

## Academy Awards® Qualifying Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia

### Announcing the jurors for the 1<sup>st</sup> Smartphone Film Competition supported by Sony. Jurors are Eliza Ikeda, Eiji Uchida & Mike Plante.

Academy Awards® accredited & one of Asia's biggest international short film festivals, the SHORT SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & ASIA (SSFF & ASIA), announces the jurors for the 1<sup>st</sup> Smartphone Film Competition supported by Sony. The jurors are: Actress Eliza Ikeda, who also directed "Town Without Sea" which was released in 2020. Director Eiji Uchida who's film "Midnight Swan" won the 44th Japan Academy Award for Best Picture & also directed the Netflix hit "The Naked Director." Mike Plante who is the Senior programmer in the short film category of the Sundance Film Festival.



"Smartphone Film Competition supported by Sony," aims to support the creation of new visual styles unique to smartphones by expanding the range of visual expression and opportunities for new challenges.

The interest in shooting with mobile phones resulted in more than 900 submissions from around the world, the largest number ever for a new competition of SSFF & ASIA. The film festival, which opens on Friday, June 11, will screen 11 films from 7 countries on our online venues. In addition, an online talk event will commemorate the start of this category at the film festival. Taking part in the talk show will be director Eiji Uchida, a juror of this competition, called out for stories based on Ikimonogakari's song "Kirakira ni Hikaru" on monogatary.com. He directed the short film "Stardust Children" based on the winning story which was shot entirely on Xperia™. Also, on the panel will be Yoshiki Mizuno of Ikimonogakari and SSFF & ASIA festival president, Tetsuya Bessho. They will discuss the new trends in visual creative culture.

This talk show will be released at a later date with English subtitles.

#### OFFICIAL COMPETITION

supported by **SONY**

#### Smartphone Film Competition

supported by **SONY**

Once again this year, Sony will support the Official Competitions (International, Asia International, Japan) to support the filmmakers who will create & set the new trends & styles of visual contents & is the gateway to a possible nomination in the short film category at the Academy Awards® for Best Short Live Action Film, opening the door for creators who will create new visual cultures and trends.

In addition, the "Smartphone Film Competition" aims to expand the range of expression and opportunities for challenges, and supports the creation of new visual creativity unique to smartphones.

#### 【Press Inquiry】

Committee for Short Shorts, : Fuyumi Tanaka TEL : +81-3-5474-8201 E-mail : [press@shortshorts.org](mailto:press@shortshorts.org)

Stills are Available here:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o\\_cab9WgKPTW7vbMAoIYLvDpG8GiW8?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o_cab9WgKPTW7vbMAoIYLvDpG8GiW8?usp=sharing)



## Eliza Ikeda (Actress)

Born on April 16, 1996 in Fukuoka Prefecture.

Debuted as an actress in "High School Debut." (2011). Her films include "SUNNY: Our hearts Beat Together" (2018), "Okuotoko" (2018), "Sadako" (2019) & "Not Quite Dead" (2020). recently she has appeared in "Kiba: tje Fangs of Fiction" (2021) & "Kakegurui the Movie" (2021). She will star in "Mayonaka Otome Sensō" due out in 2022. She **made** her directorial debut with "Natsu, Itaru Koro."

## Eiji Uchida (Film Director)



Born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

After working as a reporter for Playboy Japan, he debuted as a writer for TBS TV network in 1999. After 2005 "Gekidan Engisha" for Fuji TV, constantly released films as writer & director to worldwide critical acclaim. His 2014 film "Grateful Dead" was selected & screened at the Yubari International Fantastic Film Festival, the Fantastic Fest (USA), the Raindance Film Festival (UK) & at the Brussels International Fantastic Film Festival.

In 2016 he wrote & directed "Lowlife Love" which was distributed through Third Window Films. The film was a smash hit at Teatro in Shinjuku. The film was screened at over 30 film festivals worldwide including the Tokyo International FF, & the Rotterdam International FF. the film was also distributed in England, Germany, Singapore & Hong Kong. In 2019, he wrote & directed the Tokyo TV drama "I Turn" & wrote & directed 2 episodes of the Netflix hit film "the Naked Director." His 2020 film "Midnight Swan" which he wrote & directed, won the Best Screenplay, Best Director & Best Film



## Mike Plante (Sundance Film Festival Senior Shorts Programmer)

Mike Plante makes documentary films and works as a festival programmer. Currently he is the Senior Shorts Programmer for the Sundance Film Festival. As a filmmaker, his most recent feature is the documentary "And With Him Came the West" which premiered at the 2019 MOMA Doc Fortnight in New York.

# SSFF & ASIA 2021 Smartphone Film Competition supported by Sony Nomination



## After You

Lionel Nakache / 0:01:00 /France/Comedy/ 2020

A woman goes to a job interview, and has the courage to make herself respected, whatever her social rank.



## DUELO

Jacques Bonnavent / 0:13:37 /Mexico /Drama / 2020

The loss of a loved one takes Leonora on an apparently endless journey.



**Expedition Under my Bed**  
Gérôme Barry / 0:01:24 /France /Comedy / 2020

A quarantined Parisian leads an expedition under his bed in search of his missing sock.



**Homemade Cookies**  
Calliopi Villy Kotoula & Nikolaos Kakonas / 0:06:11  
/Greece/Experimental / 2020

A little girl tries to live her daily life with quarantine as her companion. Her innocence shields her family from covid-19.



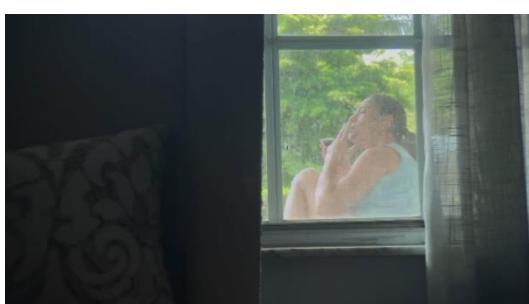
**Home Stream**  
Giulia Gandini & Lily Blackham / 0:10:57 /U.K./Documentary / 2019

Lily has been homeless for a year and a half. We gave her a phone to tell us her story.



**POSTCARD**  
Rodo Seji / 0:10:22 /Japan/Drama / 2021

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.



**Searching For Ana Veldford**  
Ronald Baez / 0:05:41 /U.S.A./Documentary / 2020

A middle-aged mother of two reflects on her emotional decision to immigrate to the United States some 30 years earlier, in this reflective documentary short that borrows its title from a uniquely powerful poem by the legendary exiled Cuban writer Lourdes Casal.



**The Bird Song**  
Lawrence Chandam / 0:03:00 /India /Drama / 2020

A young man, through a telephone conversation, seeks reaffirmation from his mother, for the truth about an incident involving a dead bird in his childhood. Life comes full circle for the son when the mother restores his faith and reassures him that for that little boy - It would always remain true.



### The Cookie Heist

Kamran Khan / 0:08:57 /U.S.A./Comedy/ 2020

**Two brothers must put aside their differences in order to avoid their father and steal cookies from the top of the fridge.**



### The Story of a Box Camera

Ravneet Oberoi / 0:03:31 /India/Documentary/ 2020

**This film is a candid conversation with Tikam Chand, a passionate photographer from India who uses his ancestral 160 year old box camera to take portraits of people on the streets of Jaipur. The film shows the ancient technique of photography on a photo paper. Fun fact: this was the 'digital camera' of 1860's.**



**viewers:1**

**Yosuke Kobayashi & Daigo Hariya / 0:04:33 /Japan/Sci-Fi / 2021**

**In the future, after "something" happened to the human race, a man continues to video stream himself in solitude as he wanders about the city ruins for the one single viewer he has.**

## **[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.

