

**Academy Award® accredited international short film festival,
The Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia is
proud to welcome Cunard as a sponsor**

**The winner of the Grand Prix, the "George Lucas Award"
also wins a voyage on the Queen Elizabeth**

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA) proudly announces Cunard as a new sponsor for our 2024 edition of the festival. SSFF & ASIA is one of the biggest international short film festivals in Asia and recognized by the Academy Awards®. This will be the first partnership with film festival in Japan for Cunard.



Cunard is a luxury British cruise line, renowned for creating unforgettable experiences around the world since 1840 and the Cunard experience is built on fine dining, hand-selected entertainment, and outstanding service. They continue to work in partnership with many companies in the entertainment industry, including the English National Ballet, the British Film Institute, and the Royal Shakespeare Company and will continue to provide extraordinary experiences and entertainment on board on all fleets and contribute to the development of entertainment in Japan.

[SSFF & ASIA 2024 Grand Prix. As a supplementary prize to the winner of the George Lucas Award: A balcony stateroom for two sailing on Queen Elizabeth's 2025 Japan season]

As one of the initiatives of this partnership, the winner of the world's only Grand Prix named after George Lucas, selected from approximately 5,000 works at SSFF & ASIA 2024, will be given an elegant voyage on Queen Elizabeth around Japan.

Queen Elizabeth's interior pays homage to Cunard's original RMS Queen Elizabeth (1940-1968), with an art deco inspired design. Coupled with the ship's exciting entertainment options and warm and friendly crew, Queen Elizabeth is a firm favourite with guests the world over. Queen Elizabeth invites guests to an uncrowded world where spacious decks set the perfect backdrop for you to savor a flawless Cunard experience. Immerse yourself in endless entertainment, luxurious accommodations, and an array of dining choices. Enjoy croquet on her Games Deck, stunning entertainment in her Royal Court Theatre, or relax in her elegant conservatory.



■ Message from Representatives

【Cunard Line】

VP, Commercial - North America and Australasia,

Matt Gleaves

We are absolutely thrilled to be partnering with Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, and to sponsor the highly prestigious George Lucas Award (Grand Prix) 's supplementary prize. Cunard has long been associated with Hollywood's brightest stars, from the golden age of ocean travel to today's award-winning and celebrated actors, writers, and directors. As the first cruise line to host an on-board film premiere with the launch of The Greatest Showman on Queen Mary 2 in 2017, we are incredibly passionate about the power of timeless storytelling. We have dedicated spaces for film enthusiasts across the fleet, which offer unforgettable moments on board. We look forward to our partnership with Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia to celebrate the people who bring cinema to life through their creativity and inspire the next generation of creative talent.



【President, SSFF & ASIA – Tetsuya Bessho】

Each year at SSFF & ASIA, we receive over 5,000 short films submitted from all over the world. The winner of our Grand Prix, the George Lucas Award, is the top of the top of those selected from among the submissions & is awarded to the filmmaker who will surely lead the future of the film industry. As a film festival accredited by the Academy Awards, our Grand Prix winning film won an Oscar in 2016. The festival has also screened works by world-famous maestros like Martin Scorsese, who started his career with short films, Wim Wenders, and Tim Burton. We are very excited to partner with Cunard to provide young talented filmmakers with big dreams and expectations. We hope that many filmmakers, supporters, and our audiences will be excited about the film festival and Cunard's efforts to support those embarking on a promising adventure, wondering what kind of future is waiting for them.



■ Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia

Tetsuya Bessho, an actor and member of the American Actors Guild (SAG), founded the American Short Short Film Festival in 1999 with the aim to introduce short films, which he had discovered in the United States, as a new visual genre to Japan. In 2001, the name was changed to Short Shorts Film Festival (SSFF), and in 2004 it was certified as an Academy Award-recognized film festival.

Also, in the same year, "Short Shorts Film Festival Asia (Co-hosted by SSFF ASIA: Tokyo)" was born with the aim of disseminating new visual culture from Asia and nurturing up-and-coming young filmmakers. We are holding a film festival under the collective name "SSFF & ASIA".

In 2018, to commemorate the film festival's 20th anniversary, the Grand Prix award became the George Lucas Award, named after director George Lucas. In January 2019, the "Short Shorts Film Festival in Hollywood" was held to commemorate the festival's 20th anniversary. Also in 2019, four competitions, and from 2022, five competitions, including the Animation Competition, have acquired the right to be eligible for nomination at the following year's Academy Awards® in the short film category. SSFF & ASIA will continue to support young creators through the film festival.

<https://shortshorts.org/index-en.php>



■ Cunard Line

Cunard is a luxury British cruise line, renowned for creating unforgettable experiences around the world. Cunard has been a leading operator of passenger ships on the North Atlantic, since 1840, celebrating an incredible 183 years of operation. A pioneer in transatlantic journeys for generations, Cunard is world class. The Cunard experience is built on fine dining, hand-selected entertainment and outstanding service. From five-star restaurants and in-suite dining to inspiring guest speakers, the library and film screenings, every detail has been meticulously crafted to make the experience unforgettable. Destinations include Europe, the Caribbean, the Far East and Australia.

There are currently three Cunard ships, Queen Mary 2, Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria and a fourth ship, Queen Anne, will enter service in 2024. This investment is part of the company's ambitious plans for the future of Cunard globally and will be the first time since 1999 that Cunard will have four ships in simultaneous service. Cunard is based at Carnival House in Southampton and has been owned since 1998 by Carnival Corporation & plc. www.cunard.com (NYSE/LSE: CCL; NYSE:CUK).

[PRESS INQUIRY]

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Stills are available here :

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1oIpBHsbFqea2tRsTF-fTSXXsorT_UhYg?usp=sharing