

Academy Awards® qualifying and one of Asia's largest
international short film festivals

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2019

**The George Lucas Award (Grand Prix) given to Zhengfan Yang!
4 Best Shorts eligible for nomination at the 92nd Academy Awards
also announced**

The Awards Ceremony for the 21st Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA) was held at Meiji Jingu Kaikan on June 16th and jurors of each competition, which included Momoko Ando (Film Director), Rino Katase (Actress), Masatoshi Nagase (Actor), Chiaki Horan (Newscaster, TV Personality, actress) and other celebrities appeared on the red carpet and on stage to present the awards and to celebrate the anniversary.

SSFF & ASIA 2019 started on May 29th (Wed) and continued until June 16th (Sun), and was held at 5 venues in Tokyo and an Online venue. The festival received approximately 10,000 short film submissions from 130 countries and regions, and about 200 are being shown this year. Selected from the Best Short award winners of the 3 official competitions, the George Lucas Award, the Grand Prix of SSFF & ASIA 2019, was given to **『Down There』 by Zhengfan Yang**. **4 Best Shorts from the International, Asia International and Japan, as well as the Non-Fiction Competition** will become eligible for nomination at the Academy Awards next year.

In reference to the following award results, the Official Competition jurors commented saying "these works have the true meaning of cinema, which let us feel our lives and souls are connected" (Momoko Ando) and "explosiveness and impact in the shorts were the key points" (Yuri Nakae).

SSFF & ASIA 2019 GRAND PRIX 「GEORGE LUCAS AWARD」

Official Competition Asia International BEST SHORT AWARD (Governor of Tokyo Award)



『Down There』

Zhengfan Yang/10:15/China, France/ Drama/ 2018

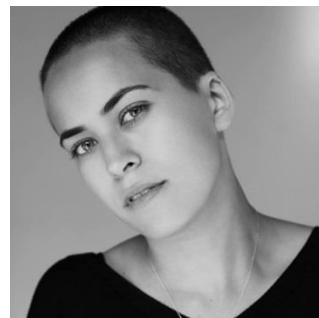
A blissful night is unexpectedly interrupted by the sound from downstairs. Different reactions are triggered as well as the relentless indifference.

[Reason for Selection] We can watch this repeatedly and find out something new every time. The cinematic expression, not just through text, makes us feel the potential of short film.

[Director: Zhengfan]

Zhengfan Yang started making films since 2010. His debut feature *DISTANT* premiered at Festival del film Locarno, and his documentary feature *WHERE ARE YOU GOING* premiered at International Film Festival Rotterdam. *DOWN THERE* has been screened in Venice International Film Festival, New York Film festival, and Busan International Film Festival, among others.

Official Competition International BEST SHORT AWARD



『Brotherhood』

Meryam Joobeur/25:00/Canada, Tunisia, Qatar, Sweden/Drama/2018

Mohamed is a hardened shepherd living in rural Tunisia with his wife and two sons. Mohamed is deeply shaken when his oldest son Malik returns home after a long journey with a mysterious new wife. Tension between father and son rises over three days until reaching a breaking point.

[Reason for Selection] Images showing the feel of wind and air, a well-presented telling of realistic blood-ties of family, the casting. Everything is fantastic.

Official Competition Japan BEST SHORT AWARD (Governor of Tokyo Award)



『My Little Goat』

Tomoki Misato/10:13/Japan/Animation/2018

A mother goat tries to help her children who have been eaten by a wolf, but one is missing!



【Director: Tomoki Misato】

Tomoki Misato was born in Tokyo in 1992. He finished his BFA majoring in Visual Communication Design at Musashino Art University then finished his MFA in Animation major at the Graduate School of Film and New Media in Tokyo University of the Arts.

[Reason for Selection] Emotion like the fear and sadness of characters are well-depicted. In addition to the quality of animation, the fairy tale and social issue presented are skillfully assembled to tell a deep message.

■ Official Competition ■ Number of Submission and Screenings

• International Submission : 5,320 (country : 96) Screening : 36 (country : 20)
• Asia International Submission : 1,627 (country:27) Screening : 22 (country : 11)
• Japan Submission : 328 Screening : 19

■ Prize for Each Best Short Award: 600,000 JPY.

■ Official Competition Jury Members : Momoko Ando, Rino Katase, Gina Dellabarca, Yuri Nakae, Masatoshi Nagase

Cinematic Tokyo Competition BEST SHORT AWARD (Governor of Tokyo Award)

Short films that take "Tokyo" as the subject and show the many attractions of Tokyo in various points of view.



『Robu』 Kai Hasson/19:00/Japan/Sci-Fi/2018

Robu, a 17-year-old American boy is on the four-day quest in Japan to find the second issue of his favorite Japanese comic book that his father left him. Shortly into his adventure, Robu realizes that the manga world was happening in real life, and that the main character was himself.



[Director: Kai Hasson]

Kai Hasson is a creative director and the co-founder of Portal A film production company in California. His works have been viewed more than a billion times, and he was selected as one of Adweek's Creative100.

[Reason for Selection] Not only does it use famous locations in Tokyo, it also introduces memorable experiences like the Izakaya culture and getting to know the local people; experiences you cannot get from guidebooks. It is a very entertaining and high-quality short film.

- Cinematic Tokyo Competition Submission : 280 (country: 50) Screening : 6 (country: 3)
- Prize : 1,000,000 JPY.

Tokyo Cine-magic 2019 『 Jose's Tour de Tokyo』

The "Tokyo Cine-magic" project encourages people from inside and outside of the country to come and visit Tokyo by promoting the various charms of the city. With this theme, a short film is produced for a special screening in the "Cinematic Tokyo" competition.

The very best pitch is selected from talented directors who have won awards at SSFF & ASIA. Aside from its screening at the festival, the short film will also be shown at other national and international film festivals, used for Tokyo tourism promotions and make use of various opportunities to display the appeal of Tokyo.

https://www.shortshorts.org/tokyo_project/cinemagic_en.html



『 Jose's Tour de Tokyo』

15:09 / 2019 / Japan/Written and Directed by Kimie Tanaka, Yanqiu Fei(co-writer/shooting)/ Cast: Diego Cataño, Nash Edgerton, Mitsuru Fukikoshi

"Jose's Tour de Tokyo" is a story of a young Mexican man, Jose, and his first visit to Tokyo as he works for a social media influencer, Alex.

Running around town in an attempt to fulfill his demands, Jose discovers the charms of the city.



[Director : Kimie Tanaka]

Born and raised in Nagoya, Japan. MFA in New York University Tisch Asia School of the Arts. B.A. in Economics in the University of Tokyo. Starting from a business analyst in India, she moved to Chile, New York and Singapore and along the way she started to pursue a career of directing movies. Her latest film "Hide & Seek" had its international premier in Toronto International Film Festival and won the Best Short Award in Sguardi Altrove Film Festival in Italy, following her debut short film "Kotobuki/To Us", winning the Best Short Award in Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia; both films are nominated in various other international film festivals. Exploring the means of expression in different genres, formats and media via fiction films, documentary, web series, music videos etc. Based in Paris.

" Jose's Tour de Tokyo" has its worldwide launch on YouTube from June 16th.

https://www.shortshorts.org/tokyo_project/cinemagic_en.html



『The Deluge』

Sayaka Hara/2:04/UK/Animation/2018

God is upset about humanity and decides to take a bath. Noah, his family, and his animals are on the ark, trying to survive the furious ocean. Inspired by "Noye's Fludde", a one-act opera by Benjamin Britten.



[Director: Sayaka Hara]

Sayaka Hara was born in Nagano. After graduating from the design program at Tama Art University, she was very much inspired by European animation styles, and went to Central Saint Martins to study animation.

[Reason for Selection] In using opera music effectively, this high-quality animation shows the filmmaker's talent, which will garner attention from world.

■ U-25 Project supported by Nihon Safety Submission : 71 Screening : 14 ■ Prize : 300,000 JPY

Non-Fiction Competition supported by Yahoo Japan Corporation BEST SHORT AWARD



『Dulce』

**Angello Faccini & Guille Isa /10:30/USA/
Non-Fiction/2018**

In coastal Colombia, a mother teaches her daughter how to swim so that she may go to the mangroves and harvest the piangua shellfish with the other women in the village.



[Director: Angello Faccini, Guille Isa]

Angello Faccini is a director and cinematographer based in Barcelona. He recently finished shooting "Ski Dreams", a feature documentary from Afghanistan, with Emmy-winning, Oscar-nominated filmmakers Marcel Mettelsiefen and Stephen Ellis. "Dulce" is the fourth short film that he has made for "Jungles in Paris".

Guille Isa is a director and production designer based in Lima. The short documentaries he has co-directed for "Jungles in Paris" have played at Hot Docs, Atlanta, Barcelona, Amsterdam, and other film festivals. He has also written and directed narrative short films.

[Reason for Selection] Although it looks like a scene from everyday life, this film lets the audience see the reality of an environmental issue. The people's facial expressions and their words tell us the truth. It shows how much the filmmakers invest a good deal of time and effort to make this work. With its beautiful and rich images, it truly depicts the essence of a non-fiction short film.

■ Non-Fiction Competition: Submission 750 (country: 82) ■ Screening : 14 (country:12)
■ Prize for Best Short Award : 600,000 JPY.
■ Jurors : Masato Harada, Chiaki Horan, Kenji Mizukami



『La Noria』

Carlos Baena/12:55/Spain/Animation/2018

A young boy who loves to draw and build ferris wheels encounters strange creatures that turn his life upside down.

[Reason for Selection] From lighting to body movement, all the expressions are perfect. This work has one of the most high quality animations. Since the background of the main character is not explained clearly, the audience is left to understand it in their own way and it really moves hearts.

- CG Animation Competition: 747 (country: 73) Screening : 12 (country: 8)
- Prize for Best Short Award : 600,000 JPY.
- Jurors : Tomoyuki Sugiyama, Michihiko Suwa, Maho Toyota

Special Short Film "Goodbye to Dorothy Gale" The 3rd Hikari TV Award winner



『Goodbye to Dorothy Gale』

Kenji Qurata/20:00/Japan/Drama/2019

Tetsuko is a girl with a dream. But after her mother Toshiko's illness worsens, she is sent to live with her uncle. She then decides to become a "witch" to fix her mother's illness with her magic, but her spontaneous actions cause confusion around her and she struggles to achieve her dream. She is later taken care of by her kind grandfather Kihachi, and meets her new friend Glico at her new school. Glico, a chubby little girl, becomes Tetsuko's "familiar spirit" and their friendship and witchcraft training expands to another level. But one day Tetsuko encounters a depressing incident...



【Director: Carlos Baena】

Originally from Spain, Carlos has worked at Industrial Light & Magic, Pixar and Paramount Pictures. He has also directed the live-action shorts "Play by Play" and MarketSt. Carlos has also served as Character Director on the AI Toy "Cozmo". He is Co-Founder of AnimationMentor as well as Artella. Carlos currently lives in Los Angeles, California.



【Director: Kenji Qurata】

Kenji Qurata is a director, scriptwriter and author. His film "Speed Girl" won the grand prix at Sundance Institute/NHK International Filmmakers. Qurata has also directed and written the TV series "Futari Monologue" and "EVERYTIME WE SAY GOODBYE", as well as writing the book and screenplay for "Kimi Ga Inakucha Damenanda".



『seaglass』

Yusuke Sakakibara/20:46/Japan/Drama/2018

Kanda, a 68 year-old lone connoisseur who has just moved to Yu Island, Kumamoto a year ago, has not been getting along with other people on the island. All he does is just look at his art collection, but one day he encounters a girl, Akari, and starts to feel different.



[Director: Yusuke Sakakibara]

Yusuke Sakakibara started his career as a director at a film production company, and-pictures in 2012. A year later, he directed "Light Along" which was nominated for Short Short Film Festival & Asia 2014. In 2016, he published "BAILE TOKYO" the documentary on J-League FC Tokyo during the season of 2015. His first feature film, "Shiori" was premiered in October, 2018.

[Press Inquiry]

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia :Fuyumi Tanaka

TEL : 03-5474-8201 / FAX : 03-5474-8202 / E-mail : press@shortshorts.org

【Please download the official pictures from the URL below】

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/yydo70cp42kbilz/AADjtyl3hQaDF498jtnf8Jta?dl=0>