

Academy Awards® Qualifying Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia

Announcing Official & Non Fiction Competition Jurors!

Official Competition supported by Sony Jurors:

**Junko Abe (actor), Ryo Katsuji (actor),
Hideaki Hamada (photographer), Mariko Fuji (Actress),
Chris Fujiwara (film critic) and Tetsuya Mariko(director)**

Non-Fiction Competition Jurors:

**Kazuo Hara (director), Miyuki Matsuda (actress/
photographer), and Gonzales Maruyama (Journalist)**

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2021, (Fri, June 11 - Mon, June 21, 2021), one of the largest international short film festivals in Asia is proud to announce the jurors of the "Official Competition supported by Sony" & the Non-Fiction Competition. The Best Short Award-winning films from each competition will be eligible for nomination at the Academy Awards® next year.

The 6 jurors of the Official Competitions are: actor Junko Abe, actor Ryo Katsuji, photographer Hideaki Hamada, film critic Chris Fujiwara, Director Tetsuya Mariko & actress Mariko Fuji.

Out of the 80 shorts selected out of 3,256 submissions from 105 countries and regions around the world, the Grand Prix, George Lucas Award will be selected from Best Short Award-winning films in the International, Asia International and Japan Competitions.

The 3 jurors for the Non-Fiction Competition are: director Kazuo Hara, actress/photographer Miyuki Matsuda, and journalist Gonzales Maruyama. They will select the Best Short out of 12 nominated shorts out of 307 entries submitted from 60 countries and regions around the world.

The awards will be announced by the jurors at the Award Ceremony held at Meiji Jingu Kaikan Hall on Monday, June 21.

Once again this year, Sony will 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® for Best Short Live Action Film, opening the door for creators who will create new visual cultures and trends.

OFFICIAL COMPETITION

supported by **SONY**

International
Competition

Asia International
Competition

Japan
Competition

Non-Fiction
Competition

Best Short

Best Short

Best Short

Best Short

Candidates for the Academy Awards®
Short Film Categories



[PRESS INQUIRY]

Committee for Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, Fuyumi Tanaka

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Stillts are available here;

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1UzSsZY2aYHJ-CwQmi0xOqJKOQJdOFZ9J?usp=sharing>

Jurors will select the Best Short Award for the International, Asia International, and Japan Competitions as well as the Grand Prix: George Lucas Award. SSFF & ASIA, which has been an Academy Award accredited film festival since 2004, one Grand Prix film was submitted to the Academy Award for nomination in the Best Short Film category the following year. **Since 2019, we have been accredited to submit the Best Short award-winning short film in each of the 3 competitions for nomination at the Academy Awards®.**



Junko Abe (Actor)

Born on May 7, 1993 in Osaka. In 2010, she debuted as an in "The Chasing World 2" (directed by Issei Shibata). In 2014, she starred in "Still the Water" (directed by Naomi Kawase) for which she was awarded the 4th Sakhalin International Film Festival Best Actress Award and the Best Newcomer Award at the 29th Takasaki Film Festival. In recent years, she has appeared in many films, including "The Blood of Wolves" (directed by Kazuya Shiraishi), "Daughters" (directed by Hajime Tsuda), "The Voice of Sin" (directed by Nobuhiro Doi) and "461 Lunch Boxes" (directed by Atsushi Kaneshige). In 2021, "Moeyo Ken" (directed by Masato Harada) is scheduled to be released in October.



Ryo Katsuji (Actor)

Born August 20, 1986, from Tokyo.

In 2000, Ryo made his debut as an actor in the drama "Chiaki, Mōichido waratte".

At the 29th Japan Academy Film Prize, he received the Best New Actor Award for his role in "AEGIS" directed by Junji Sakamoto in 2005.

Major appearances include "A Chorus of Angels" (12), "The Vancouver Asahi" (14), "Gintama 2: Rules are Made to be Broken" (18), and the Taiga drama "IDATEN The Epic Marathon to Tokyo". (19 / NHK), "Haken no Hinkaku" (20 / NTV), "Silent Tokyo" (20), "Underdog" (20), "Nemesis" (21 / NTV), etc.



Hideaki Hamada (Photographer)

Born 1977 in Awajishima, Hyogo Pref. In 2012, at age 35, became a photographer after working as a designer. The same year he released the photo book "Haru & Mina" which was published in Taiwan. In 2019, he released his self-published photo book "DISTANT DRUMS." He works in a wide range of styles from advertising to magazine photo shoots.



Mariko Fuji (Actress)

Born in Tokyo. Her father was Seiji Fujiwara, a Naoki Prize winning author. In 1977, while studying at University of Sacred Heart, she made her acting debut in the ATG film "Kitamura Tokoku: waga Fuyu no Uta" (directed by Seiichiro Yamaguchi) and the TV novel "Fumiko to hatsu." In 1978, she won the Golden Arrow Best New Comer Award, the Elandole New Comer Award, and the TV Award for her performance in the TV production of "A Fugitive from the Past" (directed by Kirio Urayama and Hideo Onchi). In 1985, she won the Japan Academy Award, the Mainichi Film Competition, and the Blue Ribbon Award for Best Supporting Actress for her film "Tracked" (directed by Hideo Gosha). In 1993, she won the Yomiuri Theater Award for Best Actress for her performance in "Thérèse Raquin" (directed by David Leveaux), and in 2004 she won the Kazuo Kikuta Theater Award for "The Woman Who Smells Poisson" (directed by Higashi Suzuki). She also worked as a singer and wrote lyrics under the name of Vivian Lee. In 2017, she published a book, "Mama wo Koroshita" (Published by Gentosha), which describes her 11 years caring for her mother. Her latest film is "Na mo Nai Hi: A day with no name" (directed by Yuichi Hibi) which will be released on June 11.



Chris Fujiwara (Film Critic)

Chris Fujiwara has written and edited several books on cinema, including "Jacques Tourneur: The Cinema of Nightfall"; "The World and Its Double: The Life and Work of Otto Preminger"; and "Jerry Lewis."

He was the editor of Undercurrent, the film-criticism magazine of FIPRESCI (International Federation of Film Critics) and a film critic for the Boston Phoenix, and he has contributed to numerous magazines, journals, and newspapers. He has lectured on film history and film aesthetics at various universities. Formerly Artistic Director of Edinburgh International Film Festival, he has also developed film programs for other institutions and has organized and served as a mentor for numerous workshops on film criticism and film programming.



Tetsuya Mariko (Director)

Born in Tokyo in 1981. Film festivals & awards include the Oberhausen International Short Film Festival, winning the Grand Prix for the second consecutive year at the Yubari International Fantastic Film Festival for his short 8mm film "Mansion in the Far East" and "Mariko sanjuuki." He is a graduate of the Graduate School of Film and Design, Tokyo University of the Arts, and presented his feature film, "Yellow Kid." "Destruction Babies" won best new director at the Locarno International Film Festival, a Silver Balloon Award at the Nantes Three Continents Film Festival, and six Yokohama Film Festival awards.

"From Miyamoto to You" won the Nikkan Sports Film Award, the Blue Ribbon Award, and the Best Director Award at the Takasaki Film Festival.

New shorts include "MAYDAY," a Coronavirus story set in 22 locations in 14 countries, and "COYOTE," a short film featuring the "Cinema Fighters."

SSFF & ASIA 2021 Non-Fiction Competition Jurors:

In 2018, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of SSFF & ASIA, we established the brand new "Non-fiction Competition." **Since 2019, we have been accredited to submit the Best Short award-winning short film for nomination at the Academy Awards® for Best Documentary (Short Subject).**



Kazuo Hara (Film Director)

Born 1945. Debuted in 1972 with the "Goodbye CP." Two years later that was followed by "Extreme Private Eros: Love Song 1974." This film earned him high critical praise as a pioneer of the "self-documentary" style. His 1987 film "The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On," where former Japanese soldier Kenzo Okuzaki searches out former superiors to hold them responsible for the war, was a big hit & won the Caligari Film Prize at Berlinale. In 1994, he made "A Dedicated Life" about novelist Mitsuhiro Inoue. In 2005, "The Many Faces of Chika" was released. Though his films were few & far between, he earned critical praise. Later films include "Sennan Asbestos Disaster" in 2017, & "Reiwa Uprising" in 2019. His latest film is "Minamata Mandala"(2020) dedicated to director Noriaki Tsuchimoto.



Miyuki Matsuda (Actress / Photographer)

Debuted in 1979 in the film "The Adventures of Kōsuke Kindaichi" directed by Nobuhiko Ōbayashi. She has appeared in TV drama "The Detective Story" (NTV - 1979), & "From the Northern Country" (cx - 1981) among her work in film & TV. Her performance was highly praised in director Naomi Kawase's "Still the Water," an official competition selection at the 2014 Cannes Film Festival. After working 4 years as art director, she published a book on the lifework of her actor husband, "The Complete Works of Yusaku Matsuda." She served as editor for the free paper "R" for 5 years. As photographer, she published a photo book titled "My Favorite Solitude Travels" & was the director of the gravure page for the magazine "GENROQ" for seven years. Recently as director, she filmed "Inorijin" (2021/ worldwide Vimeo release) starring Taichi Saotome. She has also recently started performing as a singer & live readings.



Gonzales Maruyama (Journalist)

Gonzales Maruyama is a Journalist, writer, editor, television/radio commentator and archeologist, covering crime, human right, poverty, and cultural issues. He got a master's degree in archeology from Kokugakuin University. He has spent the last 15 years working for Japanese publishing, having visited more than 40 countries in Asia, Africa, Europe, North and South America. He has published and edited more than 30 books, recent works are: GONZALES IN NEW YORK (2018), The Dark Tourist (2017), and The crime in shadow economy (2015), He is known for the immersive, adventurous style of reporting in dangerous areas, which can be seen at a TV program, "The Crazy Journey," of TBS, Japanese TV station. His books include "Asia [Bachiatari ryokō] Travels" (Saizusha), "Dark Tourist" (Kōdansha), "Sekai no kiken shisō warui yatsura no atama no naka" (Kōbunsha), "GONZALES IN NEW YORK" (East Press), Master gonzaresu no kureiji- kōkogaku" (Futabasha), "Sekai yabasugi ! kiken chitai no arukikata" (watashi no tabi bukkusu).

He also writes for the web manga magazine Kuromitsu (Hakusensha), "Konna jinsei wa zettai iya da."

[Short Shorts Film festival & Asia 2021 - Details]

- Festival President : Tetsuya Bessho
- Festival Ambassador : LiLiCo (Movie Commentator)
- Festival Dates : June, 11th (Fri) ~ June 21st (Mon)
 ※Online Theater from April 27th (Tues) ~ June 30th (Wed)
- Venues : Online Venue &
 Omotesando Hills SPACE O
 ITSCOM STUDIO & HALL, Futako-Tamagawa Rise,
 Shibuya Stream TORQUE SPICE & HERB, TABLE & COURT
 Akasaka Interconference (Akasaka Intercity AIR)
 ※Schedules will vary for each venue
- Fee : Free screenings/Free online screenings ※Paid events tentative
 ※05/12 (Wed) Reservations open
- For information : 03-5474-8844
- Official website : <https://www.shortshorts.org/2021>
- Organization : The Committee for Short Shorts
- ※Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the above all subject to change

In order to combat Covid-19 and other infectious diseases, the film festival requires visitors to wear masks, have their temperature checked, observe cough and sneeze etiquette, seating will be spaced for social distancing. In addition, all festival & venue staff will be required to wear masks. Alcohol disinfectant will be installed & doorknobs and chairs will be disinfected, along with regularly timed ventilation. For other infectious disease countermeasures, details will be posted on the website.