

Accredited by the Academy Awards® Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2022 Award Ceremony

George Lucas Award (Grand Prix) goes to "Warsha" by Dania Bdeir The winners for the Official Competition supported by Sony, Non-Fiction Competition, Animation Competition, and Smartphone Film Competition supported by Sony's Xperia have been announced

The 24th Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA), Asia's one of the largest international short film festival and officially accredited by the Academy Awards®, presented short films with the theme of Meta Cinema. A short film by AI scriptwriters and introducing a variety of advanced video productions such as screenings held in VR, in the space "DOOR™" theater, and talk events, smartphones, vertical videos, game movies, and techniques including neuroscience that analyzes brain waves. We also had new seminars and events that discussed whether or not these technologies can be used in films in the future as well. At the Award Ceremony held at the Meiji Jingu Memorial Hall today, 9 awards were announced and awarded.

Selected from more than 5,000 films from home and abroad, is "Warsha" (Lebanon / France) directed by Dania Bdeir was selected for the Grand Prix (George Lucas Award).

The official competition supported by Sony (International, Asia International, Japan), Non-Fiction Competition, and Animation Competition's winners have also been announced.

"I'm surprised at the improvement from the Japanese film categories. Themes, social awareness, director's skill, etc ... I think the audience noticed as well" Judge of Japan Competition: Eiji Okuda), "While having the specific uniqueness of that country, I think that all of them made me feel that we are not alone in this world full of violence and loneliness" (Judge of Asia Competition : Pascal Fall), "There were films that could be done because it was a short film but none of them were compromising because it was a short film." (International Competition judge: Hyunri). this year's official competition supported by Sony, and the award results of each category are announced below.

Each award-winning film will be streaming at the Grand Theater, the online venue for the festival, until June 30th (Thursday). <https://www.shortshortsonline.org/>

SSFF & ASIA 2022 Grand Prix "George Lucas Award" Official Competition supported by Sony International Competition Winner [Candidate for the 95th Academy Awards Nominee]



『Warsha』Director : Dania Bdeir
15:42 / Lebanon/France / Drama / 2021

Mohammad is a crane operator working in Beirut. One morning he volunteers to take on one of the tallest and notoriously most dangerous cranes in Lebanon. Away from everyone's eyes, he is able to live out his secret passion and find freedom.

[Comment] Great work in storytelling, video and acting. Each moment and emotion is depicted in great detail, and it was a work with overwhelming beauty and power that draws the audience into the world of the work.



[Dania Bdeir]

Dania Bdeir is a Lebanese-Canadian award-winning writer & director. She's a member of the Brooklyn Filmmakers Collective and has an MFA in directing from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts.

Asia International Competition Best Short Award / Governor of Tokyo Award
【Candidate for The 95th Academy Award Nominee】



『Moshari』 Director : Nuhash Humayun

21:57 / Bangladesh / Horror / 2022

Moshari' is a traditional South Asian mosquito net, made for protection against vermin at night. When the world is overrun with bloodthirsty creatures, staying inside the moshari is the only way to safety. In Dhaka, Bangladesh: two sisters must stay inside the moshari to survive - but first they must survive each other.



【Nuhash Humayun】

Nuhash Humayun is a Bangladeshi writer/director interested in infusing genre with South Asian identity. His credits include MOSHARI (SXSW Jury Award Winner: Midnight Shorts) and the upcoming feature MOVING BANGLADESH (supported by Sundance Institute, Film Independent & Cannes Marche du Film) Nuhash is the first Bangladeshi fellow of the Sundance Feature Film Development Track.

【Comment】 An entertainment-oriented work that is conscious of how the audience would react. In addition to the production technology that surprises as a horror work, the character setting and story development incorporates the modernity made it a work that has the power to draw the audience into the world of the movie.

Japan Competition Best Short Award / Governor of Tokyo Award
【Candidate for The 95th Academy Award Nominee】



『THE LIMIT Taxi Girl』

Director: Masaya Yoshida/ 23:23 / Japan / Drama / 2021

Saki, a lawyer, gets into a waiting cab to go to the airport. But the driver of the cab was her sister Satomi, who had been waiting for her, and against her sister's wishes, drove her to the hospital where her mother was in critical condition.



【Masaya Yoshida】

Works an advertising production company, mainly directing TV commercials. He studied filmmaking under film director Tetsuya Nakajima as a student and directed a part of the omnibus film "Hairstyle" which was produced by Nakajima & released in theaters.

【Comment】 Although it is a conversational drama, the script conveys the relationships of the characters brilliantly, and the performance of the two leading actors made it even more convincing.

■The number of submissions for the Official Competition supported by Sony

- International Competition Submissions : 2,282 (80 countries and regions) Screened : 35
- Asia International Competition Submissions : 639 (23 countries and regions) Screened : 25
- Japan Competition Submissions : 342 Screened : 27

■Prize Money : ¥600,000 (JPY)

■Judges (in alphabetical order) : International Program Yoko Narahashi, Hyunri, Jero Yun

Asia Program Shinji Higuchi, Pascal Faure, Makiko Watanabe Japan Program Eiji Okuda, Kiki Sugino, Hassan Fazil

Non-Fiction Competition Best Short Award [Candidate for The 95th Academy Award Nominee]



『Nuisance Bear』

Director : Jack Weisman & Gabriela Osio Vanden
13:52 / Canada / Non-Fiction / 2021

Churchill, Manitoba, is a famous destination for photographing polar bears. We've seen the majestic images and classic wildlife series captured here - but what do these bears see of us? Through a shift in perspective, Nuisance Bear reveals an obstacle course of tourist paparazzi and wildlife officers whom bears must navigate during their annual migration.

【Jack Weisman & Gabriela Osio Vanden】

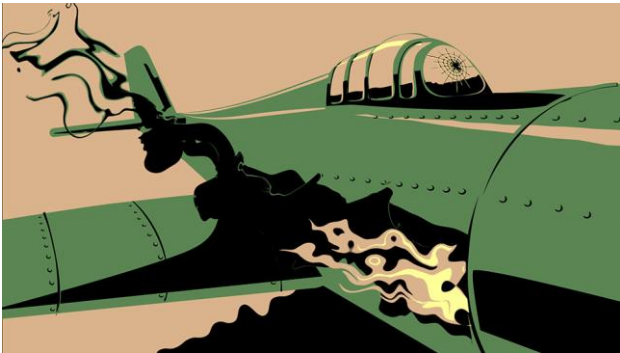
Jack is an award-winning director, cinematographer, and producer whose work has screened at major film festivals including TIFF, Sundance, SXSW, IDFA, True/False, and Hot Docs. The short documentary Nuisance Bear (Canadian Screen Awards Nominee for Best Short Documentary 2022, Honorable Mention: Best Canadian Short Film, TIFF 2021) is his directorial debut.

Gabriela is an award-winning Venezuelan Canadian cinematographer based in Toronto. She brings a background in painting and dance to her images which have premiered at major festivals including TIFF, Camerimage, SXSW, IDFA, and True/False. Her thesis film Rambler was awarded an internship with Phedon Papamichael ASC GSC who she shadowed on Alexander Payne's Downsizing. Gabriela has a BFA in Film Production from York University. The short documentary Nuisance Bear (Canadian Screen Awards Nominee for Best Short Documentary 2022, Honorable Mention: Best Canadian Short Film, TIFF 2021) is her directorial debut.

[Comment] All shots have been carefully selected for their beauty and persuasiveness, and not only are they complete, but because of their strong message, this is a work that we definitely want to deliver to people.

■Non-fiction Program Submissions : 335 (55 countries and regions) Screened : 13
■Prize Money : ¥600,000 (JPY) ■Judges : Shinji Higuchi、Pascal Faul、Makiko Watanabe

Animation Competition Best Short Award [Candidate for The 95th Academy Award Nominee]



『Airborne』 Director : Andrzej Jobczyk
7:36 / Poland / Animation / 2021

Airborne is a surreal animation that connects the world of flying machines with the kingdom of flora and fauna. Engrossed in the fight, pilot loses his target which leads to tragedy. The plane crashes into the crown of a tree. The tragedy that seems to be the end opens a new stage in history.

【Andrzej Jobczyk】

Born in 1985. As a son of an artist and a gardener, he was raised around art and nature. He started his artistic education in an art high school in Lublin where he was focused on drawing, painting and wood carving. Then he became interested in photography and animation.

[Comment] A beautiful work that is original and artistic, despite the limited colors used. While dealing with the universal theme of the cycle of life, a concrete character has appeared. A work that has the power to deliver a message to the audience.

■Animation Program Submissions : 513 (62 countries) Screened : 23
■Prize Money : ¥600,000 (JPY) ■Judges (Alphabetical Order) : Masaya Kakehi、Juri Manase、Tomoyuki Sugiyama



[Michel Wild & Robert Schneider]

Michel Wild is an illustrator, comic-strip artist, musician and filmmaker. He loves to tell his stories with various stylistic instruments. He has already produced short films, animated films, music videos and industrial films. For Tokyo Rain, Michel Wild is responsible for the script, art direction, music, set design, direction and editing.

Robert Schneider is obsessed with filmmaking and photography. He has also been working as a frontend developer for over a decade and is a frequent traveler to Japan. For Tokyo Rain, the second short film which Robert collaborated with Michel, he acts as co-producer, cameraman, colorist, lighting technician and technical manager.

『Tokyo Rain』

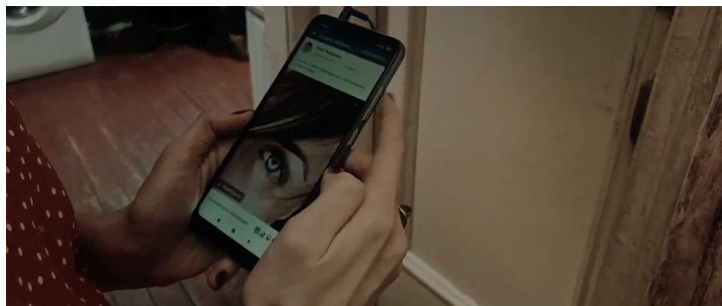
**Director : Michel Wild & Robert Schneider Switzerland/
12:07 / Fantasy / 2021**

Heavy rain has been hitting the facades of Tokyo. Masahiro is alone in his office. He calls his wife, who doesn't seem to be excited about her husband's overtime. He falls asleep on the computer during his monotonous paperwork. He has a nightmare. When he wakes up, nothing seems the way it used to be.

[Comment]it was a high-quality film overall, the story telling and the beauty of graphic visuals, while also addressing the environmental issues.

- Cinematic Tokyo Program Submissions : 257 (46 countries and regions) Screened : 7
- Prize Money : ¥1,000,000 (JPY)

Smartphone Movie Program supported by Sony's Xperia Winner



[Olga Azhnakina]

Born on 02 07 1982 in Torez, Ukraine, graduated from VGIK in 2021, dreams of making movies and making this world a better place. All her films are about life and people. And about how fragile everything is.

『EYES』

**Director : Olga Azhnakina
8 : 0 8 / Russia / Drama / 2020**

Kolya is died. A good man, a son, a husband, a friend, a neighbour. Everybody loved him, but at the wake it turns out that no one knew him indeed.

[Comment]A film with excellent visuals and production, and a perfection as a short film. The theme of uncertainties and loneliness was skillfully expressed by one-shot, and the use of smartphones was excellent.

- Smartphone Film Competition supported by Sony's Xperia Submissions : 602 (71 Countries) Screened : 15
- Prize Money : ¥600,000
- Judges: Eiji Okuda, Kiki Sugino, Hassan Fazil



【Hisato Michigami】

Born in Ishikawa, Japan. 29 years old. Moved to Sapporo & hile in school, discovered the joys of filmmaking. Immediately after graduation, he established the Sapporo-based creative production company Utsuwanium. In parallel with running his own company, actively continues making short films.

『A Strand of Regret』

Director : Hisato Michigami

23:10/ Japan / Drama / 2021

Grandfather has suddenly passed away. The relatives gather at home for the viewing. The boy, Yuito, is unable to look at his grandfather's face because of his guilty conscience. Grandpa, I'm sorry. He takes a small step forward to say just one word to his grandfather. ◦

【Short Shorts Film Festival & ASIA 2022 概要】

- Dates : June 7th (Tue) ~ June 20th (Mon)
※Online Theater available till June 30th (thur)
- Venues : Opening Ceremony at LINE CUBE SHIBUYA
Euro Live
Omotesando HillsSpace O
TORQUE SPICE & HERB, TABLE & COURT
iTSCOM STUDIO & HALL Futakotamagawa Rise
Akasaka intercity conference
※the venues might change due to the pandemic。
- Official Web Site : <https://www.shortshorts.org/2022>
- Presented By : Committee of Short Shorts

【PRESS INQUIRY】

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【Stills are available here:】

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Pn7KXw07LoJb3Ckk1uaRpNh1y5xN6IDc?usp=sharing>