

**A qualifying film festival for the annual Academy Awards®
Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2017**

**Spotlight Award goes to "PACALIEN" voiced by Takumi Saitoh
Audience, Best Actor & Actress, and other awards also announced**

"PACALIEN" has received the Spotlight Award at the 19th edition of Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA), an Academy Awards® accredited festival and one of the largest international short film festivals in Asia. Held from June 1st to 25th this year, the festival has given this award to individuals or works that have made a special contribution to the media and film industries.

This stop motion puppet animation film was showcased in the cinema TEC! program at SSFF & ASIA 2017. It was directed by young and talented animator Toshiko Hata, and voiced by Japanese actor Takumi Saitoh.

SSFF & ASIA has also announced the Audience Awards and Best Actor & Actress Awards selected from each official competition, Best Music Short, Best Music Video and Fashion Short of the Year.

About 250 among over 9000 shorts from more than 140 countries and regions were screened this year, and many films depicted issues of modern society as refugees and sexual minorities.

The Audience and Spotlight Award winners will be screened at Brillia Short Shorts Theater in Yokohama from Sun, July 16th.

Spotlight Award

An award for a short which has made a special contribution to the media and short film industries

"PACALIEN"

Director : Toshiko Hata / Japan / 10:41 / Animation / 2017



Romeros is an alien investigator who looks like an alpaca. When he lands on Earth, he finds his spaceship damaged and becomes disconnected with his planet. He arrives on a mountain where people wearing weird masks are waiting for him. Actor Takumi Saitoh voiced the main character in this puppet animation, which premiered at Yubari International Fantastic Film Festival 2017. Director Hata's previous work "Samayou Shinzou" was screened at SSFF & ASIA 2012.

【Reason for Selection】

This film is voiced by Takumi Saitoh who has participated at SSFF & ASIA as an actor and director for several years. He believed in the ability and talent of the director Toshiko Hata, and decided to lend a hand in the production. In recognition of this generous support for young filmmakers, which is also one of the basic goals of SSFF & ASIA, we are honored to give the Spotlight Award to PACALIEN.

【Message from Actor Takumi Saitoh】

Director Hata's sensuous view points, great efforts and endless love for creating things led to this result. Congratulations! Thank you so much for this wonderful award. I'm impressed by the attitude of SSFF & ASIA, which focuses on challenging creators.

【Message from Director Toshiko Hata】

It is an honor to receive the Spotlight Award. I would like to thank to Mr. Tetsuya Bessho and the Committee for Short Shorts who provided the opportunity for us to share this film with a large audience. Receiving this award means a lot. Thanks to my wonderful crew and especially to Takumi Saitoh, who generously lent his talent to our little independent film. They made it possible for the film to reach this unexpectedly high level. We had originally planned "PACALIEN" to be a multi-episode series, and winning this award brings us one step closer to realizing this dream. From the bottom of my heart, thank you!

Audience Award

Selected by audiences of each official competition

<International Competition>



"Get Up Kinshasa!"

Director : Sébastien Maitre

21:00 / France, DR Congo / Drama / 2016

No polished shoes, no school! Samuel, 10 years old, is about to discover Kin the Beautiful's way of muddling up and muddling through...

<Asia International Competition>



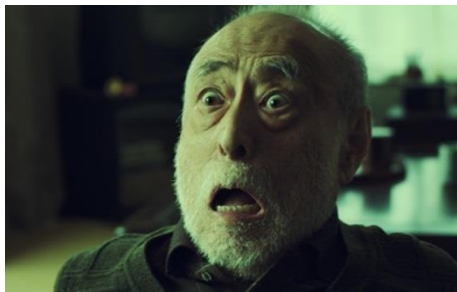
"The Great Legacy"

Director : Keun-suk Jang

9:29 / South Korea / Drama / 2016

Jun-Suk is drowning in debt. Jun-Suk's father (Young-Pal) left him a bank account but he went into a coma before telling him it's PIN. Jun-Suk keeps on talking to his father who's in a coma. One day Young-Pal's electro-cardiogram reacts to Jun-Suk's voice. The numbers on the electro-cardiogram seem like a PIN...

<Japan Competition>



"SIREN"

Director : Nobuyuki Miyake / 16:36 / Japan / Drama / 2017

With sirens blaring outside, Abbas breaks into the room of an old Japanese man named Toyoshige. He lifts Toyoshige onto his back and carries him out the door. As they descend the stairs, the last few days of bias and misjudgment become clear.

Best Actor & Actress Award

Awards for best actors and actresses in each official competition

<International Competition>

Actor: Chris Fortuna "Big City"

(Director: Jordan Bond & Lachlan Ryan / 9:00 / Australia / Comedy / 2016)



【Profile】

Chris is an Australian stand-up comedian and actor. He has appeared on various comedy programs including Logie Award-winning television comedy series 'Utopia', 'Hamish and Andy', Comedy Channel's 'You're You're Skitting Me' and sketch comedy show 'Kinne'. Chris has also acted in a variety of films and television shows including House Husbands, Any Questions for Ben, The Heckler and Spin Out. Most recently he has performed in the Melbourne Theatre Company's production of Born Yesterday.

【Reason for Selection】

International Competition: Best Actor- Chris Fortuna in "Big City"

Chris plays a taxi passenger, who in the end, runs away without paying the expensive fare. Generally, we as an audience, felt appreciation for his character, especially when he shows justice to xenophobic groups to defend his taxi driver who is Indian. The character also pulls out some childish pranks, and his performance confuses the audience as to see if he is really a nice guy or a jerk throughout the film.

Actress :Evgenia Dodina "Anna"

(Director: Or Sinai / 23:46 / Israel / Drama / 2015)



[Profile]

Evgenia played in leading roles at the "MAIAKOVSKI" theatre in Moscow. It was the encounter between Evgenia Dodina and Yevgeni Arye, a teacher at the theater, that led to her decision to finally emigrate to Israel in 1990, where she started playing at "Gesher" Theatre in Tel Aviv. She joined the theater upon its establishment, has performed in lead roles in the majority of the theater's productions and has garnered praise and enthusiastic reviews. Since 2007, Evgenia has been an actress at the National Theatre "Habima."

[Reason for Selection]

She plays a middle-aged single mother who, besides work, doesn't seem to have a hobby. To satisfy her sexual desire, or the simple urge to just touch someone, she loiters around her neighborhood to find a potential man. She gives this subtle, disillusioned and disgusted look to a man (a friend, apparently), who doesn't realize her seductive ways, along with a faint smile. At this moment, we know she steals the audience's hearts until the very end.

<Asia International Competition>

Actor :Seung-il Hong "Hitchhiker"

(Director: Jero Yun / 20:00 / South Korea / Comedy / 2016)



[Profile]

2017 Silent Witness by Jung Ji-woo
2016 The age of shadows by Kim Jee-woon
The hunt by Cheon Jin-woo
2014 Alive by Park Jeong-beom
2008 Breathless by Yang Ik-joon

[Reason for Selection]

A North Korean defector gives an unusual request to a cop who is detaining him in a cell; "Wanna drink with me?". So he does. He plays a gentle cop who seems to understand the pain of the defector. Through his acting, we felt the absurdity of being tossed by history, realizing that we are all human beings and we are all the same people, and we learn the importance of protecting the "dignity" of others.

Actress : Pan Ruo Yao "Seed"

(Director: Alvin Lee / 16:25 / China / Drama / 2016)



[Profile]

PAN RUO YAO is a Chinese actress based in Beijing, China. She graduated from the Beijing Film Academy Department of Acting with a Masters Degree in Film Acting. With her dedicated passion for acting, she even went to schools like Roma Film Academy, Gerasimov Institute of Cinematography and the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts to broaden her knowledge.

She was awarded the Best Actress Award in the 34th Vgik International Student Festival, Russia for her outstanding performance in the theatre play, "Waiting for Godot."

[Reason for Selection]

She plays a mother who donates the heart of her deceased child to another boy. Her character expresses grief and hope, especially in the scene when she listens to the boy's heartbeat. She conveys both sorrow and the pleasure of "reuniting" with her deceased child, and we, as the audience, can feel healed with the boy's kind gesture.

<Japan Competition>

Actor : Tomoji Yamashiro "born,bone,boon."

(Director: Gori / 25:00 / Japan / Comedy / 2016)



【Profile】

Tomoji Yamashiro was born in 1971. He is a comedian based in Okinawa and is also the President of his own talent agency "FEC Office." He is a TV and radio personality in addition to being an actor, and has been in numerous productions & programs.

【Reason for Selection】

A hot-headed, bad mouthing guy who actually has a pure, gentle side is played by Tomoji dynamically and with finesse. Through his strong, fearless performance, he lends credence to the relatively unknown tradition of "bone washing," and to the importance of respect towards ancestors in Japanese family life.

Actress : Mika Kuroki "April Fish"

(Director: Kazutomo Ogata & Eiichi Takahashi / 20:34 / Japan / Comedy / 2016)



【Profile】

Mika was born in Tokyo and decided to be an actress in 2015 while working as an office lady. "April Fish" is her first film starring as an actress.

【Reason for Selection】

Mika plays a call girl who is asked to suddenly transform from "queen" call girl to the younger sister of her client in a "one act" story. She shows an astonishing versatility especially since this is her acting debut in cinema! She gives off a distinct aura, drawing in the audience to her world, and makes us look forward to her next acting role.

Music Video Competition Best Short Award

An award for the most cinematic and innovative official music videos created for artists from Japan and around the world



『Witch Doctor』

Director : Floris Kaayk & Studio Smack

Artist : De Staat

Music : Witch Doctor

2:58 / Netherlands / Music Video /2015

Official music video for De Staat. With a mesmerizing performance in an ash-grey environment, abundant special effects, steroids and spectacular mass choreography.

【Reason for Selection】

The video has a strong and addictive quality. With a powerful style, it illustrates that visual storytelling has just as much impact as a traditional narrative-driven video when depicting lyrics.

Music Shorts Competition Encouragement Award

An award for the most creative film submitted by filmmakers inspired by artists' music.



『far away』

Director : Yuho Ishibashi

Artist : miimu

Music : Sekka

10:00 / Japan / Music Short / 2017

A couple on a holiday reveal their true inner feelings through casual conversation with the beautiful seaside as a backdrop.

【Reason for Selection】

With a distinct visual style and very little dialogue, the film shows the conflicting emotions and the truth lying behind the heart of the main character in a very stylish way. This short brilliantly picks up on the emotions of the original song while falling just short of award-winning levels.

Based on discussion, the festival committee decided that no submissions were suitable for Best Short Award in the Music Shorts Competition this year. However, "far away" depicted sensitive feelings between a man and woman with music in a very beautiful way, and thus, the committee has given the Encouragement Award for this work.

Fashion Short of the Year

An award for the most cinematic short film produced by a fashion brand



『Falling Up』

Director : Niall O'Brien / 3:00 / UK / Fashion / 2016

Liv Tyler retraces the footsteps of renowned aviatrix from the 20s Amelia Earhart – one of the first women ever dressed by BELSTAFF.

【Message from Liv Tyler】

Hello Japan, I'm so pleased and honored to hear that 'Falling Up' was awarded Fashion Short of the Year. It was wonderful film that I made with BELSTAFF and the director Niall O'Brien about a life of Amelia Earhart. Thank you so much for the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia. Thank you so much!

■ About Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia

The festival is a qualifier for the annual American Academy Awards® and one of the largest international short film festivals in Asia. Established by Japanese actor and SAG member Tetsuya Bessho, the festival was founded in order to introduce audiences in Japan to short films. It was first held in the Harajuku neighborhood of Tokyo in 1999. In 2001, the festival officially became Short Shorts Film Festival (SSFF), and in 2004 it received its Academy Awards® accreditation. Consequently, the film selected as the festival's Grand Prix winner is eligible for nomination in one of the short film competitions at the Academy Awards® the following year, making this festival a gateway to the Oscars for young filmmakers recognized in Japan.

<http://www.shortshorts.org/>

【 Inquiries for Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 】

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, Attention of : Hideyuki Takahashi

Tel: +81-3-5474-8844 • E-mail: press@shortshorts.org • Website: <http://www.shortshorts.org/en/>