

One of Asia's Biggest International Film Festivals accredited by the Academy Awards®

This Anniversary year's theme is "UNLOCK"
In hopes of opening the door to the future of cinema
Short Shorts Film Festival 2023!!

【Dates : June 6 (Tue) ~ June 26 (Mon) Online Venue April 27 (Thu)】

Comments from Juries and Supporters: Naomi Kawase, Masato Harada, Hidetoshi Nakata and more arrived

Short Shorts Film Festival & ASIA 2023, accredited by the Academy Awards, will be held from June 6th (Tue) to June 26th (Tue) at various venues in Tokyo and will also start streaming at Online Venue (April 27th~).

This year, SSFF & ASIA is celebrating the 25th anniversary of its International Competition and the 20th anniversary of its Asia-Japan Competition.

Over the past 25 years, SSFF & ASIA has received 107,844 submissions from around the world, submissions from 99,571 directors, and more than 850,000 people have attended the festival. The festival has been held in Japan, United States, Mexico, Myanmar, Malaysia, and Singapore.

While being mindful of the festival community that has cultivated over the years, with our filmmakers and supporters, in hopes to "UNLOCK" a new way of being, SSFF & ASIA will continue to launch a platform that will manage and connect creators and supporters. Such as the "Unlock -Jumping into a New World- Program", a series of films that depict the life after COVID, and festival's promotion video contest where audience could vote using NFTs*. *further detail is on the 2nd page.

Since the pandemic, we are also having filmmakers visit Japan for the first time in three years.

This year, a total of 5196 films were submitted to the festival from 120 countries and regions around the world. The festival gathered a number of short films that truly reflect the world today, such as a drama that depicts families under the Ukraine and Russia's war and an animation film produced by A. We strongly feel that there is a power to "film" to liberate people's hearts and emotions, even through the changes of technology over time.

The screening lineup for the Official Competition (International, Asia International, and Japan Live Action, Non-Fiction, and Animation categories), which can lead to Academy Award nominations and other selected films, will be announced on April 27 (Thu).

【Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2023 Outline】

■Festival President : Tetsuya Bessho

■Period : June 6th (TUE) ~ June 26th (MON)

Online Venue; April 27th (THU) ~ July 9th (SUN)

■Screening Venues :

TORQUE SPICE & HERB, TABLE & COURT (Shibuya) 、
 Futakotamagawa Rise Studio & Hall ,Euro Live,
 Omotesando Hills Space O、 Akasaka Intercity Conference
 Online Venue ※Schedules are varied depends on each venue

■Admission : Free ※some events may be charged

Seats Reservation from April 27

■Inquiry : info@shortshorts.org

■Official Site : <https://shortshorts.org/2023/en/>

2023 website opens on April 27

■Organizer : Committee for Short Shorts / Committee for Short Shorts Asia



SSFF & ASIA 2023 UNLOCK Movie Contest :

Call for Entry for Promotion Video for the Festival's Anniversary

Best Video selected by votes with NFTs will be screened at the Festival Ceremony & get 100,000JPY

We are looking for UNLOCK-themed videos to be screened at the festival ceremony.

We will distribute voting rights in the NFT Marketplace, a Web 3.0 creator data management service, so that festival supporters can decide which video will be screened at the ceremony. UNLOCK your talents!!

Please download the SSFF & ASIA 2023 Logo and "UNLOCK" Visual from the link and use those in your clip video.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jQ8mu5KrQ17G3UFQsYhPdrINEzSOrVEb>



【Guideline】

- Application Period : March 29, 2023 (Wednesday) 14:00 - May 8, 2023 (Monday) 24:00 (JPT)
- Theme : UNLOCK
- Length: Under 20 seconds
- Production Year: Any
- Genre: Any

Movie Data

- Format : MOV or MP4
- Frame : 1920×1080 recommended
- Aspect : 16:9
- Video Codec : ProRes 422 / h.264
- Audio Codec : PCM / AAC

Sample Reference (SSFF & ASIA 2021 「CINEMADventure」 Festival Promotion Video 2021)

<https://youtu.be/s5jjgelA42A>

【How to Apply】

①Please fill in the form below and upload & send your movie

Include the URL of your submission in the application form.

<https://forms.gle/9FFWqpyG1EyWg8YC8>

②The applicant must post his/her work on Twitter, Instagram, or TikTok, and follow the following accounts and mention them in the postings. They must also post with "#ssffunlockmovie"

Twitter : @ssff_en https://twitter.com/ssff_en

Instagram : @ssff.official <https://www.instagram.com/ssff.official/>

TikTok : @ssff.official <https://www.tiktok.com/@ssff.official>

【Award】

The short clip will be selected on the voting* page on the Visual Voice Asset Platform (VVAP, tentative), a new video management platform to be opened by Visual Voice Inc. in conjunction with SSFF & ASIA 2023 and by the judging by the festival committee.

*Voting is open to those who have received an NFT with voting rights at the VVAP.

【Voting Period】

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 14:00 - Monday, May 29, 2023 24:00

【Prize】

*Best Short Clip Award: 100,000 yen

★For further detail : https://v-voice.jp/web3/news/unlock_movie_contest-2023.html

Comments from SSFF & ASIA Successive Juries and Supporters

SSFF & ASIA held a kick off party for the 25th & 20th anniversary. Successive festival juries and supporters got together and looked back the festival's history and discussed the future of short films. We have received warm messages from them.



Naomi Kawase (Filmmaker)

Most of the expressive activities were restricted due to COVID. I cannot help but feel respect for those who continued their passion and art despite these circumstances. Because I am also involved in the Film Festival in Nara, I can relate to the difficulties that lie in trying to continue. Short films are a place where creators can express and challenge themselves and Film Festivals are the place to show the world what you've got. It is a place where you could prove and get support from others. I would like to continue to be a part of this team from Nara.



Momoko Ando (Filmmaker)

I am very impressed by Mr. Bessho and his skills, his love for movies, and his power to keep this unique film festival alive and growing every year. This year we also have the Kochi prefecture collaboration and the Ryoma Kigan Film Festival. I wish SSFF & ASIA a wonderful year to all the staff and those who are involved.

Masato Harada (Filmmaker / 2013 Jury)

The fascination of Short Films are the fact that the challenges that the filmmaker is overcoming can be seen. I hope that it will always be a place where creators can engage themselves to challenge themselves.

Hidetoshi Nakata (Former Football Player/ 2008 Jury)

Congratulations on the 25th anniversary of the festival, which I've supported since the beginning in 1999. The festival has been opening doors to Asian Cinema for all even before the world had recognized its greatness. I hope that the festival will continue to connect and develop the film industry in Asia and the world. You have my continues support.

Message from SSFF & ASIA President, Tetsuya Bessho



Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia celebrates its 25th anniversary in 2023

June 4th, 1999, our festival started on this day, from the cities of street culture: Shibuya, Harajuku and Omotesando. Five years later, we established the "Asia International Program" as a partner project, gathering a fresh perspective from Asia and excitement from the world to Japan. Today, we have expanded into a festival that allows promising young filmmakers to come together, and we focus on "Today's Visual Culture" with all the support of everybody who loves cinema.

In June, 2023, the festival celebrates its 25th anniversary. I would like to share this celebration of joy with everyone who has loved, come together, and supported our festival. Thank you so much!

In addition, I hope this festival can be a "REUNION" for everyone, who has supported us from our opening year, but also for all of you who have participated at our festival up until today.

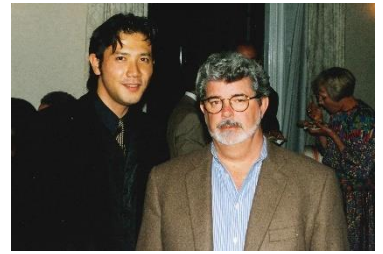
In this era where we are receiving endless amounts of information, we believe in the power of motion pictures - especially cinema! With this, the festival will act as the link between the past and future of cinema culture and the cinema industry.

I thank you with all my heart; to the ones who fund, support and cooperate with us, and, above all, for all of you who attend our festival every year.

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia President, Tetsuya Bessho

History of Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia

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| 1999 | <p>American Short Shorts was born.</p> <p>On June 4th, 1999, the first international short film festival in Japan was born in Harajuku, Tokyo.</p> <p>American Short Shorts screened high quality short films featured at the Academy Awards®, Sundance Film Festival, and early works of George Lucas.</p> <p>George Lucas has since supported Short Shorts every year.</p> |
| 2000 ~2007 | <p>■2000 After the festival in Tokyo, Short Shorts toured nationally to Sapporo, Nagoya, Osaka, and Okinawa.</p> <p>■2002 The name of the festival changed to Short Shorts Film Festival (SSFF), and began to screen not only American shorts, but also films from across the world, shifting its focus to become more global.</p> <p>SSFF went to LA, USA for the first time and the festival was held at the Egyptian Theatre in Hollywood.</p> <p>■2004 SSFF received accreditation from the Academy Awards®. The Grand Prix winner has the chance to be nominated in the short film categories.</p> <p>"Japan and Asia" became an added focus for the festival. Being co-organized by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, it then changed its name to Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF&ASIA). The two festivals are held at the same time every year.</p> <p>■2005 Short Shorts Film Festival EXPO 2005 was held at the 2005 World Exposition in Aichi, Japan, and followed the theme: "Wisdom of Nature".</p> <p>■2006 Short Shorts Film Festival in Mexico was held in Mexico City.</p> |
| 2008 ~2013 | <p>Opened a movie theater specializing in short film and new programs for the festival were introduced.</p> <p>■2008 Short Shorts opened a theater only for short films, named Brillia Short Shorts Theater. - The STOP! Global Warming Competition was introduced, which has since been renamed the Save the Earth! Competition.</p> <p>■2009 "Up in the Air" directed by Jason Reitman, who won the Audience Award at our festival in 2001, received six Academy Award® nominations including Best Director.</p> <p>- The Music Shorts Competition was established, as well as the Let's Travel! Project with Japan Tourism Agency.</p> <p>■2011 With the aftermath of the 2011 Tōhoku earthquake and tsunami, Short Shorts produced a charity film and organized a charity auction under the theme of "Smile Japan by Power of Film!"</p> <p>- Short Shorts started festival partnerships with foreign short film festivals such as Asiana International Short Film Festival (Korea) and Kaohsiung Film Festival (Taiwan).</p> <p>■2012 Short Film Day was established on June 4th, the same day that the festival was held in its first year.</p> <p>■2013 - The 15th anniversary of Short Shorts Film Festival and the 10th anniversary of Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia. The festival was also held at the Tokyo SKY TREE TOWN® to commemorate their first anniversary.</p> |
| 2014 ~2017 | <p>Supporting young filmmakers in making films across the world. The era of launching new projects.</p> <p>■2014- "TABIMOJA" was created to introduce attractive regions of Japan using local movies. "Oh Lucy!" directed by Atsuko Hirayanagi, which won the Grand Prix in 2012, received a lot of attention at Cannes and Sundance Film Festival.</p> <p>■2015 "BOOK SHORTS" was introduced; a project that solicits short novels to be produced into short films.</p> <p>■2016 - SSFF & ASIA established BRANDED SHORTS which focuses on branded movies for clients and organizations.</p> <p>■2017 2016 Grand Prix winner "Sing" directed by Kristóf Deák won the Oscar for Best Live Action Short at the Academy Awards®.</p> <p>- Carried out a new project called "CINEMA FIGHTERS", with LDH led by EXILE HERO.</p> |
| 2018- 2022 | <p>■2018 -SSFF & ASIA Grand Prix Award has been renamed the "George Lucas Award"</p> <p>-Opened "Brillia Short Shorts Theater Online"</p> <p>-SSFF & ASIA in Hollywood was held in LA, USA</p> <p>■2019 In addition to the Official Competitions, Non-Fiction competition became eligible for the Academy Awards® short film category</p> <p>- festival online venue was held for the first time</p> <p>■2021 - "Global Spotlight Award", given to the film which attracted worldwide attention, was established -"Smartphone Film Competition" was established</p> <p>■2022 -Best Short Award winners from the five competitions, including new recognized "Animation Competition" will be eligible for nomination at the annual Academy Awards®</p> <p>the following year the total number of festival online venue users hit over 55,000</p> |



SSFF & ASIA President & George Lucas



SSFF & ASIA in LA at Egyptian Theater



SSFF ASIA which focuses on short from Asia & Japan started



SSFF Expo was held at Nagoya, Aichi



International Tour was held in Mexico



Brillia Short Shorts Theater was Open



SSFF & ASIA Grand Prix winner got an Oscar / Kristóf Deák

【Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia】



[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.

【Official Website】 <https://www.shortshorts.org/index-en.php>

※SSFF & ASIA 2023 website will open on April 27

[Press Inquiry]

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Stills are available from this Link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/17HuNjWld1PxWzbo9E3WaCZ7t-8xXIGIF?usp=sharing>