

Accredited by the Academy Awards® Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2025 Award Ceremony

George Lucas Award (Grand Prix) goes to “Pantyhose” by Fabian Munsterhjelm

The winners of 13 Awards including Best Short Awards of Live-Action, Non-Fiction, Animation which are eligible to the next Academy Awards® were announced

The 27th edition of the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA), an Academy Award®-accredited festival and one of Asia's largest international short film festivals, was held in 2025.

Under the theme “creative active generative,” the festival aimed to bring together filmmakers from around the world to showcase their creativity, foster interactions between works, audiences, creators, and companies, and generate new synergies. The festival also embraced emerging technologies, including generative AI, to create new forms of creative expression and envisioned the future of SSFF & ASIA.

At today's culmination of the 2025 edition — the Awards Ceremony — honors were presented across a wide range of categories, including a record-setting five films that qualified for nomination for the following year's Academy Awards®. These included the three live-action categories (International, Asia International, and Japan), as well as the Non-Fiction and Animation categories. In addition, awards were also presented for the U-25 Project, the SHIBUYA DIVERSITY AWARD, the HOPPY HAPPY Award, the Global Spotlight Award, the Kodansha Cinema Creators' Lab 3rd Term Excellence Award, the CyberAgent Vertical Film Award, and the Best Thrill Award supported by CRG.

The prestigious Grand Prix of the festival, the **George Lucas Award**, selected by a distinguished panel of judges — Debo Adedayo, Juri Ueno, Miyuki Fukuma, Sandrine Faucher Cassidy, Satoshi Jinbo, Shunji Iwai, Tao Okamoto, Ryohei Odai, and Tomoyuki Sugiyama — was awarded to **“Pantyhose”** (Finland), directed by **Fabian Munsterhjelm**, which also received the Best Short Award in the Live Action International category.

“The Official Competition was praised by the jury for its compelling and thought-provoking lineup of films that sharply reflect the relationship between individuals and society through diverse approaches and expressive techniques” Jury member Miyuki Fukuma commented.

“These works critically illuminate the state of humanity and society today through a wide variety of creative methods. While many films address contemporary issues such as climate change, the Palestinian conflict, developmental disorders, and lookism, others offer intimate portrayals of personal emotions and relationships. The coexistence of social depth and individual perspective left a lasting impression” Jury member Tomoyuki Sugiyama remarked.

“What does it mean to be human? That question—or rather, that cry—was powerfully conveyed throughout. These stories juxtapose the human condition with society, the environment, the cosmos, and life itself. Even the smallest narratives carried grand, expansive visions” Jury member Ryohei Odai added.

Below is the list of today's award winners, including those from the Official Competition. All award-winning and nominated films from the Official Competition will be available for special extended streaming on the Online Grand Theater until Monday, June 30. We would greatly appreciate your support in sharing these powerful works. 📞

<https://app.lifelogbox.com/shortshortsonlinegrandtheater>

**SSFF & ASIA 2025 Grand Prix “George Lucas Award” / Live-action Competition International Best Short Award
【Candidate for the 98th Academy Awards Nominee】**



**『Pantyhose』 Director : Fabian Munsterhjelm
/ 0:14:30 / Finland / Drama / 2024**

A couple are about to attend an important gala. They have their keys, phones and invitations, but there is a hole in their thighs.

【Fabian Munsterhjelm】 Fabian Munsterhjelm (born 1995) is a Finnish film director based in Helsinki. His notable works include the Jussi-nominated short films “Pantyhose” and “Thank You In Your Language,” as well as the internationally award-winning short “Laundry.” Fabian wants to do comedy seriously, and drama playfully.

【Reason for Award】

Pantyhorse stood out for its exceptional acting, capturing a nuanced range of emotions, from excitement and anxiety to irritation, anger, and tenderness, with seamless authenticity. The film skillfully explores how couples navigate conflict and miscommunication, using a confined setting and real-time pacing to build tension and emotional depth. What begins with a small incident, a run in pantyhose, evolves into a compelling portrayal of shifting emotional dynamics between a couple. The one-take format not only heightens the intensity but also showcases the strength of the performances and direction, making the viewer feel like a witness to a slice of real life. This work fully embraces the unique strengths of short filmmaking.

Live-action Competition Asia International Best Short Award/Governor of Tokyo Award 【Candidate for The 98th Academy Award Nominee】



『The Burning Night』

Director: Demon Wong / 20:08 / Hong Kong / Drama / 2024

Speeding through the late-night streets of Guangzhou in 2008, teenagers vented their frustration with the external world. The troubles they caused unexpectedly dissipated amidst the bright fireworks welcoming the Olympics, and the fervour inspired by the nationwide celebration.



【Demon Wong】

An independent director with years of experience in creative work and production. He has served numerous domestic and international brands. The Burning Night, his debut narrative short film, was nominated for Best Narrative Short at the Golden Horse Awards and selected for the Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival.

【Reason for Award】 A powerful and atmospheric portrayal of fleeting youth and unrest, Burning Night impressed with its expressive visual language and documentary-like realism. Without relying on exposition or dialogue, the film captures the raw energy and impulsiveness of young people, echoing the tension of a single night set ablaze, both literally and metaphorically. The camera work and street-level fluidity stood out, immersing the viewer in a visceral experience that evokes the spirit of rebellion. The symbolic use of fire against the backdrop of political demonstrations underscores the emotional volatility of youth and the intensity of moments that burn bright and fast. The performances and visuals alike pulse with the vibrant energy of a festival just before it ignites.

Live-action Competition Japan Best Short Award/Governor of Tokyo Award 【Candidate for The 98th Academy Award Nominee】



『UPSIDE-DOWN GENIUS』

Director : Ryotaro Nishi / 0:05:52 / Japan / Experimental / 2024

Dr. Noboru Sakai was a genius, but an odd one who, for some reason, always conducted his research hanging upside-down. One day, a new secretary named Margaret arrives at his laboratory. Claiming to be "perfect," she begins a strange life alongside the "upside-down genius" doctor.



【Ryotaro Nishi】

Born in 1997, Fukuoka, Japan. He began making films as a student and won numerous awards, including an Excellence Award at the Asian International Youth Film Festival (AIYFF) for his student film. In 2020, he joined the Japanese production company TYO Inc. he explores unprecedented visual expressions, utilizing VFX and other techniques.

【Reason for Award】

Upside Down Genius is a wonderfully original and playful short film that truly showcases the potential of the format. Its focus on visual illusion is fresh and thought-provoking, sparking curiosity and encouraging repeat viewings—some even found themselves flipping their screens upside down the second time around. The film immerses the viewer in a unique world, and despite its quirky premise, it maintains a strong sense of balance in storytelling, direction, and design. The art direction and overall production efforts were especially noteworthy. Among all the entries, this film stood out with the strongest impact, delivering a perfect blend of creativity, humor, and technical skill. A standout work that leaves a lasting impression.

■The number of submissions for the Official Competition

- International Competition Submissions : 1,980 (91 countries and regions) Screened : 29
- Asia International Competition Submissions : 738 (23 countries and regions) Screened : 21
- Japan Competition Submissions : 218 Screened : 21

■Prize Money : ¥600,000 (JPY)

■Judges (in alphabetical order) : International Debo Adedayo、Juri Ueno、Miyuki Fukuma
Asia International Sandrine Faucher Cassidy、Shunji Iwai、Satoshi Jimbo

Non-Fiction Competition Best Short Award 【Candidate for The 98th Academy Award Nominee】



『Inside, The Valley Sings』

Director : Nathan Fagan / 0:14:59 / Ireland / Non-Fiction / 2024

Trapped in the never-ending horror of prolonged solitary confinement, three prisoners seek comfort and escape in the boundless vistas of their own imaginations.

【Nathan Fagan】

Nathan Fagan is an award-winning Irish filmmaker. Working across documentary and fiction, his films have received numerous awards and nominations at both international and national film festivals.

【Reason for Award】 Inside, The Valley Sings stood out as an exceptionally powerful non-fiction work. Through two years of recorded voices and intimate storytelling, the film sheds light on the devastating reality of solitary confinement while guiding the viewer into the inner worlds of those affected. The use of animation was a bold choice to convey an incredibly difficult subject with clarity, grace, and sensitivity. Rather than distancing the audience, the animated form created space for empathy and reflection, making the story more relatable without diminishing its weight. The work poignantly underscores the essential human need for imagination when faced with absolute isolation, reminding us of the importance of fiction as a form of survival. Though the film is set in the U.S., its message transcends national boundaries, calling attention to global issues of wrongful imprisonment, lost time, and systemic injustice. It resonates strongly in places like Japan, where real cases such as the Hakamada incident echo the themes of this film.

■Non-fiction Program Submissions : 295 (35 countries and regions) Screened : 15

■Prize Money : ¥600,000 (JPY) ■Judges : Debo Adedayo、Juri Ueno、Miyuki Fukuma

Animation Competition Best Short Award 【Candidate for The 98th Academy Award Nominee】



『Solstice』

Director: Luke Angus / 0:11:00 / Scotland / Drama / 2024

A lonely Inuit must endure the endless summer daylight to be reunited with his lost love.



【Luke Angus】

Luke Angus is a veteran 3D animator and award winning independent filmmaker born and raised on the west coast of Scotland.

【Reason for Award】

Solstice is a visually stunning and emotionally profound film that captures the delicate balance between nature's vast beauty and human fragility. Through a simple yet deeply emotional story, it reveals the intricate details of Inuit life and the striking contrast between the midnight sun and the polar night to reflect the inner world of a grieving protagonist. The film's careful attention to visual textures, like the snow and small, symbolic elements such as a calendar made from fishing hooks, shows a remarkable level of craft. The character's emotional journey, where even the return of the sun brings sorrow, is deeply moving. The music is used with sensitivity, enhancing the animation and mirroring the feelings of the characters. Ultimately, Solstice asks what it means to live, to grieve, and to rediscover meaning in nature, reminding us that even in loss, there can be beauty, connection, and healing.

- Animation Program Submissions : 417 (35 countries) Screened : 52
- Prize Money : ¥600,000 (JPY)
- Judges (Alphabetical Order) : Tomoyuki Sugiyama, Tao Okamoto, Ryōhei Odai

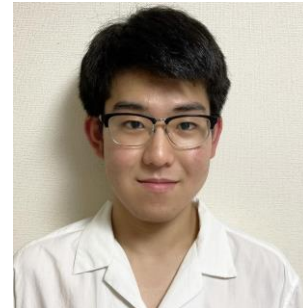
U-25 Project Best Short Award 【Candidate for The 98th Academy Award Nominee】



『Happy Valentine's Day』

Director : Kyu Shibata /4:48/Japan/Music Video /2024

One Valentine's Day, the protagonist, an unpopular high school boy, is getting ready to go home from school as usual, when he is stopped by a girl....!?



【Kyu Shibata】

He started playing musical instruments in junior high school. When he entered high school, he formed an original band called "Piku Piku Tai" with his classmates, and was in charge of drums, songwriting, and video production.

【Reason for Award】

A fresh and energetic work packed with humor and charm. The director shows a great sense of rhythm, especially in the way the music and editing are perfectly in sync. With its standout performances, especially the unforgettable expressions and physical comedy of the protagonist, the film radiates a raw, youthful passion, everyone involved clearly just really wants some chocolate... and maybe a little love! It's an energetic and inventive project that stands out as a new kind of creative work we haven't seen before in the U-25 competition, smart as a music video, sharp as a comedy, and totally full of heart.

Where Seira Isn't
Backstage
Husband's Leg

Kazutomo Ogata
Kimi Yawata
Kanji Furutachi

CINEMA CREATORS' LAB.



KODANSHA × SHORTSHORTS

Shibuya Diversity Award

This award will be given to a work chosen from a selection of films that picture diversity and inclusion, which are part of the educational activities to spread the fundamental plan of Shibuya City.



『Ikigai』

Director : Trent Cooper / 0:20:12 / United States / Non-Fiction / 2023

The call finally came. After all that time Al-Rilwan Adeyemi had spent staying in shape over the two years since finishing college. Never giving up on his dream, an NFL team was finally on the line at last. But his answer was something they did not expect.



【Trent Cooper】

Trent Cooper is a visionary filmmaker whose creativity and leadership have left an indelible mark on the world of sports storytelling. His proudest professional accomplishment lies in his commitment to nurturing emerging talent within the industry. He has mentored a diverse cadre of filmmakers who are reshaping the landscape of sports documentary filmmaking.

HOPPY HAPPY AWARD

The "Be HAPPY with HOPPY Award" will be chosen from among the nominated short films by Japanese directors that best embodies Hoppy beverage's theme of being "HAPPY with HOPPY." The winning works will be screened at "HOPPY HAPPY THEATER" which will open in June.



『A Walk With You』

Director : Saori Kouzuki / 0:16:14 / Japan / Drama / 2025

The Kojimas run an onsen, hot spring inn. The husband decided he wanted a dog, but the wife tried to talk him out, saying he couldn't look after the dog. To prove he can look after a dog, he starts to take a stuffed dog for a walk.



【Saori Kouzuki】

Saori Kouzuki is from Miyagi. She has been active as a musical actor and started to produce films since the pandemic. Her first directorial debut film, Human error, has been selected as Mirrorliar Films Season 7 and is due to be shown in cinemas nationwide in May 2025.

Best Thrill Award supported by CRG 【Candidate for The 98th Academy Award Nominee】

• Innovative Fear • Addictive Fear • Uncanny Fear

A work that possesses a unique worldview, an addictive quality that captivates the audience, and the most spine-chilling, uncanny sense of fear. This award, presented by the creator agency CRG, honors the most emotionally impactful work among the nominees in the Horror & Suspense category, evaluated from these three perspectives.



『ABYSS』

Director : Tekkou Nogami / 0:14:16 / Japan / Drama / 2024

UTA, a delivery man living on an isolated island in Japan, arrives at the scene with his coworker TAKESHI to clean up after his girlfriend NANA, who has committed murder. The three go into the forest to remove the body and dump it in a bottomless pit that TAKESHI saw when he was a child.



【Tekkou Nogami】

A film director originally from Nagasaki, now based there, producing commercials, corporate/promotional films, tourism content, and short films.

CyberAgent Vertical Award

An award presented to works or projects that have demonstrated “high impact and expressive power” in vertical short film content within Japan in recent years.

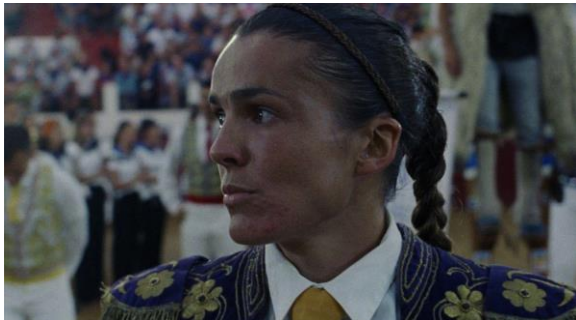


CONECO FILM

A collective of elite creators with experience in the world of film and television production, united to generate new forms of creative value. Aiming to go beyond the boundaries of short dramas, Koneko Film collaborates with various creators and companies to explore new creative possibilities. With a signature blend of addictive humor and biting satire, and a hyper-realistic style that blurs the line between fiction and reality, Koneko Film crafts a bold, original worldview that is uniquely its own.

Global Spotlight Award

Selected by the Committee for Short Shorts, this award is given to the creator or artist of a short film that inspires a broad audience and receives widespread, global attention.



『MARION』

Director : Joe Weiland & Finn Constantine / 0:13:17 / France, United Kingdom / Drama / 2024

Marion, the only female écarteur in France, prepares for her performance in a packed arena.



【Joe Weiland & Finn Constantine】

Joe Weiland is a BAFTA-nominated writer and director from London, known for his short film GORKA and more recently MARION. He is now focusing on his debut feature film. He directed MARION with Finn Constantine, a writer/director and photographer. Finn is now working on a feature as well.

【Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2025 Outline】

■Festival President : Tetsuya Bessho

■Schedule :

April 24 – June 30 Online Grand Theater

*Streaming programs vary depending on the period.

May 28, Opening Ceremony @ TAKANAWA GATEWAY CITY

May 29 – June 1 TAKANAWA GATEWAY CITY

June 3, 4 Akasaka Intercity Conference

June 6 – 10 WITH HARAJUKU

June 6 - 8 LIFOR HARAJUKU

June 11 Award Ceremony LINE CUBE SHIBUYA

■Ticket :

<Online Grand Theater Passport >

¥2,500 (JPY) for Japan residents only /

\$15 (USD) for international users, 500JPY (Japan)

<https://app.lifelogbox.com/shortshortsonlinegrandtheater>

<Tokyo Venues> ≈

• 1 Program (advance sale)

General 1,500JPY

Students, Seniors, Disability Discount 1,200JPY

Children under elementary school age Free

• 1 Program (same-day ticket)

General 1,800JPY

Students, Seniors, Disability Discount 1,500JPY

Children under elementary school age Free

• Passport : Omotesando Hills Space O, WITH HARAJUKU

General 7,000JPY

Students, Seniors, Disability Discount 5,500JPY

URL <https://ssff2025passport.peatix.com>

■General Inquiry : info@shortshorts.org

■Official Site : <https://www.shortshorts.org/2025>

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



【Press Inquiry】

Committee for Short Shorts PR: Fuyumi Tanaka E-mail press@shortshorts.org

【Still images are available here】

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ZXMEiG-5XdIXeevH1H4iNbfQAeRyrnt6?usp=sharing>