

SHORT SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & ASIA 2021
Academy Awards® Accredited & One of Asia's Biggest International Short Film Festivals
June 4, (Fri) 「Short Film Day」

 Supporting short films that opens new worlds & through visual images,
 connects us with the world.

**The new - GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT AWARD !
 Pedro Almodóvar, Billie Eilish, Travon Free,
 Jude & Rafferty Law, Kar-Wai Wong
 Announcing the nominations of 5 short films !**

The Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA), one of Asia's biggest international short film festivals, is proud to announce the new Global Spotlight Award on "Short Film Day" which was established on June 4, 2018. On June 4th 1999, our film festival came to life on the streets of Shibuya, Harajuku, and Omotesando in Tokyo.

Even under the unprecedented pandemic, filmmakers submitted more than 6000 short films and continued to communicate with the rest of the world through visual images. In this 23rd year of SSFF & ASIA, we found renewed "power of cinema" once again.

Aimed at short films that reveals to us new worlds & through the films, connects us with the world, here are the 5 nominations for the 1st Global Spotlight Award!

【Nomination】

Directed by Pedro Almodóvar, Starring Tilda Swinton "The Human Voice" (Spain) / Produced by Billie Eilish "NOT MY RESPONSIBILITY" (USA) / Directed & written by Travon Free "Two Distant Strangers" (USA) / Directed by Darren Strowger, Starring Jude & Rafferty Law "THE HAT" (UK) / Directed by Kar-Wai Wong "One-Tenth of a Millimeter Apart" (HK)

These films were created by artists active in all fields around the world, including the music, film, and visual image industries & shown on various platforms, including online.


Pedro Almodóvar

Photo: The New York Times/Aflo


Billie Eilish

Photo: REX/Aflo


Travon Free

Jude Law

Photo: ZUMA Press/Aflo


Kar-Wai Wong
<Global Spotlight Award>

This film festival was started in 1999 to introduce short films that were not yet familiar to Japan. In our 23rd year, we continue to change with the times. Not only have the choices of film and visual experiences have expanded for audiences, but now, anyone can share their creativity, insights, and themes with the world through various filming devices. We established this award with the desire to shine a new spotlight on this immense potential and support the opening of a path that connects the world through short films.

The Global Spotlight Award winner will be announced at the Opening Ceremony of SSFF & ASIA 2021, on Friday, June 11. The global live streaming of the event will start at 4:30pm JST / 7:30am UTC.

<https://shortshorts.org/2021/en/openingceremony/>



Photo: The New York Times/ Aflo Photo: ZUMA Press/ Aflo

Directed by Pedro Almodóvar,
Starring Tilda Swinton
"The Human Voice" (Spain)

Pedro Almodóvar's first English-language film was first screened at the Venice International Film Festival. Filmed under lockdown, it has been critically acclaimed by critics around the world. Original story taken from Jean Cocteau's stage play "The Human Voice," & stars Academy Award® winning actress Tilda Swinton.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3IGM39dKuY>



Photo : REX/Aflo

Produced by Billie Eilish
"NOT MY RESPONSIBILITY" (USA)

Produced by Billie herself for the world tour launched in March 2020, this work includes messages of protest against criticism and bullying on the Internet. Billy released the full short film on SOCIAL media to worldwide acclaim when the tour was suspended due to the coronavirus.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZlvfYmfefSI>



Directed & written by Travon Free
"Two Distant Strangers" (USA)

This work was created based on the #BlackLivesMatter movement & executive produced by NBA stars Kevin Durant and Mike Conley and stars rapper Joey Bada\$\$\$. The film won the award for Best Live Action Short Film at the 93rd Academy Awards© this year.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-67K-KwHbA>



Photo: ZUMA Press/Aflo

Directed by Darren Strowger,
Starring Jude & Rafferty Law
"THE HAT" (UK)

Jude Law and his son Rafferty's first co-starring film shot completely on a smartphone during the lockdown in the UK last year. Original music by Pete Townsend of The Who.

The premiere was benefit Teenage Cancer Trust and Teen Cancer America.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MbFUA4Z3ouM>



Directed by Kar-Wai Wong
"One-Tenth of a Millimeter Apart" (HK)

A documentary short film made to commemorate the 30th anniversary of his own film company, Jet Tone Films. The film was screened at the Hong Kong International Film Festival in April this year and shows behind-the-scenes of the director's films, including "In the Mood for Love" and "2046."

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYRFLKqqcyo>

【SHORT SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & ASIA 2021】

- Festival President: Tetsuya Bessho
- Date/Time: 06/11 (Fri) ~ 06/21 (Mon)
※Online screenings 04/27 (Tues) ~ 06/30 (Wed)
- Screening venues : Online screenings & at various venues in Tokyo
※Screening schedules will vary by venue.
- Fee: Limited free screenings. There are ticket charge events
- Inquiries & information: 03-5474-8844
- Website: <https://shortshorts.org/2021/en/>
- Organization: Committee for Short Shorts/ Committee for Short Shorts Asia
- ※ All venues & schedules subject to change due to the coronavirus.



SSFF & ASIA 2021 Poster

【SHORT SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & ASIA】

Tetsuya Bessho, actor & member of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG), founded the American Short Shorts Film Festival in 1999 with the aim to introduce "short films" to Japan as a new film genre. In 2001, the festival was renamed the Short Shorts Film Festival (SSFF) and in 2004 it was recognized as an official accredited film festival of the Academy Awards. In the same year, the Short Shorts Film Festival Asia (co-hosted by the Tokyo Prefecture) was established with the aim of introducing short films made in Asia and supporting new young filmmakers. Currently, the festival operates as "SSFF & ASIA." In 2018, to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the film festival, the Grand Prix was named after director George Lucas. In January 2019, the Short Shorts Film Festival in Hollywood was held as a 20th Anniversary commemorative event and beginning with the 2019 festival, the winners of the official competitions, International, Asia International, Japan, and in addition, the Nonfiction categories, up to 4 short films, earned the right to be nominated at the Academy Awards© for Best Short Film the following year. SSFF & ASIA will continue to support young creators around the world.

[Official website] <https://www.shortshorts.org>

【Information & inquiries】

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Stills are available here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o_cab9WgKPTW7vbMAoIYLuVdDPG8GiW8?usp=sharing