

**J-Pop Group Ikimonogakari &  
 Japan Academy Award Winner Eiji Uchida  
 Collaborate on a Short Film “Stardust Children”  
 World Premiere Opening film at  
 Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2021  
 Online Venue 04/27!**

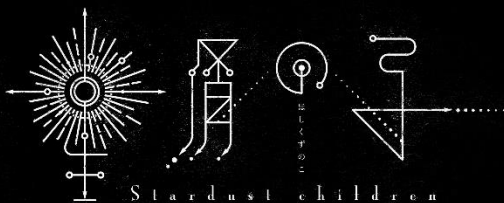
**Story themed on their hit song “Kirakira Ni Hikaru”  
 Filmed entirely on Sony’s smartphone Xperia™!**

Academy Award© accredited Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, will world premiere “Stardust Children” as the opening film of the festival online theater, which kicks-off on Tuesday, 04/27. Story based on the hit song by Ikimonogakari’s “Kirakira ni Hikaru”. Directed by Eiji Uchida, director of the Japan Academy Award winning film “Midnight Swan” & the subject of the hit film “Naked Director.” The film was shot entirely on Sony’s smartphone Xperia™.

**URL:** [https://youtu.be/JWfM\\_ArrTq8](https://youtu.be/JWfM_ArrTq8)

**World Premiere at 2:00pm on April 27, JST**

The film is based on “Stardust Children” (Hoshikuzu no ko), which was inspired by Ikimonogakari’s hit song “Kirakira ni Hikaru” & was chosen from submissions to Sony Music Entertainment’s platform for user generated contents, monogatary.com.



**Title : 『Stardust Children』**

Story: Annin Gogatsu {<https://monogatary.com/story/86452>}

Original Concept: “Kirakira ni Hikaru” Written by Yoshiki Mizuno (Ikimonogakari)  
 {<https://youtu.be/AKICeLHsw>}

Directed by: Eiji Uchida Cinematography: Maki Itō Written by Eiji Uchida & Lee Nawon

Cast: Haru Nakamura (Maruta), Ryōka Minamide (Senebu), Mai Kikuchi (Bella)

Genre: Sci-fi, Fantasy 24:00 minutes

Synopsis: Themed on the song “Kirakira ni Hikaru” by Ikimonogakari & submitted to monogatary.com the story is based on the winning submission “Stardust Children” (Hoshikuzu no Ko)”. Maruta is driven out of his land after he is considered to be cursed. After wandering through the forest, he encounters a stardust children who are righteous & pure. Maruta befriends Senebu & Bella & the children but as the Star festival approaches...



### Eiji Uchida Profile:

Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. After working as a reporter for Playboy Japan, he debuted as a writer for TBS TV network in 1999. After 2005 "Gekidan Engisha" for Fuji TV, constantly released films as a writer & director to worldwide critical acclaim. His 2014 film "Grateful Dead" was selected & screened at the Yubari International Fantastic Film Festival, the Fantastic Fest (USA), the Raindance Film Festival (UK) & at the Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival.

In 2016 he wrote & directed "Lowlife Love" which was distributed through Third Window Films. The film was a smash hit at Teatro in Shinjuku. The film was screened at over 30 film festivals worldwide including the Tokyo International FF, & the Rotterdam International FF. The film was also distributed in England, Germany, Singapore & Hong Kong. In 2019, he wrote & directed the Tokyo TV drama "I Turn" & wrote & directed 2 episodes of the Netflix hit film "The Naked Director." His 2020 film "Midnight Swan" which he wrote & directed, won the Best Screenplay, Best Director & Best Film Awards at the 44<sup>th</sup> Japan Academy Awards.



**Ikimonogakari Profile:** Formed in 1999. Yoshiki Mizuno, Kiyoe Yoshioka, Hotaka Yamashita. Made their major label debut with "Sakura" in 2006 which was followed by the hits "Bluebird," "Yell," & "Arigatou." On March 31, 2021, they released their 9<sup>th</sup> album "Who?" which includes the song "Kirakira ni Hikaru."

### monogatary.com

Sony Music Entertainment's social network service. For the monthly topic, users enter their original stories and enjoy communication with each other through the works.

**Stills can be downloaded from the link below.**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DbMsFjGfNg\\_VrUdcawiRVV0M0tiag-aA?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DbMsFjGfNg_VrUdcawiRVV0M0tiag-aA?usp=sharing)

## 【Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2021】

- SSFF & ASIA President: Tetsuya Bessho
  - Date : Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> to Monday, June 21<sup>st</sup>  
(Online screenings from Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>)
  - Locations: Screening venues across Tokyo and online
  - Entry fee: Free of charge with the exception of some events  
(pre-booking is scheduled to begin May 8th)
  - Enquiries: 03-5474-8844
  - Homepage: <https://www.shortshorts.org/en> \*2021 website will be open on April 27th
  - Organizer : Committee for Short Shorts / Committee for Short Shorts Film Festival Asia
- \* Program details are subject to change.



<Official Visual of Festival>

## OFFICIAL COMPETITION

supported by **SONY**

## Smartphone Film Competition

supported by **SONY**

This year Sony Group Corporation and Sony Corporation (summarize two companies as Sony) will once again support the Official Competitions (International, Asia International, Japan) to support the filmmakers who will create & set the new trends & styles of visual contents & is the gateway to a possible nomination in the short film category at the Academy Awards®. In addition, "Smartphone Film Competition" is supported to expand creative expression & opportunities for new challenges in discovering new forms of creativity unique to smartphones. We will once again hold various special events as the Creator's Junction partnered with Xperia following last year's successful talk show held in September. We will announce the details in the near future. Here's the link for further information on the joint project by SSFF & ASIA 2021 & Sony's Xperia. <https://www.shortshorts.org/sony/>

※On April 1st, Sony Mobile Communications Corporation has been changed to its name to Sony Corporation.

### History of SSFF & ASIA

Actor and member of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG), Tetsuya Bessho founded the festival in 1999 to introduce Japanese audiences to short films – a form of expression many people in Japan were unfamiliar with. In 2001, the festival became officially known as Short Shorts Film Festival (SSFF), and was recognized by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences®. In the same year, Short Shorts Film Festival Asia (SSFF ASIA) was established with support from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government to introduce new Asian video culture and nurture young filmmakers from the region.

Today the festival is known as SSFF & ASIA. In 2018, we celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> festival, and the Grand Prix prize was renamed the George Lucas Award. In January 2019, we held our first "SSFF in Hollywood" as part of our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, and director Jason Reitman, winner of the SSFF Audience Award in 2001, was given an Honorary Award.

From 2019, a total of 4 winners from the Official Competition (International, Asia International, & Japan categories) and the Non-Fiction category have been eligible to be nominated for the Academy Awards.

SSFF & ASIA will continue to support young filmmakers through this festival.

Web: <https://www.shortshorts.org/eng>

※The website for SSFF & ASIA 2021 is scheduled to launch in April 27<sup>th</sup> of 2021.

## PRESS ENQUIRIES

**Committee for Short Shorts Contact : Fuyumi Tanaka**

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Still images are available below

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DbMsFjGfNg\\_VrUdcawiRVV0M0tiag-aA?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1DbMsFjGfNg_VrUdcawiRVV0M0tiag-aA?usp=sharing)