

A qualifying festival for the annual Academy Awards® and
One of the largest international short film festivals in Asia
Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2021 Screening in Autumn
streaming online from October 1st till October 31st. &
screening at the Tokyo Photographic Art Museum from Oct. 21 to Oct. 24

---All the winners of this year's competition that might be nominated for an Oscar® in 2022 and the animation special program including Bill Plympton's newest short film about the pandemic, "Mindscape" by the late extraordinary animator Jacques Drouin and more.

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia will be hosting a Screening in Autumn at the Tokyo Photographic Art Museum from Oct. 21 (Thu) to Oct. 24 (Sun). We will also start streaming online from October 1st till October 31st.

Screening in Autumn: <https://www.shortshorts.org/2021autumn/en/>

A Qualifying Film Festival for the Annual Academy Awards®
米国アカデミー賞公認アジア最大級
ショートショート
フィルムフェスティバル
& アジア 2021 秋の国際短編映画祭
SHORT SHORTS
FILM FESTIVAL & ASIA 2021
Screening in Autumn

ONLINE SCREENING
オンライン会場 10.1 ▶▶ 10.31 SUN

LIVE SCREENING TOKYO PHOTOGRAPHIC ART MUSEUM (Yebisu Garden Place)
リアル会場 東京都写真美術館ホール 10.21 ▶▶ 10.24 SUN
(恵比寿ガーデンプレイス内)

#ショートフィルムフェス #SSFF
<https://www.shortshorts.org/2021autumn>

主催：ショートショートフィルムフェスティバルアジア実行委員会 共催：東京都 / 東京都庁 / 東京都映画振興 / 後援：J-WAVE
Organizer: Committee for Short Shorts Film Festival Asia / Co-organizer: Tokyo Metropolitan Government / Allied event: The 48th edition of the Tokyo International Film Festival / Patronage(Power): J-WAVE, Inc.

In the midst of the pandemic we organized the 23rd SSFF & ASIA in June. With the help from a lot of people we received over 6300 film submissions from all over the world.

In this Screening in Autumn, we will be screening all the winners of this year's competition that might be nominated for an Oscar® in 2022 and the animation special program as well. There will be short films by director Bill Plympton, known for his work in "The Simpsons", and his newest short film about the pandemic "Demi's Panic" and "No Snow for Christmas" which is a story about the environmental crisis. We will also screen "Mindscape" by the late extraordinary animator Jacques Drouin and more.

The Workshop Seminar for creators will be hosted by Shinichiro Ishikawa. Mr. Ishikawa founded the animation company GONZO K.K. that is trying out a new type of project, "SAMURAI cryptos",

using blockchain and NFT technologies. He will also discuss the future of outsourcing films and how to get founded.

The “Discover Beauty” program is a project sponsored and co-sponsored by the 2021 Japan Cultural Expo . We will focus on female empowerment and screen films about the beauty of Japan through the eyes of female directors. We will also hold a panel discussion with young aspiring writers of ancient Japanese folktales and stories.

Screening in Autumn Lineup

<Award Winning Shorts Program 1>

Stories about family including the winners of Best Actor Awards (SSFF & ASIA 2021).



*in clockwise from the top left

Best Actor Award – International Competition

Nadir Saribacak for role in *Leylak* (dir. Scott Aharoni & Dennis Latos)

USA / 2020 / 17 min.

In present day Queens, New York, a Turkish gravedigger is unable to face a shattering truth, and risks losing the dearest connection left in his life.

Best Actor Award – Asian International Competition

Lee Chae Kyung for the role in *GEORGIA* (dir. Jayil Pak)

South Korea / 2020 / 25 min.

When the police refuse to investigate their daughter’s alleged suicide, two computer-illiterate parents decide to design a protest banner. (Based on a true story.)

Best Actor Award – Japan Competition

Hikari Mitsushima for the role in *A Woman Who Acts* (dir. Toshiyuki Teruya)

Japan / 2020 / 19 min.

Akira is an old man with little time left to live due to illness. He has a young and beautiful wife, Yoshiko, who tries to take him outside to enjoy his last days. She looks delighted as Akira gets weaker and weaker. What are her true intentions?

Audience Award – Japan Competition

Empty Cream Puffs by Shoji Yasui / Japan / 2020 / 22 min.

Yuta and Ayumi are a childless couple. One day, Ayumi tells him that she's pregnant, but when Yuta goes to the hospital for a check-up, he finds out that he's infertile.

<Award Winning Shorts Program 2>

Stories about the importance of loved ones, including the winner of the Official Competition supported by Sony Japan.



Cinematic Tokyo Competition Best Short Award /Governor of Tokyo Award

And Then by Ravenna Tran/ USA / 2020 / 18 min.

And Then is about two women who meet and grow closer to each other through their insomnia and art. The story follows Mana, a Japanese-American woman who arrives in Tokyo seeking to find a break from her life as an artist, and Haru, a Japanese woman who dreams of becoming an artist herself one day.

Branded Short of the Year *available only in Japan

Client : VOLVO Agency : Forsman & Bodenfors Production : New Land

HOPPY HAPPY AWARD *available only in Japan

Tsurezure Kankan by Takashi Okado, Yuki Kedoin / Japan / 2021 / 16 min

"I'm pretty sure my brother won't show up at the wedding," says Kaho to her fiancé Noboru as they head to her house. He brushes it off with confidence, but when they arrive, Kaho's brother Seitaro turns out to be much quieter than he imagined. On top of that, the siblings suddenly get into an argument.

Biogen Award

Stairs by Zoljargal Purevdash / Mongolia / 2019 / 12 min.

A young man's dream to make a living in Ulaanbaatar is put to the test when he must navigate the social and physical obstacles in his path.

Japan Competition Best Short Award / Governor of Tokyo Award *available only in Japan

Return to Toyama by Atsushi Hirai / Japan, France / 2020 / 24 min.

Takumi left Japan for France despite his father's disapproval. After a long absence, he returns to Toyama, his hometown, a small and declining port on the northern coast of Japan.

<Award Winning Shorts Program 3>

Heart racing and exciting stories that were most streamed online.



Smartphone Film Competition supported by Sony Best Short Award *available only in Japan

viewers:1 by Daigo Hariya & Yosuke Kobayashi / Japan / 2021 / 5 min.

In the future, after "something" happened to the human race, a man continues to video stream himself in solitude as he wanders about the city ruins for the one single viewer he has.

Audience Award – Asian International Competition *available only in Japan

Night Bus by Joe Hsieh / Taiwan / 2020 / 20 / min.

On a late-night commuter bus, a necklace was stolen. This was followed by a tragic and fatal road accident, and a series of intriguing turns of events which revealed love, hatred, and vengeance. The film climaxes as the bus goes ablaze, burning and glittering against the dark coastal sky.

Visual Tourism Award, Japan Tourism Agency Commissioner's Award

Flash! Minamishimabara News Agency (Special Edition) / Japan / PR / 2021 / 27 min

This video was created as part of "Flash! Minamishimabara News Agency", a weekend show that covers the latest information from Minamishimabara City. After many unexpected developments, this episode became a "Special Edition" and was ultimately uploaded on YouTube. A fictional

commercial for a fictional news channel, combined with Ms. Hikari Mishima's engaging portrayal of the quirky residents of Minamishimabara, made for an impactful 27-minute rendition of the wide array of attractions in the city.

Most Viewed Award

Incident at School by Jacob Pilgaard / Denmark / 2020 / 23 min

A shooting at a university—played out for 24 terrifying minutes—in a single unbroken close-up of a young woman hiding in an auditorium.

< Award Winning Shorts Program 4 >

Destruction of the environment, social gaps, and conflicts between people. These are just some of the events that are happening around us and these films will start to make you reflect on those social issues. SSFF & ASIA 2021 George Lucas Award (Grand Prix) winner is screened in this program.



Branded Short of the Year National Category

Closer Through Our Clothes /Japan / Retail / 2020 / 10 min

Client: UNIQLO, Production: Mt.MELVIL

Shizuku, a girl who lives in Chiba, Japan, is 12 years old. She decided to recycle her favorite clothes that I couldn't wear anymore, and she put an orange dress and a white blouse in a collection box at a UNIQLO store with her mother. The donated clothes were carefully inspected, sorted, and packed in the warehouse, and then left for Japan. The clothes arrived at a refugee camp in Uganda. Eva, an 11-year-old girl, escaped from the conflict in her hometown of South Sudan and now lives there with her sister and relatives. From the clothes brought by the staff, Eva, who likes fashion, chose two clothes that were Shizuku's favorite. From there, a new story of an orange dress and a white blouse that Shizuku put out for recycling begins. What is the power of clothes and what are the feelings of two girls?

Save the Earth! Minister's Award, the Ministry of the Environment *available only in Japan

Sad Beauty by Arjan Brentjes / Netherlands / 2020 / 10min

In a heavily polluted world, a young woman mourns the disappearance of animal species. When she falls ill due to a bacterial infection, nature appears to send her a message in her hallucinations.

Non-Fiction Competition Best Short Award *available only in Japan

Mission: Hebron by Rona Segal / Israel / 2020 / 23 min.

In Israel, Soldiers are recruited at the age of 18. A couple of months later, they are already in charge of Palestinian civil life, in almost every aspect. Six Ex-soldiers face the camera and give us a soldier's guide to Hebron, the most troubled city in the occupied west bank.

Special Screening: Bill Plympton's short *available only in Japan

No Snow for Christmas by Bill Plympton / US / 2017 / 3 min

A satirical music video, co-produced by Maureen McElheron and Bill Plympton, showing the effects of global warming on our favorite holiday.

Official Competition supported by Sony Asia International Competition Best Short Award

Grand Prix – George Lucas Award / Governor of Tokyo Award *available only in Japan

Filipiñana by Rafael Manuel / Philippines, UK / 2020 / 24 min.

The self-contained cosmos of the golf course reflects societal structures. Although new 'tee girl' Isabel still has to learn the rules, she's already looking for loopholes to subvert the system.

<Award Winning Shorts Program 5>

These four films, including the winner of SSFF & ASIA 2021 International Competition, will tell you how to handle the loneliness and isolation people feel.



Audience Award – International Competition

TRUMPET by Kevin Haefelin / Switzerland / 2020 / 17 min.

A Japanese trumpet player on a cultural pilgrimage to discover New York City jazz experiences a hell of a night after being lost in Brooklyn.

Official Competition supported by Sony International Competition Best Short Award

Under the Heavens by Gustavo Milan / Brazil / 2020 / 17 min.

Marta, a young Venezuelan mother, is immigrating to Brazil when she meets a struggling young couple with a baby girl. Her ability to breastfeed causes their fates to become forever entwined.

Special Screening: R.E.P. JJ Sonny Chiba

SHAKESPEARE IN TOKYO by Genevieve Clay-Smith / Japan / 2018 / 20 min

An Australian Shakespeare fan with Down Syndrome, sets off on a solo adventure to discover Tokyo in order to get away from his overbearing older brother. Along the way he uses his knowledge of the Bard, his sketchbook and his wits to win the hearts of the people he meets.

Shibuya Diversity Award *available only in Japan

Shut Up by Noa Aharoni Maor / Israel / 2020 / 16min

Roni (12) is ashamed of her Tourette Syndrome. After acting violently towards a classmate who picks on her, she's suspended from school. She stays home alone and her suffering from the tics, leads her to take an extreme and dangerous act.

<Animation Program>

To celebrate the Animation Competition being accredited by the Academy Awards, we select wonderful animations.



CG Animation Competition Best Short Award *available only in Japan

I, Barnabé by Jean-François Lévesque / Canada / 2020 / 15 min.

During a night of stormy drunkenness, a man receives a visit from a mysterious bird and is forced to reconsider his life.

Winner of the Best Film in Croatian Competition, Animafest Zagreb, 2020 *available only in Japan

Arka by Natko Stipanicev / Croatia / 2020 / 15 min

A grandiose transoceanic cruise ship sailing the seas.

Directed by Sawako Kabuki who won various awards at the international and Japanese festivals

WAAAH by Sawako Kabuki / Japan / 2018 / 2 min **available only in Japan

I synchronized the irritation of baby cries and the frustration I have ever experienced. Everyone was born while crying, and grew crying. I grew up to be an adult, but I strongly want to be a baby again.

Directed by maestro of pinscreen animation Jacques Drouin who recently passed away in August 2021 * *available only in Japan

Mindscape by Jacques Drouin / 0:07:35 / Canada / Animation / 1976

A particularly creative example of the pinscreen animation technique, this film is about an artist who steps inside his painting and wanders about in a landscape populated with symbols that trigger unexpected associations. Film without words.

Save the Earth! J-WAVE Award *available only in Japan

Migrants by Hugo Caby, Antoine Dupriez, Aubin Kubiak, Lucas Lermytte & Zoé Devise / France / 2020 / 8 min

Two polar bears are driven into exile due to global warming. They will encounter brown bears along their journey, with whom they will try to cohabitate.

Commissioned by the BBC to adapt The Promise award winning & New York Times Best Illustrated Book of the Year [2014]

The Promise by Chi Thai / UK / 2020 / 7 min

The Promise is a dystopian fairy tale that plays out on the mean streets of a mean city. Here, a young thief tries to snatch an old woman's bag but she cannot have it without giving something in return: The Promise.

U-25 Project Best Short Award

Picnic by Yuki Kusama / Japan / 2021 / 3 min.

Beautiful weather is the best for having a picnic outside in the open field. Bunny, the rabbit, came to have a picnic on this invitingly warm and beautiful day. Let's have lunch here. And so Bunny's disastrous day began.

Academy Awards-nominated animator Bill Plympton's latest short film *available only in Japan

Demi's Panic by Bill Plympton / United States / 2021 / 10 min

"Demi's Panic" follows the story of Demi, a young Latina professional living in NYC, whose prophetic dreams become all too real when an invisible danger causes catastrophic loss. She turns to her boyfriend Omar for support, but a safe harbor is hard to find when the world is being buffeted by an unprecedented storm.

The 50th (1978) Academy Awards® Winner of Best Animated Short Film

The Sand Castle by Co Hoedeman / Canada / 1977 / 13 min

This short animated film features the sandman and the creatures he sculpts out of sand. These lively creatures build a castle and celebrate the completion of their new home, only to be interrupted by an uninvited guest. Cleverly constructed with nuance, the film leaves interpretation open to the viewer. The film took home an Oscar® for Best Animated Short Film.

<**Discover Beauty Program**> *this program is only available at Tokyo Photographic Art Museum

Focusing on female empowerment, we've selected short films depicting the "Beauty of Japan" from the perspective of female directors.



People of Prayer by Miyuki Matsuda, Taichi Saotome / Japan / 2021 / 29 min

In ancient Japan, dolls were made as a token for people to bring happiness. The etymology of "inori" comes from "i" for breathing, and "nori" for life. In other words, prayer is about breathing and living. Breath that pumps the heart, to breathe, to struggle with oneself, and to proclaim your conduct to heaven. Beautiful dolls materialize from the repugnant side of human beings. This doll is both a symbol of God and of one's wishes. Dolls dance fervently in the beauty of nature in the four seasons, and through the life of flowers in the breeze, the life in water, the life in fire, and in payer, expresses the ancient Japanese people who dedicate themselves to traditional festivals.

Wheels of Fate: The Story of the Rickshaw Man by Ema Ryan Yamazaki / USA, Japan / 2020 / 19 min

An emotional journey into the fateful history of The Rickshaw Man, which despite being chopped down by two governments, remains an irreplaceable work of humanist cinema from Japan's darkest period. Narrated by Lily Franky.

The Old Woman Skin by Hiroki Inoue / Japan / 2021 / 20 min

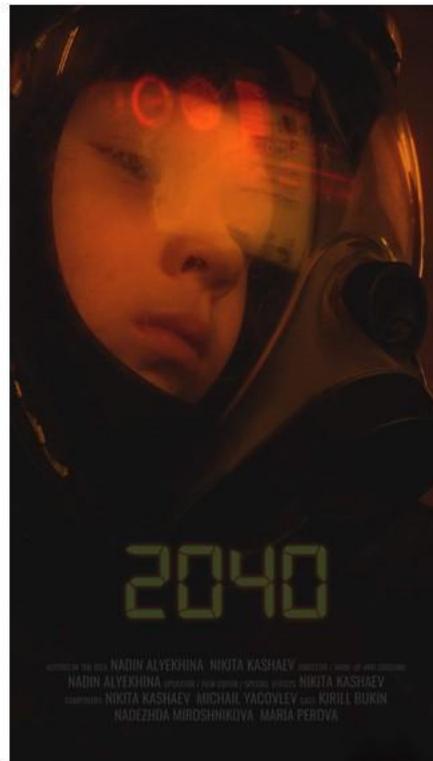
"I don't like to be told I'm beautiful." Before going to Tokyo from her hometown of Mishima, Fukushima Prefecture, Kyoko stopped by at Tsuchiyu Onsen and was handed an "old woman's skin." This allowed her to transform herself into an old woman, enabling her to find out what's truly in the heart of the man she cares about ...

The Fox of Shichigorosawa by Chun Sugihara / Japan / 2014 / 13 min

Higashiyama, the home of the foxes, has become an illegal dumping ground. This results in the decrease of small animals, which the mother fox relied on as prey to feed her children. The fox comes down from the mountains in search of food to feed her children, and comes upon a human village. This story is told in the Ainu language, which has been deemed a critically endangered language by UNESCO.

<Vertical Theater Program>

with the help from “smash.” a vertical short film app. To watch these programs please download the “smash.” application for free on your device.



Vertical Theater Competition supported by smash. Vertical Short Award

Notice by Masumi Nishibori / Japan / Drama / 2021 / 22min.

Akira signs his best friend Shun's marriage registration as a witness in a family restaurant. But when he understands the true feeling behind Shun's laughter, he storms out and leaves. Does the smartphone screen capture what we normally would miss?

U-18 Vertical Short Award

Mistakes by Kato Kota / Japan / 2021 / 25 min.

It is winter of the third year of high school, and Yuta Sato was extremely bored. So he gets a shady part-time job, which is to take gossip photography. He loses faith in humanity as he continues working, but an encounter with a certain individual allows him to rethink his adolescence.

Vertical Theater Competition supported by smash. Encouragement Award

2040 by Nadin Alyekhina, Nikita Kashaev / Russia / 2020 / 5 min

2040. People, in their conquest of living space, have crossed a critical line. Finally, the balance upset the release of new chemical weapons, the use of which led to a rapid increase in the amount of CO2 in the atmosphere. To survive, scientists invented air capsules, which have become the main value for people

Virtual Seminar with Shinichiro Ishikawa for aspiring creators!

Shinichiro Ishikawa, CEO of GONZO K.K., will come and talk about how to get the funds for films and how to expand their creation to the world. He will also talk about his new project SAMURAI crypto that uses NFT technologies.



Date: October. 23 (Sat) 20:00~

Online Admission: Free.

Registration begins on Sept. 22 (thu) 14:00~ : <https://shortshorts2021autumnonline1023.peatix.com/>

Shinichiro Ishikawa

After working in a consulting firm, he founded the now GONZO K.K. They expanded their business overseas such as LA and London, backed by venture capitals. He has secured his copyrights for his own contents. He is also a member of the board of directors of the Visual Industry Promotion Organization (VIPO). He has also established a consortium to develop and operate with blockchain for contents like characters, music, videos. Developing and operating a blockchain-based IP trading system for entertainment content. He aims to establish a Japanese content creating platform that could lead the world.

*The seminar will be held only in Japanese

Virtual Panel Discussion on Creation of stories all around Japan.

We will invite short story writers from three regions to discuss not only the literature works that they wrote but also the hidden stories of Japan that we want to convey and their charm.



Date: October 22 (Fri) 20:00~

Online Admission: Free.

Registration Date: Starting September 22 (Thu) 14:00~ <https://shortshorts2021autumnonline1022.peatix.com/>

*This panel discussion will be held only in Japanese

■Guests

Kumiko Takahashi (left)

Writer, Poet, and Songwriter. Born in Ehime Prefecture, 1982. After working in the music industry she went into writing. Her publications include a novel collection “Gururi” (Chikuma Shobo), a collection of essays, “Tabi wo Sumikatosu” (Kadokawa), and a collection of poems and drawings, “Konya Kyoboudakara Watashi” (Mishima) etc. She has provided lyrics for many artists, wrote scripts for a play of a modernized Ningyo Joururi (a puppet theater), and recites poetry in other times.

Masatomo Tamaru (center)

Born in Ehime, 1987. Graduated from the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Tokyo. He is one of the essential writers of modern short stories and on top of that he is also the head judge for the Bocchan Literary Award. He also holds a creative writing courses throughout Japan. His publications include, “Umiro no Bin”, “Otogi Company” etc. Official Site: <http://masatomotamaru.com/>

Nako Mori (right)

Born in Kanagawa 1997.

Received a HOPPY HOPPY AWARD for Book Categories in 2019 and a Book Short Award in 2020.

*The event and film details may change.

*The discussion is held in Japanese only

This event is a Japan Cultural Expo Project, presented and co-presented by the Agency for Cultural Affairs, the Government of Japan, and the Japan Arts Council, here.

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia

Actor Tetsuya Bessho, who is also a member of the American Actors Association (SAG), founded the American Short Shorts Film Festival in 1999 with the desire to introduce "short films," which he encountered in the United States, to Japan as a new genre of film. In 2001, the festival was renamed the Short Shorts Film Festival (SSFF) and in 2004 it was recognized as a recognized film festival by the Academy Awards®. In the same year, the Short Shorts Film Festival Asia (SSFF ASIA, co-hosted by Tokyo) was established with the aim of expanding new visual culture originating in Asia and fostering young filmmakers, and currently 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 to commemorate the 20th anniversary. Since 2019, the four Best Short Award-winning short films from the official competitions (International, Asia International, Japan) and the Non-Fiction Competition, and from 2022, five short films, adding the Best Short Award-winning short film in the Animation competition, will be eligible to be nominated for the Academy Awards for Best Short Film the following year. The SSFF & ASIA will continue to support young creators.

【Official website】 <https://www.shortshorts.org/en>

<Contact Information>

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Stills are available here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1j1gmIPfK4vdmVGE1OOmms5Va7m6RTth?usp=sharing>