

Recognized by the Academy Awards Top Level Asian Short Film Festival in Tokyo Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2020 announced! Thurs June 4th~Sun June 14th Online viewings from May 27th

2020 Theme: BORDERLESS

200 films to be screened regardless of country of origin, gender or age of production staff or equipment used. All BORDERS are overcome.

Special support given from Sony for the main competition which acts as a gateway to the Academy Awards®

We are thrilled to announce that the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA) 2020 will commence on May 27th, with the Tokyo screenings being held from June 4th through June 14th.

Approximately 200 films, from 112 countries/regions, will be screened. The majority of screenings are free with some paid-entry events.

2020 is SSFF & ASIA's 22nd year, and is also a year in which the eyes of the world will be on Japan, with record-breaking overseas visitors expected. As such, this year's theme for SSFF & ASIA is "Borderless".

The films to be screened will depict universal themes such as family and friends, love and society, that overcome "borders", whether they be racial, cultural, gender or based on social class. However, underlying these universal themes will be the viewpoints and values of the creators that we are not so familiar with. Our goal for this festival is to create a forum that touches the emotions of people around the globe.

OFFICIAL COMPETITION

supported by **SONY**

Furthermore, this year we are happy to collaborate with Sony as a sole supporter of the official competition, which acts as a path to the Academy Awards® Short Film category. Sony has long supported the dreams of creators as an entertainment company powered by the latest technology.

Sony and Sony Mobile Communications will jointly host the "Creators' Junction partnered with Xperia™" event which dives into the potential new trends of cinema.

We at the SSFF & ASIA have an impressive record with the Academy Awards, which we plan to continue. The audience award winner of the International competition in 2013, "Curfew," and the Grand Prix winner in 2016, "SING," both won the Academy Award for Best Short Film (Live Action). In this year's Academy Awards, the winner of our 2019 International Award received an Oscar nomination and the film of the recipient of our Best Actress Award "The Neighbor's Window" did in fact win the 2020 Oscar.

The full line-up will be announced in mid-April via press release and on our website. This will include all screening events and also the details of the special screening such as a short film by Bong Joon-Ho, winner of 4 Oscars at this year's Academy Awards, including Best Director.

We also welcome back the festival's ambassador, film commentator LiLiCo! She will introduce the highlights of the festival, building up momentum in the lead up to this year's event.

Together with Sony, the SSFF & ASIA continue to support and grow young filmmakers, as we continue our journey as a "Japanese-born, global-scale" film festival. Please look forward to – and take part in – this year's SSFF & ASIA 2020.

[Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2020]

- Festival Founder: Tetsuya Bessho
- Festival Ambassador: LiLiCo (Film commentator)
- Timing : Thurs June 4th~ Sun June 14th *online screenings commence Weds May 27th
- Locations: screening venues across Tokyo
- Entry: Free ※Pre-booking is scheduled to begin late April.
Some events are charged.
- Enquiries: 03-5474-8844
- Homepage: <https://www.shortshorts.org/en>
- Organizer : Committee for Short Shorts /

Committee for Short Shorts Film Festival Asia

* Program details are subject to change.



<Official Visual of Festival>

Bong Joon-Ho, winner of 4 Academy Awards in 2020 presents "Incoherence"!

Incoherence

Director: Bong Joon-Ho/1994/Korea/30:00/drama

An editorial writer who habitually steals milk as he goes for his morning jog, an elite prosecutor who is caught by an security guard as he was about to urinate on the street, drunk, and a university professor who enjoys pornographic magazines, get together on a television program to discuss social issues.



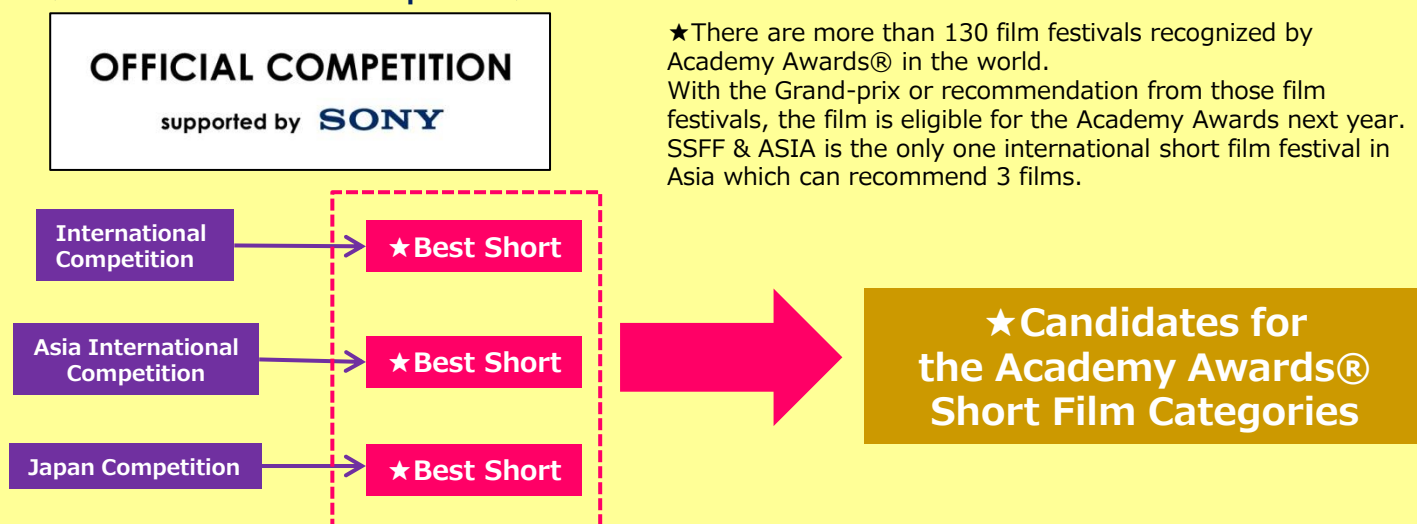
Short film 『Incoherence』



Bong Joon-Ho

Official Competition supported by Sony

<Structure of Official Competition>



★There are more than 130 film festivals recognized by Academy Awards® in the world. With the Grand-prix or recommendation from those film festivals, the film is eligible for the Academy Awards next year. SSFF & ASIA is the only one international short film festival in Asia which can recommend 3 films.

Special Website introducing a joint project between SSFF & ASIA, Sony, and Sony Mobile Communications is launched on Thurs, March 26th.

URL: <https://www.shortshorts.org/sony/en>

<Other Awards and Competitions>

The Grand-prix, George Lucas Award is decided from the Best Short winners of the Official Competition (International, Asia International and Japan).

The Governor of Tokyo Award will be given to the films awarded Best Short in both the Asia International and Japan Competitions.

Addition to the Official Competition winners, Best Short of the Non-fiction Competition will be eligible for the Academy Award next year.

Each Best Short award of CG Animation Competition, Cinematic Tokyo Competition, Branded Shorts Competition, Musical Short Film Pitch Competition, Shibuya Diversity Award, Visual Tourism Award will be announced at the Opening Ceremony, Award Ceremony or event during the festival.

Event: Creators' Junction partnered with Xperia™

This will be an event that focuses that brings film directors together with the next generation of creators to explore developments in film culture and the latest trends. Special guests will discuss the future of film production.

**further event details including the guest lineup will be announced late April.*

Event Website: <https://www.shortshorts.org/sony/en/creatorsjunction/>

This website also introduces the films of university students created using the Cinema Pro mode of Sony Mobile's flagship smartphone – the "Xperia 1".

CREATORS' JUNCTION

partnered with XPERIA

Comment: Tetsuya Bessho, Festival Founder

Comment: LiLiCo, SSFF & ASIA 2020 Ambassador



Tetsuya Bessho
(Festival Founder)

I cannot wait for our 22nd event here in Tokyo especially given the focus on this city in this year.

Our theme this year is "Borderless". The festival has curated films from around the world, and we want to create a festival that promotes different viewpoints and values, but also a place where people can experience the diversity of expression that evolving technology enables.

I look forward to the empathy and mutual understanding that will arise through viewing these short films, both in live screenings and online.

That passion can transcend borders and will connect Japan to the future of the world.



LiLiCo
(Film Commentator)

A year flies by so quickly! Each year at this time, I find myself more and more excited by the world of short film, and also encouraged by the hunger shown by the creators of such films.

The ideas creators have are endless, and – though short – it is for me a chance to experience the sights and sounds from regions of the world that I do not have the opportunity to normally experience.

This is the wonder of short film! What films will we see this year... let us all enjoy that spark of creativity together!

Background of the SSFF & ASIA

Actor and member of the US Screen Actors Guild (SAG), Tetsuya Bessho founded the festival in 1999, with the aim of introducing Japanese audiences to short films – a format that many people in Japan were unfamiliar with. In 2001, the festival became officially known as Short Shorts Film Festival (SSFF), and was officially recognized by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences®. In the same year, Short Shorts Film Festival Asia (SSFF ASIA) was established with support from the Tokyo Metropolitan Government in 2004, to introduce new Asian video culture and to nurture young filmmaking talents from the region.

Today the festival is known as SSFF & ASIA. In 2018, commemorating the 20th Annual festival, the Grand Prix prize was renamed, the George Lucas Award. In January 2019, we held our first "SSFF in Hollywood" as part of our 20th anniversary celebrations and winner of the SSFF Audience Award in 2001, director Jason Reitman was sent an Honorary Award.

Also from 2019, a total of 4 winners from the Official Competition (International Category, International Asia Category, Japan Category) and the Non-Fiction Category, would be eligible for nomination to the Academy Awards.

SSFF & ASIA continue to support young filmmakers through this festival.

Webpage: <https://www.shortshorts.org/en>

※The website for SSFF & ASIA 2020 is scheduled to launch in mid-April 2020.

SSFF & ASIA would like to express its support to all the victims of COVID-19 and to all the people who are currently in the front line battling with its consequences.

In the light of this current global situation, there might be a change of schedule and program in this year's SSFF & ASIA.

Any information related to the status of the festival will be posted on our official homepage.

PRESS ENQUIRIES

Short Shorts Film Festival PR room (Sunny Side Up KK)
TEL : 03-6894-3200 / FAX : 03-5413-3050 / E-mail : SSFF@ssu.co.jp

Committee for Short Shorts Contact : Fuyumi Tanaka
TEL : 03-5474-8201 / FAX : 03-5474-8202 / E-mail : press@shortshorts.org

PR assets can be downloaded here (Timing: March 26th~June 30th)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sWuqGqxFMIV62Jcto-YPYcy4T8rdJh1L?usp=sharing>