

Academy Awards® Accredited & One of Asia's Biggest Film Festivals

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2021 Announcing More Than 500 Nominees & Special Screenings of short films from around the world

Online Screening Venue & 3D Space Theater "DOOR" Open Today! Short film shot entirely on a smartphone "Stardust Children" has its world premiere!

We are pleased to announce the nominees and special screenings for the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA) 2021, Asia's one of the largest international short film festivals, officially announced today on the festival's official website.

<https://www.shortshorts.org/2021/index-en.php>

This year's festival will be held from Fri, 06/11 to Mon, 06/21, and online venues begin on Tues, 04/27. With the theme "CINEMADventure," more than 500 short films from around the world will be screened. The addition of new competitions such as the Smartphone Film Competition supported by Sony and the Vertical Theater Competition supported by smash. give a sense of adventure. We will present a hybrid of live and online screenings unique to SSFF & ASIA ; such as Q&A in a virtual venue to connect with directors who cannot come to Japan due to the corona pandemic. VENTURE-like efforts such as exploring the appeal of short films using AI systems, and the world of AD that opens up new aspects of short films.

The special screenings from around the world include "David," which was nominated at the Cannes Film Festival & stars Will Ferrell ("Blades of Glory") and Ben Whishaw ("Perfume") in "Miss Fortunate." Kim Bora's ("House of Hummingbird") 'The Recorder Exam' and Werner Herzog's 1986 documentary "Portrait Werner Herzog ."

From Japan, special screenings of "Wish on a cocktail " starring Jun Kunimura, and "The Supermission" starring Mariko Tsutsui. In addition to "in-side-out" directed by Mirai Moriyama and starring Eita Nagayama from WOWOW Actors Short Film, the Japan category also includes "The Woman Who Performs", directed by Toshiyuki Teruya (Gori) and starring Hikari Mitsushima. The online theater opening today, around 40 past film festival nominees by Japanese directors will be screened globally. The short film "Stardust Children," a film shot entirely on a smartphone by Director Eiji Uchida ("Midnight Swan") , will have its world premiere. Several awards will be announced in advance for the film festival and at the Opening Ceremony on Fri, 06/11. The Official Competition supported by Sony Best Short Awards and the Grand Prix, the "George Lucas Award" will be announced at the awards ceremony on Mon, 06/21.

International Competition
Special Screening (only in Japan)



『David』 Zachary Woods

International Competition
Special Screening (only in Japan)



『Miss Fortunate』 Ella Jones

Asia & Japan Competition
Special Screening (only in Japan)



『The Recorder Exam』 Kim Bo-ra

Online Venue Opening
Global Screening

Japan Competition
Global Screening

Japan Competition
Global Screening



『Stardust Children』 Eiji Uchida



『in-side-out』 Mirai Moriyama



『A Woman Who Acts』 Teruyuki Toshiya

Message from President of SSFF & ASIA Tetsuya Bessho

One year has passed since the global pandemic began. Even with the rapid changes in our society, daily life, and values, we received about the same number of submissions as we have in recent years. The filmmakers were continuing to make short films despite the hardships & difficulties. Cities under lockdown, dramas filmed in one room, editing a film with footage from remote shootings, and the sense of isolation & solitude. As we looked at the work, we could see the "CINEMA" created during the pandemic as only short films can and we received the heartfelt messages of the filmmakers loud & clear. I would like the film festival to be a place of "ADVENTURE" where we can experience and share together the world as it is NOW as a the place that shows the possibilities of new images with online and virtual venues, shooting and editing with smartphones, and vertical images as "VENTURE = new challenges," as well as opportunities for art and culture to play an active role in society by creating new communication methods as "AD = advertisements" through short films that have drawn the attention of companies and organizations. We are excited to bring to you our "CINEMADventure" film festival.

Message from Ambassador of SSFF & ASIA LiLiCo

I hope that new creators and lovers of feature-length films will once again dive into the world of short films this year. In these trying times, more people are making films & visual content. I look forward to being dazzled again by innovative ideas and the appeal of short films where you can experience the culture and aromas of various countries and regions. No limits or rules except for the running time! Expand your senses stimulate your mind through short films. I'm very excited again this year♡ & jewelry.

SSFF & ASIA 2021 Official Social Media Navigators : Recommending the best short films

Social Media influencers will introduce reviews & recommendations of short films from around the world as official festival navigators!



Top from left: Cinemansion (YouTube) / Short of the Week (Twitter, Facebook) / Shinnosuke Saito (TikTok)
Bottom from left: DIZ (Twitter) / Rina Matsuki (Instagram) / Mocchan (YouTube) / Yucco Roadshow (YouTube)

Start Tuesday, April 27! SSFF & ASIA 2021 Online Venue

This year's online venues will feature (1) Grand Online Theater released worldwide, (2) 3D Venue "DOOR" Theater supported by NTT, (3) Vertical Theater supported by smash.

ONLINE SCREENING

オンライン会場

ご結婚おめでとう!

Online Screening Schedule

Details on each event will be announced in press releases or on the festival website.

Global
Streaming
Online

Starts from Tues, 04/27

- (1) Ikomonogakari x Eiji Uchida - World premiere of "Stardust Children"
- (2) 38 Japan Competition nominated shorts from the past 3 years including Best Short winners
- (3) 3D Venue "DOOR" Theater supported by NTT Door will screen award-winning shorts including past Grand Prix winners.

(1) Online Theater Opening Film



Director Eiji Uchida of "Midnight Swan,
"Original concept :Ikomonogakari "Kirakira ni Hikaru."
Filmed entirely on Xperia™ smartphone.

『Stardust Children』

Director: Eiji Uchida /Japan / 24:00 / SF·Fantasy

Themed on the song "Kirakira ni Hikaru" by Ikomonogakari & submitted to monogatary.com the story is based on the winning submission "Stardust Children" (Hoshikuzu no Ko)". Maruta is driven out of his land after he is considered to be cursed. After wandering through the forest, he encounters a stardust children who are righteous & pure. Maruta befriends Senebu & Bella & the children but as the Star festival approaches...

(2) Japan Competition nominated shorts from the past 3 years



2018-2020 Japan Best Short Award winners: from left - "The Ancestor", "My Little Goat," "Green Snow."

(3) 3D Venue "DOOR" Theater supported by NTT

For the first time in the 23-year history of the festival, a 3D Venue for the film festival will be set up in an online 3D space (in NTT DOOR), as a venue for creators and movie fans around the world to interact virtually. The screening content includes past Grand Prix winners. We will hold interactive teach-ins with award-winning directors from around the world. Will be held everyday during the festival!

<https://www.shortshorts.org/2021/en/special-content-6/>



● Tue, May 11th Ladies for Cinema Project : Global streaming starts

● Mon, May 31st Cinematic Tokyo Competition nominees: Global streaming starts

● Tue, June 1st Vertical Theater Competition supported by smash. nominees:
Global streaming from smash. starts

● Tue, June 8th KIDS Program & U-25 Project: Global streaming starts

● Fri, June 11th Opening Ceremony : Live Global streaming

Official Competition supported by Sony, Smartphone Film Competition supported by Sony, CG Animation Competition, Non-Fiction Competition, Shibuya Diversity Program and more:
Global streaming starts

● Tue, June 15th Discover Beauty Symposium : Global Streaming

● Mon, June 21st Award Ceremony: Liver Global streaming

Award winning shorts will be streamed at online venue till Wed, June 30th.

Tokyo × Short Shorts PROJECT

In 2016, the Tokyo Metropolitan Government launched a project in collaboration with SSFF & ASIA as a project to show the allure of Tokyo to attract people from Japan and overseas to visit Tokyo. We established the "Cinematic Tokyo Competition," calling for short films with Tokyo as the central theme from all over the world. At the 2021 Film Festival, we will continue to screen and select the Best Short Award (Governor's Award) from the Cinematic Tokyo Competition and will hold seminars to support Japanese creators. This year, we welcome Yoshitaka Mori, the film director of "Space Brothers," as guest and will hold an online seminar with the theme "The World of Cinema & Movie Music - the Key to Filmmaking."

文化でつながる。未来とつながる。



Cinematic Tokyo Competition



【Farewell Tokyo】

Director : Ben Wang
China / Japan / 13:28 / Documentary / 2021

Global Streaming
Online &
Tokyo

A Chinese who came to Tokyo to study have many memories in this city. However, they are forced to return home due to the Coronavirus. What are the special memories and hopes on that return trip…?

ONLINE CREATOR'S SEMINAR : "The World of Cinema & Movie Music - the Key to Filmmaking."

Director Yoshitaka Mori of "Space Brothers", "Satoshi no Seishun" & "108" will be a guest for a seminar. Looking back on the director's career, he'll speak to the effect that music has in his filmmaking as well as advising young filmmakers about the importance of music in improving on the quality of their films.



Director Mori Yoshitaka

Profile: Born in 1979. After working on TV documentaries, he made his film debut as director in 2008 with "108." For this work, he won the Shindo Kaneto Silver Award & the Yokohama Film Festival New Director Award. In 2012, he won the Puchon International Fantastic Film Festival Grand Prix & Audience Award for "Space Brothers". In 2016, he won many awards, including the Takasaki Film Festival's Best Director Award, for "Satoshi no Seishun". In addition, he directed "Parallel World Love Story" in 2019. Currently, he is based in Kanazawa where he also actively produces documentaries.

Date / Time : 06/19 (Sat) 20 : 00～

Ticket Fee : Free

Link to URL on festival website. Advance reservation not required.

Seminar Guest : Yoshitaka Mori (Film director)

※This seminar is only in Japanese.

【2021 Discover Beauty Symposium, a project sponsored/co-sponsored by the Japan Expo】

An online symposium on "The Beauty of Japan" with leading filmmakers.

Short films with this theme specially selected by SSFF & ASIA will also be screened.

Date : Tue, June 15th

Details will be announced online on the website "Special project sponsored and co-sponsored by The Japan Expo & SSFF & ASIA." 2021 Japan Expo Sponsored & Co-sponsored Project URL : <https://www.shortshorts.org/japanculturalexpo/>



【BRANDED SHORTS】

Branded movies produced by companies & organizations to enhance communicating with customers. BRANDED SHORTS, which began in 2016, will feature branded movies from around the world & events related to BRANDED SHORTS.

Date : Screening & event - 06/16 (Wed) ※Time TBA.

Venue : Akasaka Intercity Conference, the AIR

Ticket Price : Free

※Details TBA



Hot recommendations from competitions & special programs !

In spite of the Coronavirus pandemic, we received over 6,000 submissions. There were short films that reflected the what the world experienced over the past year; stories that take place in one room, works that depict a deserted city, stories of isolation & solitude. There were many films about current social issues including #BlackLivesMatter, LGBTQ, immigration & human rights.

Special Screenings

[International Program]



『David』

Director : Zachary Woods / USA / 11:40 / Comedy / 2020

Cast: Will Ferrell

Only in Japan
(Online & Tokyo)

A severely depressed man reaches out for an emergency therapy session. He's not the only one who needs help.



『Miss Fortunate』

Director : Ella Jones / UK / 14:53 / Comedy / 2021

Starring Ben Whishaw

Only in Japan
(Online & Tokyo)

Scarlet's mum has died, leaving her with two cats, a huge tax bill and a crush on a boy she can't talk to. A comedy-drama about grief, in which a young woman loses her mother, and finds herself.

[Asia International Program]



『Recorder Exam』

Director : Kim Bo-ra ("HOUSE OF HUMMINGBIRD") /

Korea / 28:30 / Drama / 2011

Only in Japan
(Tokyo)

Nine-year old Eun-hee anxiously prepares for her recorder exam as she struggles to find a place within her own family.

[CG Animation Program]



Digital Hollywood
DIGITAL FRONTIER GRAND PRIX 2021
Best CG Animation Award

Global
Streaming
Online &
Tokyo

『ADARNIA: A sci-fi short film』

Director : Escosora Clemhyn / Japan / 10:47 / SF

A mysterious biker being chased by officers throughout the outskirts of the city called Adarnia.

Topical Pickups from Official Competitions supported by Sony & Other Competitions

Pandemic & Lockdown



[Japan Competition]
Isolation of Stay Home

Global
Streaming
Online &
Tokyo

『in-side-out』

Director: Mirai Moriyama / Japan / 25:00 / Experimental / 2021

Isolation has filled the hearts of many in the COVID-19 pandemic. One man's only form of contact with the world is an intercom, and he soon finds himself living somewhere between fantasy and reality. His tiny apartment becomes his kingdom in Moriyama's lockdown musical—it's showtime!

[International Competition]

A moment of life as many have had to live
in the recent months

Global
Streaming
Online &
Tokyo

『Call Waiting』

Director: Lucas Besnier / France / 15:32 / Drama / 2020

During this evening, Rose Vernon, operator of an emergency call center, must telework whilst taking care of her two young children. The situation gets heated when two emergencies collide...



Pandemic & Lockdown



[Japan Competition] Depression from Pandemic

Global
Streaming
Online &
Tokyo

『Kita Kyushu, The City of Movies』

Director: Katsuya Honda/Japan/11:00/Drama/2020

A movie theater in Kitakyushu City. Projectionist Kenichi is forced to close his cinema due to the COVID-19 pandemic and falls into depression, causing his wife Yoshie to worry. One day, Kenichi decides to take a positive step forward.

SDGs:

SSFF & ASIA has always searched for films that connect with SDGs through programs like "Save the Planet!" (Minister of the Environment Award), the J-WAVE Award, "War and the Power to Live", "Shibuya Diversity" and the "Ladies for Cinema Project," that features short films by creators from around the world. We've prepared these programs again this year with the hope that through watching these films & the messages within in the stories will be one way that leads to being a part of the SDG movement.

※ "Save the Earth! Minister of the Environment Award & the Save the Earth! The J-WAVE Awards will be presented at the opening ceremony in June.

[International Competition] Black Lives Matter

Global
Streaming
Online &
Tokyo

『enough.』

Director: Caleb Slain/USA/13:30/Experimental/2020

Shot over ten years, ENOUGH is a narrative hip hop film exploring Nathan Nzanga's journey from a quirky kid born to Congolese immigrants, to an idealistic teenage artist, to a frustrated young man struggling to find grace amidst pain. The film uses dream logic to sift through Nate's most conflicted feelings around race and policing.



[CG Animation Competition] Environment & Human Health

Global
Streaming
Online &
Tokyo

『Sad Beauty』

Director: Arjan Brentjes/Netherlands/9:50/
Animation/2020

In a heavily polluted world, a young woman mourns the disappearance of animal species. When she falls ill due to a bacterial infection, nature appears to send her a message in her hallucinations.

[Non-fiction Competition] Expulsion of the Asian Community

Global
Streaming
Online &
Tokyo

『90 Days to Leave』

Tanmay Srivastava/India/15:50/Documentary/2020

This short documentary is about the expulsion of the Asian community from the East African nation of Uganda in 1972. This documentary tells about the history of the Asian community in Uganda and their struggles after the expulsion.



【Shibuya Diversity Program】



Human rights, religion, immigration, LGBTQ
Thinking about Diversity around the world

Global
Streaming
Online &
Tokyo

『Maximus』
Director : Richard Prendergast/
UK/15:56/Fantasy/2020

A battle over the life of a young warrior told
through his sister's eyes

【Ladies for Cinema Project Shorts】



Supporting female filmmakers
around the world.
Powerful films from
a woman's the perspective

Global
Streaming
Online

『Melody's Melody』
Director : Chih-Yin Chen/Taiwan/20:18/
Drama/2020

Middle-aged Melody is in love. Though Charlie is 5878km away, and they don't speak the same language. Charlie writes songs, & really cares for her. The relationship is amazing, except for that it's very likely Charlie is a scammer. If you don't try, how would you know this is true love?

【War & the Power to Live Program supported by Japan Red Cross】



Now more than ever in the
COVID pandemic is the time to
show "Power of Humanity."
With imagination & compassion,
sharing the power to live all over the world

Streaming
Online
(only in
Japan)

『In This Land We're Briefly Ghosts』
Director : Chen-Wen Lo/Taiwan /
16:01 /Drama/ 2019

Myanmar, 2013. A 12-year-old Burmese child soldier, imprisoned for deserting battle, is forced to either kill her older brother, a fellow deserter, or die alongside him. Based on actual events.

NEW DIRECTIONS : Smartphone Film Competition supported by Sony

As a new competition, the festival received a record over 900 submissions. Enjoy the visual expression unique to Shooting with smartphones using the latest technology & drawing interest from filmmakers around the world.



『POSTCARD』
Director : Rodo Seiji/Japan/10:22/
Drama/2021

Global
Streaming
Online

A blind lady visits a card shop. She asks the shop owner for explanations and purchases some cards. From that day on, the woman frequently visits the shop. When the owner started to wonder why a blind person would want cards, something happens.

OTHER COMPETITION & PROGRAMS

[U-25 Project]



**Under 5 Minutes Made by Directors
Under Age 25
Discover Japan's Young Talents**

Global
Streaming
Online

『The Ones Who Walk Away』
Director : Lisa Siera/Japan/5:08/Fantasy/ 2021

Do you ever wish you could just get out of this world, escape and never come back?

[SPORTS PROGRAM]



**Global
Streaming
Online**

『Swelling』
Director : Sang-kyu KIM/South
Korea/23:31/Drama/2020

Mu Taek (M, 36) is a boxer who defected from North Korea, who makes a living as a boxing coach while searching for his long-lost wife Geum Hwa (F, 31). One day, Ha Bok (M, 50), the gym chief offers Mu Taek a sparring match against Gi Hyeon (M, 28) with payment involved.



**Non-dialogue shorts for families to
experience the world together**

Global
Streaming
Online

『Rainbow Crow』
Director : Shan, Xian-Teng & Yu You Cai/
Taiwan/6:32/Animation/ 2020

In ancient times, the earth is always warm and prosperous with life. Birds and beasts go through the green plain and luxuriant forests. One day, however, snow covers the earth all at once and the north wind blows without mercy. Rainbow Crows decide to find the Creator and beg to stop the snow.

[NEO JAPAN PROGRAM]



**Highlight short films made by
Japanese directors!**

Global
Streaming
Online

『Fly, flow, cease』
Director : Yu Muraki/Japan/19:43/Drama/ 2020

Keisuke (14) is a reclusive boy. The only thing he enjoys is spending time on the balcony with his neighbors, Aya (29) and Saita (35). One day, when Aya decides to move out, those precious moments that he thought would last forever approach an end.

【COMPETITION AWARDS】

【COMPETITIONS】

● Official Competition supported by Sony

SONY Group & SONY Corp. once again this year supports the Official Competitions (International, Asia International, & Japan Categories), from which the Best Short Award winners are eligible for nomination at the Academy Awards® for Best Live Action Short Film, in order to open the gateway for filmmakers who will lead the way to new visual creativity.
<https://www.shortshorts.org/sony/>

● SMARTPHONE FILM Competition supported by Sony

SONY Xperia supports new visual creativity unique to smartphones by expanding the range of expressions and opportunities for creator.

● VERTICAL THEATER Competition supported by smash.

Vertical short films from all over the world. Newly established with the support of SHOWROOM Co., Ltd., which develops the vertical theater app smash., to expand the possibilities of vertical short films in the film industry & creating new content.

● CG ANIMATION Competition

Now in its 10th year in collaboration with Digital Hollywood. Programs with a wide range of genres, from visually delicate works to entertaining action will be screened in addition to the "Digital Frontier Grand Prix 2021" Best CG Animation Award sponsored by Digital Hollywood short & the 93rd (2021) U.S. Academy Award® nominated for Best Animated Short.

● Cinematic Tokyo Competition

Started in 2017. Short films that depict the allure & appeal of Tokyo.

● Non-fiction Competition

From the rich & diverse daily life to the issues of the world, filmmakers depict the lives of society & people with real images that convey themes & messages directly through the eyes of the camera.

● Branded Shorts Competition

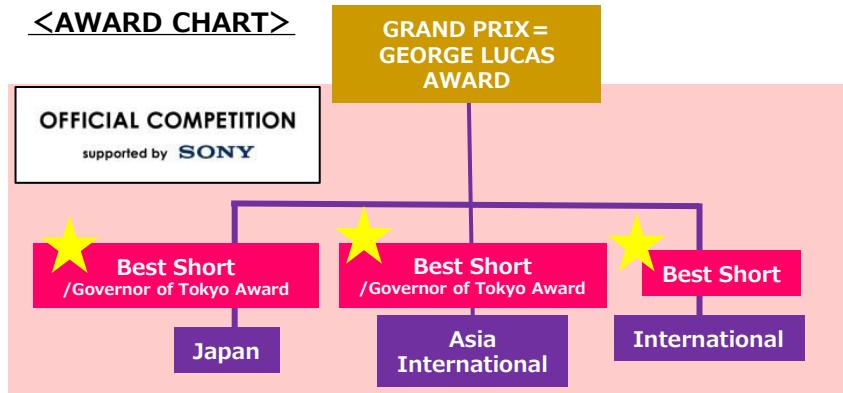
Featuring branded shorts of companies & organizations in Japan & the world.

● U-25 Project

Established in 2019 to support promising filmmakers in Japan, called out submissions of short films under 5 minutes made by directors under age 25.

Official Competition supported by Sony best short awards and the Grand Prix will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on Monday, June 21. The Opening Ceremony will be held on Friday, June. Details of the ceremony, we will sent to you in a separate press guide.

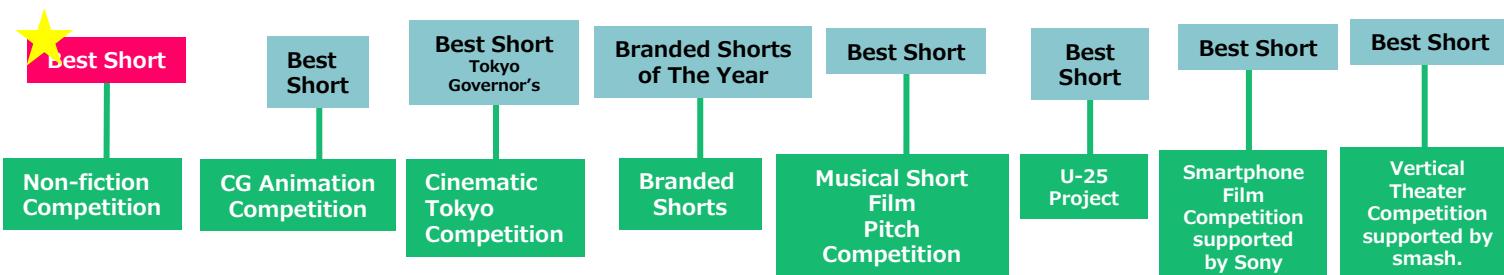
【AWARD CHART】



The George Lucas Award (Grand Prix) will be selected out of the Best Short Awards in the three official competition categories (International, Asia International & Japan). A total of 4 films, the 3 best Shorts from the Official Competition & the Best Short from the Non-fiction category will be eligible for nomination at the Academy Awards®.

Candidates for Academy Awards Nomination

As an Academy Award® accredited film festival, the Best Short Award in each category of the Official Competition will be eligible from consideration in the Short Films category of the Academy Awards®.



※In addition to the competitions, the following awards will be given to the best shorts out of all the submissions.

- **Save the Earth ! Minister's Award, Ministry of Environment**... Worldwide environmental issues
- **Save the Earth ! J-WAVE Award**... Selected by a jury of selected J-Wave listeners
- **Shibuya Diversity Award**... Gender, ethnicity, human rights, diversity themes
- **Visual Tourism Award, Japan Tourism Agency Commissioner's Award**... Festival selected shorts that show the appeal of domestic tourism
- **Biogen Award**...「Make Impossible Possible」Strong shorts with this theme
- **HOPPY HAPPY AWARD**...「Be HAPPY with HOPPY」Shorts that convey this theme
- **Amuse Musical Award (Best Pitch)**... The pitch for the brilliant ideas of musical short films

Outdoor & café screenings at Shibuya Stream TORQUE SPICE & HERB, TABLE & COURT !

「Cyclist friendly」concept Shibuya Stream TORQUE SPICE & HERB, TABLE & COURT with an outdoor futsal court where you can communicate with like-minded hobbyists! We will hold outdoor screenings as well as in the café on their big screen where you can enjoy the spice & herb flavors from their menu while watching short films! The 「creators cafe」 will also be held during the festival.

An Information Booth will be set up for information regarding participating creators & the film festival Staff will be stationed to be your guide through the film festival.

Date : Outdoor screenings – 06/12 (Sat), 13 (Sun), 18 (Fri)~20 (Sun)

※In case of inclement weather, screenings will be moved indoors.

Venue : Shibuya Stream TORQUE SPICE & HERB, TABLE & COURT
(Shibuya 3-21-3, Tokyo. Shibuya Stream 4F)

Tokyu Toyoko Line・Den-en Toshi Line, Tokyo Metro Hanzomon Line, Fuku Toshin Line – Shibuya Station Exit C2

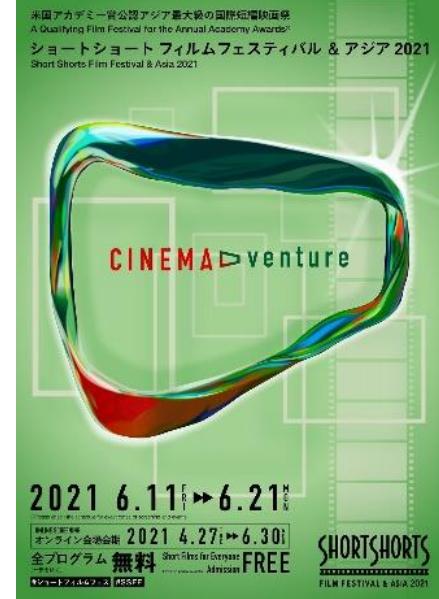
Fee : Free (Café orders will require payment)



【Short Shorts Film festival & Asia 2021 - Details】

- Festival President : Tetsuya Bessho
- Festival Ambassador : LiLiCo (Movie Commentator)
- Festival Dates : June, 11th (Fri) ~ June 21st (Mon)
※Online Theater from April 27th (Tues) ~ June 30th (Wed)
- Venues : Online Venue &
Omotesando Hills SPACE O
iTSCOM STUDIO & HALL, Futako-Tamagawa Rise,
Shibuya Stream TORQUE SPICE & HERB, TABLE & COURT
Akasaka Interconference (Akasaka Intercity AIR)
※Schedules will vary for each venue
- Fee : Free screenings/Free online screenings ※Paid events tentative
※05/12 (Wed) Reservations open
- For information : 03-5474-8844
- Official website : <https://www.shortshorts.org/2021>
- Organization : The Committee for Short Shorts

※Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19), the above all subject to change



In order to combat Covid-19 and other infectious diseases, the film festival requires visitors to wear masks, have their temperature checked, observe cough and sneeze etiquette, seating will be spaced for social distancing. In addition, all festival & venue staff will be required to wear masks. Alcohol disinfectant will be installed & doorknobs and chairs will be disinfected, along with regularly timed ventilation. For other infectious disease countermeasures, details will be posted on the website.

【PRESS INQUIRY】

Committee for ShortShorrs Tanaka TEL : 81-3-5474-8201 / E-mail press@shortshorts.org

【Stills are available here】

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15tQ2f3RuAHzbL3TnqGt1yweVT03MxqqZ?usp=sharing>