

Academy Awards® Accredited International Short Film Festival Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia

20th Anniversary of Film Festival calling for short films aiming for the Oscars Call for Entries open August 1st – Including Cinematic Tokyo Competition & Branded Shorts Competition –

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA), Academy Awards® accredited and one of Asia's largest international short film festivals, will begin accepting submissions for its 20th edition in 2018, as of August 1, 2017 (Tue).

The Call for Entries spans multiple competitions: the **Official Competition** (International, Asia International, Japan), the environmentally themed **Save the Earth! Competition**, the **Music Video Competition**, which presents unique official MVs from around the world, and the cutting-edge **CG Animation Competition**. A Best Short Award is awarded for each of the three categories in the Official Competition, and the Grand Prix is chosen from among these winners. The film that wins the Grand Prix will be eligible for nomination at the annual Academy Awards® in the U.S.A. the following year.

Furthermore, we are calling for submissions to the **Cinematic Tokyo Competition**, which showcases films about "Tokyo" and popularize the Tokyo Brand; a tourism initiative to promote business enterprises in the Tokyo Metropolis. We are also calling for **Branded Shorts**, a strand of the festival that presents a lineup of the latest branded movies produced by corporations and government bodies.

With the 2016 Grand Prix winner receiving the Oscar in 2017, many young filmmakers have been making the most of SSFF & ASIA. 2017 jury member Nobuhiko Obayashi referenced a message from the late Akira Kurosawa; "filmmaking has the power to achieve world peace," and just like a journalism piece, films will not fade away.

We await submissions from film pros as well as those who are new to filmmaking! For further details, see our Call for Entries page: http://www.shortshorts.org/2018_call_for_entry/en/index.html



SSFF & ASIA 2017 Grand Prix & Asia International Competition
 Best Short Award Mi Mi Lwin and Tokyo Metropolitan Governor Yuriko Koike



SSFF & ASIA 2017 Jury (From left: Hiroshi Mikami, Marie, Ben Thompson, Tomohiro Ogura, Terry Ito)

Message from George Lucas, Director ("Star Wars" series)

Dear Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia Fans,

Film Festivals do matter. They educate and entertain audiences with collections of works from around the world, but also they are the platforms that can change the lives of the directors behind the films forever.

As part of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences network of accredited film festivals, SSFF & ASIA submits its Grand Prix winning film to the Academy for Oscar consideration every year.

This year's Best Short in the Live Action Category at the 2017 Oscars "Sing" won SSFF & ASIA's 2016 Audience and Grand Prix awards and was then put in the pool of Oscar contention.

The Committee for Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia and I congratulate "Sing" director Kristof Deak, and all the current directors in the SSFF & ASIA 2017 for their accomplished work and outstanding creativity.

George Lucas

About Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia

SSFF & ASIA is a qualifying film festival for the annual Academy Awards® and one of Asia's largest international short film festivals. Japanese actor Tetsuya Bessho founded the festival in the Harajuku neighborhood of Tokyo in 1999, and the festival has reached an audience of 340,000 to date. At the inaugural edition, six short films directed by George Lucas – the famed creator of "Star Wars" – back in his student days, were screened. We have received support from the maestro director every year since then.

【For Inquiries】 Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, Festival Office Contact: Hideyuki Takahashi (090-3049-1284)

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<SSFF & ASIA 2018 Submission Guidelines>

■ Submission Period

August 1, 2017 (Tue) ※The deadline differs depending on the competition.

■ How to Submit

Please access the SSFF & ASIA 2018 Call for Entries page for further details on the submission process.

■ Announcement of Selection

The lineup will be announced via the official festival website at the end of April 2018.

■ For Inquiries Regarding Submissions

submission@shortshorts.org

※For further details on the submission process, visit the submissions website:

http://www.shortshorts.org/2018_call_for_entry/en/index.html

① Official Competition

The Official Competition consists of three categories (Japan Competition, Asia International Competition, International Competition) where one Audience Award and one Best Short Award is available for each category. The Grand Prix is chosen from among the three Best Short Award winners, and this short film is eligible for nomination at the annual Academy Awards® the following year.

【Submission Periods】

Early submission (free): August 1, 2017 (Tue) ~ October 1, 2017 (Sun)

Regular submission (20 USD fee): October 2, 2017 (Mon) ~ November 30, 2017 (Thu)

Late submission (30 USD fee) December 1, 2017 (Fri) ~ January 31, 2018 (Wed)

【Submission Guidelines】

- Japan premiere is required for the Asia International and International categories. However, it is not required for the Japan category. Films available online in full will not be eligible for any category.
- Must have a running time of 25 minutes or under (this includes credits).
- English subtitles are required for submissions with languages other than English or Japanese.
- Production date: After June 1, 2016.
- Entries may be subject to nomination for other special programs or awards.

【How to Submit】

Please complete an online submission either via Shortfilmdepot, Withoutabox or FilmFreeway. Please note that Shortfilmdepot is available only during the Early Submission period.

【Prize Money】

- Best Short Award: 600,000 JPY
- Audience Award: 200,000 JPY

② Save the Earth! Competition

This is a competition centered around environmental issues. We want short films that make audiences think about our planet, and are calling for works not only about global warming, but also those which deal with other environmental issues such as recycling, pollution and conservation.

【Submission Period】

August 1, 2017 (Tue) ~ January 31, 2018 (Wed)

【Submission Guidelines】

- Japan premiere is not required.
- There is no limit on production date.
- Works submitted to the festival previously cannot be resubmitted.
- Must have a running time of 25 minutes or under (this includes credits).
- English subtitles are required for submissions with languages other than English or Japanese.
- Entries may be subject to nomination for other special programs or awards.

【How to Submit】

Please complete an online submission either via Shortfilmdepot, Withoutabox or FilmFreeway.

【Prize Money】

- Best Short Award: 500,000 JPY

③ CG Animation Competition

This competition showcases the very best short films with animated images using only or partly computer – generated graphics from around the world, and introduces leading Japanese works to the international circuit. We solicit only or partly computer generated animations both domestically and abroad, searching out works that offer new kinds of expression while utilizing cutting edge CG techniques.

【Submission Period】 August 1, 2017 (Tue) ~ January 31, 2018 (Wed)

【Submission Guidelines】

- Any short films with animated images using only or partly computer –generated graphics.
- Japan premiere is not required.
- Must have a running time of 25 minutes or under (this includes credits).
- Production Date: After June 1, 2016.
- English subtitles are required for submissions with languages other than English or Japanese.
- Entries may be subject to nomination for other special programs or awards.

【How to Submit】 Please complete an online submission either via Shortfilmdepot, Withoutabox or FilmFreeway.

【Prize Money】 Best Short Award: 600,000 JPY

④ Cinematic Tokyo Competition

We are calling for short films that take “Tokyo” as their subject, and which show the many attractions that Tokyo has to offer. The competition winner will receive 1,000,000 JPY in prize money. We are not necessarily looking for films that take place in Tokyo, but also for films that depict memories of Tokyo, impressions of Tokyo, or even places in overseas locations that offer an experience of “Tokyo”. This competition has been established in connection with the Tokyo Metropolitan tourism initiative “Tokyo Brand”.

Tokyo Brand website: <https://andtokyo.jp/>

【Submission Period】 August 1, 2017 (Tue) ~ January 31, 2018 (Wed)

【Submission Guidelines】

- The competition theme is “Tokyo”.
- “Tokyo” must feature in the film, though it is not required that you show the real Tokyo/shoot in Tokyo – depictions can be based on your imagination or fiction. For example: films shot in and around Tokyo, films depicting locations or objects based on the image of “Tokyo”, films depicting Tokyo 100 years from now.
- Japan premiere is not required.
- Must have a running time of 25 minutes or under (this includes credits).
- English subtitles are required for submissions with languages other than English or Japanese.
- ※Double entry into this competition and the Official Competition is possible, but you must submit separately.

【Useful Information】

(1) For any inquiries regarding shooting in Tokyo for this competition, feel free to contact the Tokyo Location Box (<http://www.locationbox.metro.tokyo.jp/english/>).

(2) Materials available on the Tokyo Stock Footage website can be used for this competition for free!
<http://tokyo-footage.com/>

Note 1: Except Zojoji Temple, Sensoji Temple and Roppongi Hills

Note 2: Please make sure to include “Tokyo Convention & Visitors Bureau” in the credits.

【How to Submit】 Please complete an online submission either via Shortfilmdepot, Withoutabox or FilmFreeway.

【Prize Money】 Best Short Award: 1,000,000 JPY

⑤ Music Video Competition

We are seeking music videos that take an innovative and cinematic approach to aspects such as narrative and drama. We accept submissions from creators, production companies and music labels.

【Submission Period】 August 1, 2017 (Tue) ~ February 28, 2018 (Wed)

【Submission Guidelines】

- It must be an official music video.
(Please ensure that works submitted are done so with the permission of the music label, artist and filmmaker.)
- There is no limit on running time.
- Production Date: After June 1, 2016.
- English subtitles are required for submissions with languages other than English or Japanese.

【How to Submit】 Please complete an online submission either via Shortfilmdepot, Withoutabox or FilmFreeway.

【Prize】 Best Music Video Award

⑥ BRANDED SHORTS

We are soliciting short films produced for brand communication and promotion purposes.

【Submission Period & Fee】

August 1, 2017 (Tue) – November 30, 2017 (Thu): 20,000 JPY (inc. tax)

December 1, 2017 (Fri) – March 30, 2018 (Fri): 30,000 JPY (inc. tax)

Each month we plan to pick up works of interest from those submitted and introduce them on the official Branded Shorts website.

※For multiple submissions of more than 3 entries, the following discounts are applied - Early Bird: 18,000 JPY, Regular: 27,000 JPY

【Submission Guidelines】

1. Release Period:

Branded movies that have been released between January 1, 2017 and March 30, 2018.

2. Duration: Unspecified

3. Rules of Participation:

Submissions must be videos produced with the aim of communicating the brand or services of a company/organization to its customers. The company/organization can be part of any industry. The movie can be submitted by any relevant party; the company/organization it was produced for, the advertising company, the production company etc.

【How to Submit】

1. Fill in an online entry form. We will send a confirmation email to your email address.
2. Upload the required materials.
3. Go to the payment page.

There are two ways to pay the entry fee: PayPal or wire transfer.