was made up of: Isshin Inudo (Director), Ozawa Yuki Yoshi (Actor), Rei Kikukawa (Actress), Shuntaro Torigoe (Journalist), & Georgina Pope (Producer).

Grand Prix & Best Short Award in the International Competition

"It's me. Helmut."

(Germany, Switzerland/11:40/2009)

Synopsis:

Helmut celebrates his 60th birthday on the day he is actually turning 57 (his wife miscalculated). As a facade of petit-bourgeois domesticity peels away, old friends drop by to offer some well-meaning advice through bizarre declarations of love and transience...

Director : Nicolas Steiner

Born in 1984, Nicolas grew up in the Swiss Alps. In high school he appeared in several Swiss films. After military service, he attended the European Film College in Denmark then studied film at Zurich University. Since 2007 he has been studying directing at the Filmakademie Baden-Württemberg.



Best Short Award in the Asia International Competition

"A Purpleman"

(South Korea/13:01/2010)

Synopsis:

18 year-old North Korean Hyuk is released from prison and succeeds in escaping from the North to South Korea. He now lives there but is disheartened by poverty and discrimination. He's not red, the color of the North, nor blue of South Korea. What color is he?

Director : Tak-hoon Kim, Jin-young Yoo, Jin-ho Ryu, Sung-ho Park

Tak-hoon was born in Seoul in 1972. He graduated from School of Visual Arts and is currently a lecturer at Chung-Ang University Graduate School of Advanced Imaging Science Multimedia & Film and is also the Director of Tak Toon Enterprise Inc. Jin-young, Jin-ho and Sung-ho are all part of Tak Toon Enterprises Inc.



Dir. Tak-hoon Kim

Best Short Award in the Japan Competition



"Chinese Vegetable"
(Japan/France / 25:00 / 2010)

Synopsis:

A young woman is being offered seeds of a vegetable with incredible energetic properties. The care required by the culture of these vegetables opens internal perspectives to the young woman, which transform her step by step. The insipid routine of this young woman takes slowly a direction.



Director : Yuki Kawamura

Yuki currently lives in Paris. His short, "Senko" won the Ecumenical Prize at Oberhausen Short Film Festival. In 2009, his documentary short, "Grand Mother" was screened at various international film festival. He is currently developing his feature documentary.

Best Short Award: From each of the official competitions a Best Short Award is selected. From the Committee of Short Shorts and the Committee of Short Shorts Asia, a prize of ¥600,000 and a digital single-lens reflex camera, the EOS 5D Mark II from Canon Marketing Japan is awarded.

Tokyo Governor's Award: Is also awarded to the Best Short Award selected film in the Asia International Competition and Japan Competition.

<STOP! Global Warming Competition>

"STOP! Global Warming Competition" was held again at this year's festival for the fourth time. In collaboration with "Challenge 25 Campaign, Ministry of the Environment", the national activity to stop global warming, short films that deal with "global warming" have submitted from around the world were showcased. The official jury this year was made up of Yoshizumi Ishihara (Actor/Weather Forecaster), Seita Emori (Climate Scientist), Tomoka Kurotani (Actress). Radio station "J-WAVE" has continuously expressed its strong support of this category. The category includes the "J-WAVE Award" which will be selected by 5 J-WAVE radio listeners.

Best Short Award & J-WAVE Award



"SiRoKuMa"
(Japan/14:14/2010)

Synopsis:

"It moved!" When I put my hand on mom's tummy, I can tell the baby is alive. "Do you want to be born soon so that you can see your mommy and daddy?" I asked. "No way." The baby replied, in Kansai dialect.



Director : Shoh Kataoka

Shoh was born in Hokkaido in 1982. He has been selected for this festival for four consecutive years from 2008 and won the Audience Award two years in a row. His recent work "Jellyfish Boy" won 13 awards which include 7 Grand Prix at national film festivals.

Minister's Award, the Ministry of Environment: Is also awarded to the Best Short Award selected film in the STOP! Global Warming Competition.

<Music Short Competition>

There are 2 categories. The PV category - music videos in a short film format and the Creative category – filmmakers are free to make their own short film version of an artist's song. A ¥600,000 prize was awarded to the Best Short.

Best Short Award in the Music Shorts Competition



“Silent Scream”
(Norihiro Koizumi/Japan/2011/15:00)

Synopsis:

The project was created as a promotion video for "Silent Scream", the 11th single by GIRL NEXT DOOR. Aki, who is not sure about her future, meets a mysterious man in a mask. This film asks the world "What does it mean to be one's true self?"



Artist : GIRL NEXT DOOR

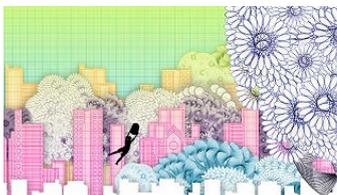
GIRL NEXT DOOR made their debut in September 2008. It's a group of 3 people, Chisa (vocals), Daisuke Suzuki (keyboard) and Yuji Inoue (guitar). Their latest digital pop sound and Chisa's dancing and smile keep their fans energized.

Director :

Norihiro is from Tokyo and works with ROBOT. He wrote and directed 6 films in college and received good reviews nationally and internationally. He created "Taiyo No Uta" in 2006 and "FLOWERS" in 2010.

<3D Competition>

This competition was supported by SHARP and special jury, Mamoru Oshii (Film Director) made a selection of the Best Short. A ¥600,000 prize was given to the winner.



“UYUYUI!”
(Colombia/7:08/2010)

Synopsis:

"UYUYUI!" enters a fantasy world where the skies are populated by curious life forms and strange robotic creatures lurk the forest. Two children on a picnic day are separated by a violent wind and only the force of their friendship will help to guide them through danger and adventure.



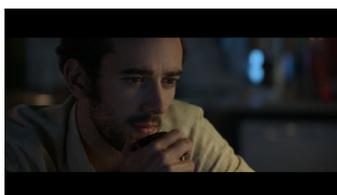
Director : Santiago Caicedo

Santiago is a filmmaker from Colombia. His 3D films are usually made of a single shot and use geometric objects as characters for storytelling. His shorts have received many awards around the world. This is his 3rd short to be selected for SSFF&ASIA.

Best Actor/Best Actress Award

The Best Actor/Actress Award will be selected from three official competitions (International, Asia International and Japan Competition).

Best Actor Award



Francisco Tavares of “North Atlantic”
(Bernardo Nascimento/UK/Portugal/14:58/2010)

Synopsis:

An isolated air-traffic controller on an island in the Azores receives a transatlantic emergency signal from a lost plane. As he engages in communication with the lone pilot, it emerges that their new found friendship will not last through the night.



Ms Lily Knight of “TOUCH”
(Jen McGowan/USA/13:25/2009)

Synopsis:

An ode to city life, "TOUCH" explores the universal themes of isolation and need for community when two strangers make the most important connection of their lives while waiting for a train.

Audience Award

From each of the 3 main official competitions, the STOP! Global Warming, and the Let's Travel! Project; an Audience Award is determined by ballots cast by the audience. A ¥200,000 prize was given to the winners.



International Competition

"Crossword"

(Vincent Gallagher / Ireland / 13:06 / 2010)

Synopsis:

On a significant day in her life, a lonely woman who finds solace in the daily crossword finds that the answers to the clues are all around her. Is it magic, coincidence or something else entirely?

Director : Vincent Gallagher

Vincent graduated from IADT and the Best Drama Award for his graduation film, "Bright Idea" from both the Irish and U.K. Royal Television Society. He has directed commercials, corporate promos, music videos and 3 short films. Vincent has just completed his 3rd short and first animation, "SIGNS."



Asia International Competition

"City of Memories"

(Xianjian Xue / China/USA / 25:00 / 2010)

Synopsis:

A twist of fate crosses Jason's path, a Chinese student, with Lyn, a homeless illegal Chinese immigrant. Lyn's tough life and Jason's warmth sparks a growing bond between them. Yet, before they are able to realize their love for each other, an unexpected incident changes their lives.

Director : Xianjian Xue

Born and raised in Fujian, Xianjian moved to Canada where he earned his bachelor degree in Business. He then earned a master's degree in filmmaking at the New York Film Academy in Hollywood and started shooting short films while working as a video journalist in California.



Japan Competition

"TSUYAKO"

(Mitsuyo Miyazaki / Japan/USA / 24:36 / 2011)

Synopsis:

Post-war Japan. Tsuyako works in a factory while trying to raise her two children. One day she is forced to choose between obligation to her family and her very own freedom and love.

Director : Mitsuyo Miyazaki

Mitsuyo learned music and stage arts at a young age. She moved to the US where she studied acting and dance, and received her degree in art. She began work as an actress and cinematographer, and upon entering the USC School of Cinematic Arts, she has worked on many productions as director, DOP, and producer.

Audience Award



STOP! Global Warming Competition

“SiRoKuMa”

(Shoh Kataoka / Japan / 14:14 / 2010)

Synopsis:

"It moved!" When I put my hand on mom's tummy, I can tell the baby is alive. "Do you want to be born soon so that you can see your mommy and daddy?" I asked. "No way." The baby replied, in Kansai dialect.

Director: Shoh Kataoka

Shoh was born in Hokkaido in 1982. He has been selected for this festival for four consecutive years from 2008 and won the Audience Award two years in a row. His recent work "Jellyfish Boy" won 13 awards which include 7 Grand Prix at national film festivals.



Let's Travel! Project

“Lie -wafer moon-”

(Hideki Kato / Japan / 13:40 / 2010 / Tokyo, Fukushima)

Synopsis:

There are times when you get sad because you cannot tell the truth. But sometimes it's worse if you tell the truth. This is a story about a big brother's lie and his mother's lie when the truth is too sad to share.

Director: Hideki Kato

Hideki won the grand prize at the first AXIA music audition in 1989 and made his album debut as part of the duo "Crayon-sha." As well as working as an artist, he is a music producer and creates songs for shows and commercials.

* Award winning shorts are now being shown at Brillia Short Shorts Theater (www.Brillia-SST.jp) in Minatomira, Yokohama from June 29 till August 31, 2010.

* Call for entry period for 2012 will start from August 1, 2010 and details will also be up on the Short Shorts website at www.shortshorts.org from August 1, 2011.

A Commemorative Project, “Brillia Short Shorts Theater” Provides a New Entertainment in Yokohama!



Visual Voice Inc. launched a new project, “Brillia Short Shorts Theater,” commemorating with the 10th anniversary of the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA)*, one of the largest short film festivals in Asia and also an Academy Award® accredited short film festival.

Brillia Short Shorts Theater showcases short films from all over the world in collaboration with the SSFF & ASIA. The theater also hosts various film-related events for young creators and short film fans.



The theater is to be an optimum medium to explore the unforeseen possibilities that short films possess, to foster short film communities and to provide the local community with the rare opportunity to experience the world of short films.

Brillia Short Shorts Theater HP: www.Brillia-SST.jp