

25th Anniversary Year Kicks-off!

One of the biggest international short film festivals in Asia, accredited by the Academy Awards®

『Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2023』

Kengo Kora, Hiroshi Tamaki, Taishi Nakagawa, Mansai Nomura, Tao Tsuchiya, Yumi Adachi,

Director Tetsuya Chihara, LiLiCo, & others attend the opening ceremony!

Hiroshi Tamaki on his debut as director, "I wanted to concentrate on directing, but reluctantly made an appearance as well."



The Opening Ceremony of the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2023 (SSFF & ASIA), one of the biggest international short film festivals in Asia & accredited by the Academy Awards, was held on June 6, 2023 (Tues) at LINE CUBE SHIBUYA.

About 200 films selected from over 5215 films, including 5196 films from 120 countries and regions around the world & special screenings, will be available online and at five venues in Tokyo. At the same time, we introduced various special projects and announced five awards: Shibuya Diversity Award, U-25 Project, MILBON BEAUTY AWARD, J-WAVE SOUND OF CINEMA Award, and the Global Spotlight Award. For the 3rd Actors Short Film Project, which is produced by WOWOW, a broadcasting company, actors Kengo Kora, Hiroshi Tamaki, Taishi Nakagawa, Mansai Nomura appeared on stage along with actress Tao Tsuchiya who appeared online & talked about the challenges of directing for the 1st time. Mr. Kora said, "The script was both fun and difficult. I once tried to write a script that I wanted to do someday, but I thought it would be difficult to write a script by myself, and this time it took half a year to produce.

Mr. Tamaki, as 1st time director, said, "out of 100 words that came to my mind, I connected the ones that seemed to have a message to make a story. It was difficult to share the image in my mind with the staff, but it was just "fun" and I wanted to keep shooting forever. I wanted to devote myself to the position of director, but there was a rule that the actor has to appear as well so I did so reluctantly," inviting laughter from the audience. Mr. Nakagawa, who directed a story about friendship, said, "The story is not from real experience, but three boys will appear who represent a certain era. I wanted to make a work with people of the same generation & I was particular about showing the youth of today vividly, including the language." Mr. Nomura, who also wrote the script said, "This time, I chose an intersection as the shooting location, so every time a car passed by, I had to say 'Wait a minute!' At the end of the day, while everyone was cleaning up, I decided to shoot a scene where I dance alone at midnight, and it was a battle with the limited 2-day shoot."



Tao Tsuchiya, who directed & wrote the script, "It was a very happy time. I learned a lot from being able to participate in casting that I normally don't as an actor, and my respect for the crew has grown again. Arimura Kasumi's role is a very difficult role, but I thought that there was no one else who could express this delicate and difficult role." She said with a smile while recalling when she actually made the offer to Kasumi Arimura.

In addition, director Tetsuya Chihara, along with Yumi Adachi and Kotona Minami of the cast appeared for the film "I SCREAM FEVER." When asked by festival ambassador LiLiCo how she felt about playing the role of a mother with a daughter who is in the prime of puberty, Adachi said, "Since I have a daughter in high school, I was able to incorporate that feeling into my performance, and I thought that the character I played had an irresistible charm, so I enjoyed playing it." Minami, who played the main character, said, "In the film the mother says, 'You should show affection to the person you love while you're with them,' I really believed that & played the role that way."



For the Global Spotlight Award, which concluded the opening ceremony, the short film "TRAP by SEO IN GUK" directed and starred by the popular Korean star Seo In Guk, considered one of the new Korean wave stars, said in a video message, "I stretched my imagination to play the main character who is trying to escape. There are a few action scenes in the second half, but I was able to shoot those difficult scenes so I'm very satisfied. I want many people to see my work through film festivals."

The Short Shorts Film Festival was inaugurated in 1999, and this year marks the 25th anniversary of the International Competition and the 20th anniversary of the Asia/Japan Competition. Festival President Tetsuya Bessho said, "This year, which is a celebration, we will continue to value the history and knowledge we have cultivated with the filmmakers, the network of supporters, the community, and the film festival."

LiLiCo, who has worked with Bessho as an MC, said, "Today is the beginning. You never know what the film festival will bring in the future, so keep an eye out!"

*The archive of this ceremony is on YouTube (<https://shortshorts.org/2023/en/opening-ceremony/>)



レッドカーペットの様子

★U-25 Project Best Short Award "DOCOOK"



Director : Sorami Habu /04:24 / Japan / Animation / 2023

A little girl staying at home alone, she uses what she can find around her and then...

★Shibuya Diversity Award "Margot's Sister"



Director : Christine Doyon /17:00 / Canada / Drama / 2022

Margot, a pre-teen who struggles to find acceptance at school is challenged by the arrival of her intellectually disabled sister in the after-school program. Margot initially struggles to keep her worlds separated but an event soon leads her to re-evaluate her position.

★J-WAVE SOUND OF CINEMA AWARD "WILD SUMMON"



Director : KARNI ARIELI & SAUL FREED /14:38 / UK Animation / 2023

A natural history fantasy film, following the dramatic life cycle of the wild salmon in human form. Narrated by Marianne Faithfull. A Bfi short film by karni and Saul

★MILBON BEAUTY AWARD "LIVE TILL I DIE"



Director: Åsa Ekman / 23:46 / Sweden/ Non-Fiction / 2022

In a state-funded nursing home on the outskirts of Stockholm, a close relationship develops between Monica, a compassionate care worker who still grieves for her grandmother, and Ella - a 99 year-old resident without a family of her own. A life-affirming emotional account of the challenges and opportunities of late life care.

★Global Spotlight Award "TRAP by SEO IN GUK"



Director : Seo In Guk / 12:58 / Korea /Experimental/ 2022

Art is often an expression of rigorous focus. This story revolves around the internal pressures of the protagonist, and his attempt to escape his own mind and let out his imagination.

An artist lives in a world they create, but sometimes fear can break us down.



【Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2023 Outline】

- Festival President : Tetsuya Bessho
- Period : June 6th (TUE) ~ June 26th (MON)
- Online Venue; April 27th (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
- 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.

※Stills of Photocalls, Photo-sessions, and Award winning works are available at the folder below.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-KLDGfNZrsraSqBijsnULAei_3WISwkA?usp=sharing

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