

## Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2023

### The film festival's special site & Online Venue open TODAY

About 200 works selected from over 5,215 entries

**Nominated films leading to the Academy Awards® announced!**

Japan premieres from Chris Rock, Ben Affleck & Matt Damon

Special screenings including works narrated by Wim Wenders

Up and Coming filmmakers' talents are worth a special look

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA) 2023, one of the largest international short film festivals in Asia and accredited by the US Academy Awards announced today on the festival's official website the nominated films and special screening films. <https://shortshorts.org/2023/en/index.html>

Beginning with the opening ceremony on June 6th (Tuesday), this year's film festival will be held at multiple venues in Tokyo until the award ceremony on June 26th (Monday). The online venue will open on April 27th (Thursday), where you can enjoy selected short films from all over the country until July 10th (Monday).

#### ◆ Announcement of about 200 nominations selected from 5,215 works gathered from 120 countries and regions around the world

In the Japan section of the official competition leading to the Academy Awards nomination, short films featuring actors turned directors Kengo Kora, Tao Tsuchiya, Taishi Nakagawa, Mansai Nomura, Hiroshi Tamaki and Eita Nagayama are among the nominees.

#### ◆ Japan premieres and special screenings

Chris Rock & Javier Bardem star in "LOOK AT ME" to be screened as a special film at the festival

"For People in Trouble," produced by Matt Damon and Ben Affleck

"IN QUANTO A NOI," narrated by Wim Wenders, "BI GAN A SHORT STORY" a fable by a notable director from China's eighth generation; Berlin International Film Festival winner, Academy Award nominee, Films by rising star directors such as "HAULOUT," which the world of cinema is watching with excitement will also be screened.

#### ◆ "Unlock - Dive into a new world - "

A program that draws the post-COVID world from the perspective of filmmakers by introducing a group of works that consider new forms of communication between avatars and AI x humans, cultural fusion, and digital identity.

Furthermore, in the U-25 project, where the talents of Generation Z in Japan blossom, and in the smartphone film category supported by Xperia™, films set against the backdrop of war-torn Ukraine and films that follow changes due to climate change, and other short films from around the world will be screened. We will deliver a lineup that brings together the world's "now" unique to short films.

#### ◆The future of movies and film festivals

The world premiere of "Short Film Envisioning the Future" by NTT and Short Shorts, and the beta version of the Web 3.0 era, which will finally be launched today.

Experience film festival projects that UNLOCK for the future, such as creator's asset management platform "LIFE LOG BOX".

Some of the awards will be announced ahead of the festival and presented at the opening ceremony on Tuesday, June 6th. The Grand Prix will be announced at the award ceremony on Monday, June 26th.



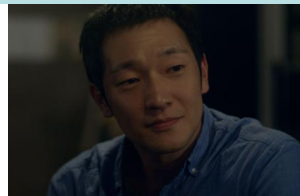
『Look At Me』

Director : Sally Potter



『For People In Trouble』

Director : Alex Lawther



『Contact Point』

Director : Jay Choi



『IN QUANTO A NOI  
(FROM OUR SIDE)』

Director : Simon Massi



『Prelude』

Director : Tao Tsuchiya



『COUNT 100』

Director : Hiroshi Tamaki



『Seen』

Director : Shinji Hamasaki



『The Izakaya Dialogue』

Director : Hisato Michigami

At the beginning of 2016, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, in association with the Short Shorts Film Festival & ASIA (SSFF & ASIA), Asia's biggest international short film festival, initiated a project to showcase Tokyo's various charms as part of plans to make people inside and outside the country want to visit Tokyo. This project makes use of the talented directors who have participated at SSFF & ASIA, to spread the appeal of Tokyo far and wide, at home and abroad, as well as to help nurture young filmmakers.



## Cinematic Tokyo Competition ※Streaming starts from Tue, May 30<sup>th</sup>

### Cinematic Tokyo Competition Nominated Films

(Clockwise from left.)

『Story to Tell』

Director : Sayaka Nakane

『snow escape』

Director : Naoto Kawashima

『BARISAN TOKYO』

Director : Yoshitsugu Koyanagi

『Pieces of You』

Director : Raymond Doan

『In Paris too』

Director : Samuel Frezoul

Online

Real

## The World of Avatar, AI, Web 3.0, and After Corona Now: "Unlock - Dive Into the New World - Program"

Online

Real

### 『Teleporting』

Director : Arum Nam, Chifumi Tanzawa,  
Nana Noka, Ohyeon Kwon/Japan/Korea  
/22:33/Documentary/2022

Four asian girls teleport into Cyber Feminist  
Network. Can we imagine different realities  
through new connections?

### 『HYSTERESIS』

Director : Robert Seidel/Germany  
/5:05/Experimental/2021

HYSTERESIS shows animated drawings  
projected onto performer using AI to  
mediate these transformative re-  
presentations.

### 『My Father in the Cloud』

Director : Ruth Patir/Israel/24:46

Director Ruth Patir wants to dance  
with her late father again. In her  
docu-animation film she employs new  
technologies, from motion capture to  
AI, as she tries to cheat death in the  
era of virtual realities.

## Introducing notable works from each competition and special program!

This year, a total of 5,196 films were submitted to the festival from 120 countries and regions around the world. Entries from the U.S., Japan (16%), France, and China were particularly strong. The festival attracted many films from young creators, female directors, first-time directors, and students. Most of them accumulated about a third of its entries. Many of the films showed the creators' passion and ideas shining through the limited resources the creators had due to covid. Works with one location and a small cast were particularly noticeable. In addition, there were films that were set in Ukraine in addition, and films utilizing AI that truly reflected the world of today!

### 【International Competition Special Screening】

Chris Rock & Javier Bardem

Online

Real

### 『LOOK AT ME』

Director : Sally Potter/United Kingdom, United States/16:00/Drama/2022

A fundraising gala becomes the arena for a struggle between two men;  
one, the gala director and the other, a failing rock drummer.

As their battle for expression and control escalates, against a relentless  
rhythmic backdrop their public and private selves explosively collide.





Produce by Matt Damon and Ben Affleck

Online

Real

『For People in Trouble』

Director : Alex Lawther/UK/16:05/Sci-Fi/2022

Jenny and Paul meet at a pub. Quickly, they fall in love. The beginnings of their relationship blossom against a world that's falling fall apart. Jenny becomes radicalised; Europe moves further to the Right; martial law is in place.

Online

Real

【Asia International Competition Special Screening】

Korean Popular Star Son Seok-goo



『Contact Point』

Director : Jay Choi/Korea/18:00/ Drama / 2015

Sun-woo receives a call from his ex-girlfriend Ji-young, many years after their last meeting. Sun-woo agrees to meet her at at their old hangout and is surprised to find out that Ji-young now has a young daughter and is about to go through a divorce. The pair head to a motel and spend a romantic night. The next morning, however, Sun-woo realises he was nothing more than a distraction for Ji-young, and the two go their separate ways.

Real

China's eighth generation filmmaker



『BI GAN A SHORT STORY』

Director : Bi Gan/China/14:57/Experimental/2022

"What is the most precious thing in the world?" Asked by a scarecrow, a black cat in a trench coat sets off on a journey to find the answer.

Online

Real

【Japan Competition Special Screening & Pick Ups】



『Izakaya Dialogue』

Director : Hisato Michigami/Japan/ 25:00 /Drama/2022

Swedish student Mark finds himself disillusioned by the conformity around him in Japan. But his life changes when he crosses paths with Yuuka, who works at a quaint izakaya in Akasaka, Tokyo, and who poses him a question about happiness, triggering an unconventional challenge between the two.

Online

Real



『STRANGE』

Director : Ken Ochiai/15:00/Japan/Drama/2023

One evening a shy suburban Tokyo high school student, Odeko, meets a tearful Kuma dressed in drag in a park. As their earnest friendship develops, Kuma's struggle to live confidently with himself changes Odeko's timidity as well.

Online

Real



『Aufguss』

Director : Daigo Matsui/24:52/Japan/Drama/2022

Born in 1985 in Fukuoka, Matsui organized a drama group 5-Jigen. "Afro Tanaka"(2012) was his first feature film as a director, followed by "Watashitachi no haa haa"(2015), "Remain in Twilight"(2021), TV drama series "Byplayers" (2017-2021), and more. His other works "Just Remembering" and "Hand" were screened in 2022.

**【Animation Division Special Screening】 June 6 (Tuesday) - Distribution**



**Narrated by Wim Wenders**

**『IN QUANTO A NOI (FROM OUR SIDE)』**

**Director : Simone Massi /Italy/5:00/Animation/2022**

History flows, the darkness wets our clothes.

Online

Real



**Digital Hollywood presents  
Digital Fronteer Gran-Prix 2023  
Best Animation Award**

**『Horizon』**

**Director : Taiga Kawazoe/Japan/6:00/Drama/2023**

An astronaut's daughter is determined to become an astronaut to see the world her father once did before he died on duty.

Online

Real

**【Non-fiction section Special Screening】 Friday, June 9 - Screening June 26 - Distribution**



**2022 Berlinale Winner  
Documentary depicting Climate Change**

**『HAULOUT』**

**Director : Evgenia Arbugaeva and Maxim Arbugaev/United Kingdom/25:00/Documentary/2022**

On a remote coast of the Siberian Arctic in a wind-battered hut, a lonely man waits to witness an ancient gathering. But warming seas and rising temperatures bring an unexpected change, and he soon finds himself overwhelmed.

Online

Real

**【Smartphone Film Competition supported by Sony's Xperia (Pick Up)】 June 6 (Tuesday) - Distribution**



**What the war of Ukraine & Russia affects art**

**『The creation of a symbolic painting』**

**Director : Yevheniia Kolesnykova/Ukraine/9:39/Documentary/2022**

The film is about the process of creating paintings on the situation in Ukraine after February 24 by Chilean artist Max Sir.

Online

Real

**【U-25 Project (Pick Up)】 June 6 (Tuesday) - Distribution**



**Junior High Student is the director!  
Point of views of Japanese generation Z**

**『The impact of a single word』**

**Director : Shusuke Kowata/Japan/4:54/Drama/2023**

Midori is an elementary student who doesn't like tidying up. In the morning, she makes a fuss about missing her textbook and pencil box and is scolded by her mother again. On returning home from school, she unwillingly starts tidying her room. Then, she happens to pick up a tablet and sees an advertisement for a ring with a copy that says "It can delete anything."

Online

Real

**【War and the Power to Live Program supported by Red Cross (Pick up)】 June 6 (Tuesday) - Distribution**



**Wars and other situations of violence ruin many people's  
lives all over the world, even in the COVID pandemic.**

**『Warrior』 (Warrior)**

**Director : Amanbek Azhyamat/KYRGYZSTAN/20:30/Drama/Fantasy/2022**

On the battlefield, a soldier is struck by a bullet, losing his consciousness. When he comes to his senses, he finds himself another world. He meets a Stone Age warrior, a medieval warrior with a sword, and two soldiers - from World War I and World War II.

Online

Real



SSFF & ASIA sent out awards and messages related to SDGs through film with "Save the Earth! Minister of the Environment Award", as well as "War and the Power to Live", "Diversity" and female filmmakers' project. From this year's collection of works, you may be able to feel "New Standard" of the post pandemic world.

## 【Shibuya Diversity Program (Pickup)】 June 6 (Tuesday) - Distribution



**Race, Religion, Immigrants, LGBTQ+...  
Films to think about diversity in the world**

Online

Real

### 『Look Like You』

**Director : Snigdha Kapoor/United States/12:40/Drama/2022**

While visiting the adoptive family of her eight-year-old biological son, Tara overcomes the hesitation of his parents to relay advice she gathered from growing up as a queer outcast.

## 【Women in Cinema Project (Pickup)】 June 6 (Thursday) - Distribution



**A project to support female filmmakers  
around the world**

Online

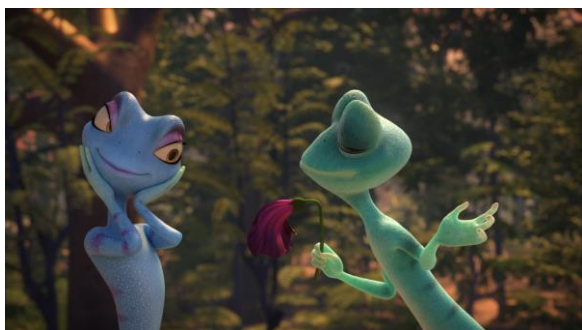
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### 『Made of Flesh』

**Director : Florence Rochat, S  r  na Robin/ France/Belgium/18:54/ Drama/2022**

With a touch of blush and a few drops of lip gloss, Lucie gets ready for her training to become a motor show hostess. A lifelong car enthusiast, she hopes to be noticed by the prestigious EBBE brand. However, the training has only one goal: to turn her and 15 other girls into premium women.

## 【Kids Program (Pick-up)】 June 6 (Thursday) - Distribution



**Message from World to children  
who are SDG native**

Online

Real

### 『Social Chameleon』

**Director : Alex Ross/USA/9:21/Animation/2022**

Cosmo the Chameleon doesn't fit in with the other animals. No matter how hard he tries, he just can't seem to find his place in the jungle. Then, everything changes when he meets another chameleon who shows him how to live by his own true colors!

**Save the Planet! Nominees for the Minister of the Environment Award: Awards to be announced on June 5 (Sunday), Environment Day**

**Award-winning works will be distributed from Thursday, June 6**



### 『OUR FUTURES』

※International Division

**Director : Thibault MARTIN/ France/ 24:38/ Drama/2023**

A face-to-face meeting behind closed doors on the theme of Amazon deforestation brings together two heads of state. At the same time, a school director accompanies a student particularly concerned by the climate emergency to an unknown destination.

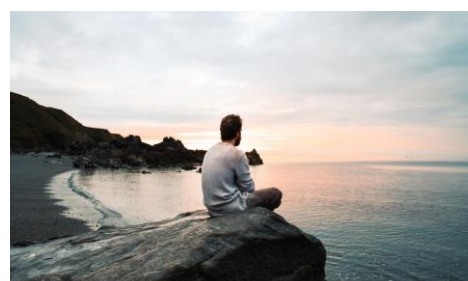


### 『Desert Lights』

※International Division

**Director : Katherina Harder/ chile/18:56/Drama/2022**

In the middle of Atacama desert, Antay(12) sees his town disappearing due to the drought. Alongside his friends and their football team, they will try to hang on to the last sunrises, their childhood fragments and the ties with those who still resist.



### 『Leader』

※Smartphone Film Competition supported by Xperia

**Director : Chris Overton/Kingdom/ 10:52/Drama/2021**

Donnie lives on his own in a very remote area by the sea. He creates sculptures from ocean waste until one day the tide changes and he inspires a new normal.

## 【AOI TYO Works】 Streaming starts from Thu. April 27

### Short films for screening and contents for young creators

### World pay attention to the stop-motion samurai film featuring Jingoro Hidari

Creative partners, AOI TYO Group, state their purpose "Making the world into a brighter place through the power of creation." They are developing a wide range of content production and communication design business in Japan and abroad. In addition, as a company with overwhelming strength in advertising video and film production, They are engaged in providing opportunities for young filmmakers.



©dwarf/Whatever/TEOARAT

#### 『HIDARI』 (Animation Program)

**Director : Masashi Kawamura/  
Iku Ogawa/Japan/5:32/Animation  
/2023**

Having lost his foster parent and right arm to the betrayal of his peers, legendary craftsman "Jingoro Hidari" is on a journey of revenge with a mechanical prosthetic arm and his sidekick, "Sleeping Cat." Finally, Jingoro faces one of his adversaries "Inumaru" in a fight to the death.

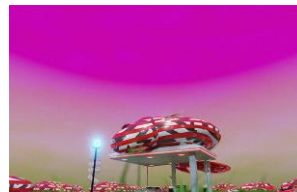


Domo©NHK • TYO  
Domo Animation©Domo Production Committee.

#### 『Domo-kun and the Egg』 (Kids Program)

**Director : Tsuneo Goda/Japan  
/5:04/Animation/2005**

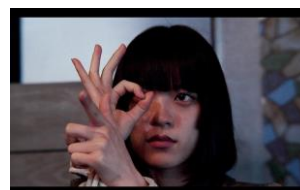
Domo stumbles upon an egg in a field. His old rabbit friend, Mr.Usaji, tells him to return the egg, but he enthusiastically takes on the role of parent bird and diligently warms the egg. When the egg hatches, a reptile emerges instead of a bird. Still delighted, Domo begins training to fly like a bird.



#### 『Tribe X』

**TYO Student Movie Award Gold Winner  
DirectorRintaroUekawa/Japan/1:00/  
Animation/2023**

CG work inspired by the culture of the Guro tribe

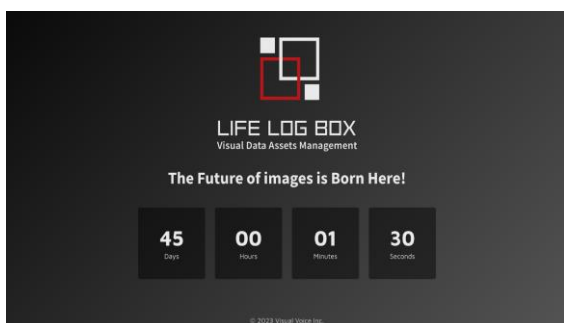


#### 『Palm』

**TYO Student Movie Award Silver Winner  
Director : Shoya Kashiwai  
Japan/1:00/xperimental/2023**

A dancing girl and a watchman

## New creator data management service "LIFE LOG BOX" β version opens



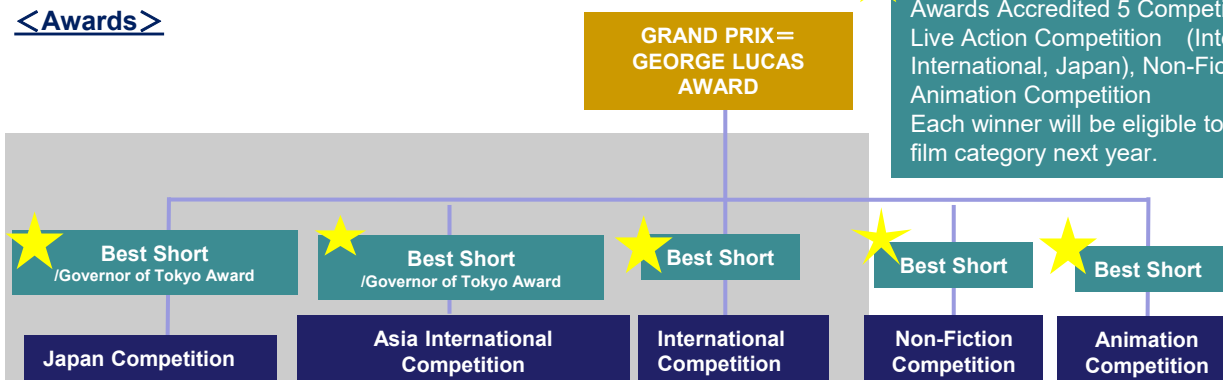
In advance of the launch of the new creator data management service "LIFE LOG BOX" scheduled to open on June 8th, a beta version of the service is now open for creators to register and introduce their portfolios and works on the platform. A function will also be added to allow users to buy and sell the rights to the works of creators around the world on NFT. \*Scheduled for the second half of May. URL:

<https://lifelogbox.com/en/>

## 【Competitions & Awards】

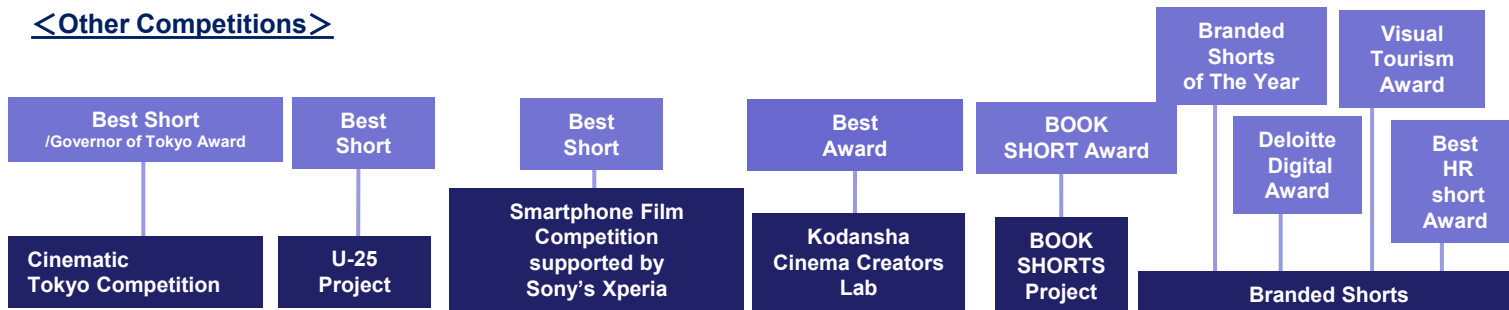
Official Competition supported by Sony best short awards and the Grand Prix will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on Monday, June 26. The Opening Ceremony will be held on June 6.

### <Awards>



Grand-Prix is selected from winners of the Academy Awards Accredited 5 Competitions:  
Live Action Competition (International, Asia International, Japan), Non-Fiction Competition and Animation Competition  
Each winner will be eligible to the Oscar of the short film category next year.

## <Other Competitions>



※In addition to the competitions, the following awards will be given to the best shorts out of all the submissions.

- Save the Earth ! Minister's Award, Ministry of Environment** ・ ・ ・ Worldwide environmental issues
- J-WAVE Sound of Cinema Award** ・ ・ ・ Selected by a jury of J-Wave listeners
- Shibuya Diversity Award** ・ ・ ・ Gender, ethnicity, human rights, diversity themes
- HOPPY HAPPY AWARD** ・ ・ ・ 「Be HAPPY with HOPPY」 Shorts that convey this theme
- Deloitte Digital Award** ・ ・ ・ Award given to the Branded Short which has theme of "fusion of digital and humanity" under the following criteria: Purpose, New, Design, Human Experience and Engagement.
- MILBON BEAUTY AWARD** ・ ・ ・ Given to the short film that best embodies "beauty" from among the selected films.
- Audience Award** ・ ・ ・ Audience members will vote to give the award to one winner from the each of the main competition categories listed.
- Best Actor Award** ・ ・ ・ Winners will be selected from each of the three official competitions (International, Asia International & Japan Competition).
- Global Spotlight Award** ・ ・ ・ Given to the creator or artist of a short film that inspires a broad audience and receives widespread, global attention.
- Most Viewed Award** ・ ・ ・ Award for the most viewed film online at the Festival from the competition films screened online from June 4.



### 【Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2023 Outline】

- Festival President : Tetsuya Bessho
- Period : June 6th (TUE) ~ June 26th (MON)  
Online Venue; April 27<sup>th</sup> (THU) ~ July 10th (Mon)
- 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](mailto:info@shortshorts.org)
- Official Site : <https://shortshorts.org/2023/en/>
- Organizer : Committee for Short Shorts / Committee for Short Shorts Asia

### 【Short Shorts Film Festival & 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.

### Press Inquiry:

Committee for Short Shorts PR: Fuyumi Tanaka E-mail [press@shortshorts.org](mailto:press@shortshorts.org)

【Still images are available here】

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ji0bq\\_xQX2Yv3Bf-O5VlkdAt8bmc-z3p?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ji0bq_xQX2Yv3Bf-O5VlkdAt8bmc-z3p?usp=sharing)