Press Release

June 4th, 2023
Committee for ShortShorts
Committee for ShortShorts Asia

Academy Awards® Qualifying
Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2023

GLOBAL SPOTLIGHT AWARD 2023
Finalists Announcement
on Jun 4th, the memorial day of short film
Short Films which World Stars including
Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Matt Damon & Ben Affleck,
Wim Wenders, Chris Rock & Javier Bardem and Seo In Guk
took part in were selected

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA) 2023, one of the largest international short film festival in Asia, accredited by the Academy Awards, started on June 4th, 1999 and the day was registered as “Short Film Day” in 2018. SSFF & ASIA has been announcing the Global Spotlight Award which is given to a work that conveys the present of the world in a changing world and opens up new possibilities for a filmmaker and supports short films that unites the world since 2020 on this memorial day, June 4th.

This year, “A Forest Haunt” produced and narrated by Joseph Gordon-Levitt, “For People in Trouble” produced by Matt Damon & Ben Affleck, “IN QUANTO A NOI (FROM OUR SIDE)” narrated by Wim Wenders, “Look at Me” starred by Chris Rock and Javier Bardem, and “TRAP by SEO IN GUK” directed and starred by Seo In Guk, these 5 short films were selected for the finalist of the 3rd Global Spotlight Award.


Please pay attention to the 5 short films in which creators, artists and actors are challenging new creation with unique and various points of view.
The final award announcement will be held at the SSFF & ASIA 2023 opening ceremony on June 6th.
“A Forest Haunt” (USA)
Produced by Joseph Gordon-Levitt
Directed by Edward Jesse & Toff Mazery
When greedy woodsmen threaten to destroy a sacred forest, one little haunt must confront the limits of her own might and learn to embrace the power of collaboration in order to save her home.
https://youtu.be/ez8bzZ0aXhY

“For People in Trouble” (UK)
Produced by Matt Damon & Ben Affleck
Directed by Alex Lawther
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.

“IN QUANTO A NOI (FROM OUR SIDE)” (Italy)
Narrated by Wim Wenders
Directed by Simon Massi
History flows, the darkness wets our clothes.

“LOOK AT ME” (UK/USA)
Starred by Chris Rock & Javier Bardem
Directed by Sally Potter
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.

“TRAP by SEO IN GUK” (Korea)
Directed & Starred by Seo In Guk
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.
https://shortshorts.org/2023/program/online-ex/trap/
【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
■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 / E-mail  press@shortshorts.org

【Stills are Available at】
https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12V7zgZ5s83b596_4TksO14OG9o9a47Fz?usp=sharing