

**Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia**  
"Stories from around Japan"  
**Announcing the winner of the 9th Book Shorts Award**  
**"Sunset Road"**

Uda Tamaki, who wrote a short story  
based on the nursery rhyme "Kono Michi (This Road)"  
Full text available on the Book Shorts website.

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA), one of Asia's largest international short film festivals accredited by the Academy Awards® is pleased to announce the 9th Book Shorts Award winner selected for the short stories project. View all of the grand prize-winning novels have been posted on the Book Shorts website.

**Website** [https://bookshorts.jp/20221024s\\_eng](https://bookshorts.jp/20221024s_eng)

This award is held as part of the 2022 Japan Cultural Expo sponsored "Stories from Around Japan" project. While maintaining the themes of the previous Book Shorts Award, we especially collected more than 700 submissions for "stories from various regions of Japan".

The winner, "Sunset Road" by Uda Tamaki, is a short story based on the children's song "Kono Michi" (This Road). Based on a melody and lyrics that many people in Japan have heard before, the story depicts memories and the relationship between the main character and his father, who has not seen each other since high-school graduation.



**SSFF & ASIA The 9th Book Shorts Award "Sunset Road" by Uda Tamaki**

<Book Shorts Award Selection & Comment>

Having distanced himself from his father since graduating from high school, the main character receives a call from the hospital. The doctor tells him that his father has the possibility of early onset dementia. But the only feelings the main character could feel after his father spent his life gambling and drinking was a long-standing feeling of hatred. Unable to bear it anymore, the mother disappears while the main character who was in elementary school alone with his father. As a result, the father gave up his drinking and gambling and pours his love into the young protagonist, but the sadness of losing his mother and the hatred towards his father never really goes away.

But change will come. On the day of discharge from the hospital, the main character walks along the sunset path leading to his parents' home with a father who has only vague memories of his son. In his mind, the memories of walking this road with his family comes flooding back. And then the nostalgic clock tower chimes. It looks like it will take a little more time for me to forgive everything for this family to be able to live a happy, quiet life.

Award winner Ms. Uda Tamaki has submitted works with dementia motifs many times to book short-related awards, and has had "best book short" selections, but this time she has won the Grand Prize for the first time.

**[Author's Profile]**



**Tamaki Uda**

After graduation of university, he has been working as caregiver for 20 years. Based on his experience of meeting many elderly people and seeing various life, he has been writing stories about aging and family. He would like to produce stories which make people's heart warm.

**[Japan Cultural Expo and SSFF & ASIA]**



FY 2022 Japan Cultural Expo Project Presented and Co-presented by  
Japan Arts Council and Agency for Cultural Affairs, Government of Japan

SSFF & ASIA develops a project which create short stories and short films with filmmakers and authors with Japan Cultural Expo.  
Japan Cultural Expo : <https://www.shortshorts.org/japanculturalexpo/en/>

**[About Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA)]**



In 1999, actor Tetsuya Bessho, member of the Screen Actors Guild of America (SAG), has worked to introduce the then new genre, "short films," which he first encountered in the United States, to film fans in Japan as the American Short Shorts Film Festival.  
In 2001, the festival was renamed the Short Shorts Film Festival.  
In 2004, SSFF was recognized as an Academy Award® accredited film festival.  
In the same year, with the aim of promoting new visual culture from Asia and nurturing up-and-coming young filmmakers, the Short Shorts Film Festival Asia (SSFF ASIA, co-sponsored by Tokyo Metropolitan Government) was established and the festival is now known collectively as SSFF & ASIA. To commemorate the festival's 20th anniversary in 2018, the Grand Prix film was named the "George Lucas Award" in honor of director George Lucas.  
In January 2019, the Short Shorts Film Festival in Hollywood was held to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the festival. Beginning with the 2019 festival, in addition to the Official Competitions (International, Asia International, and Japan), the Non-Fiction Competition and this year, the Animation Competition Best Short Award winners have also become eligible for nomination at the Academy Awards the following year.  
SSFF & ASIA will continue to support young creators through the festival.  
<https://www.shortshorts.org/index-en.php>

**PRESS INQUIRY**

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**Still's are available here:**

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GCP83Av\\_qipqmzcdO2Vp9XaV6l9LsQtj?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GCP83Av_qipqmzcdO2Vp9XaV6l9LsQtj?usp=sharing)