

**Academy Awards® accredited Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia presents
Japan Cultural Expo Project: Creation of Stories All Around Japan**

Read 3 short stories that are based on Traditional Japanese Folktales
in Okinawa, Hiroshima, Kumamoto in English

Now streaming worldwide a discussion between the 3 authors as well

[**https://www.shortshorts.org/japanculturalexpo/en/creation-of-stories-all-around-japan/**](https://www.shortshorts.org/japanculturalexpo/en/creation-of-stories-all-around-japan/)

Academy Awards® accredited Short Shorts Film Festival and Asia (SSFF & ASIA), is collaborating with Japan Cultural Expo on a project about short stories on Japanese folktales.

In the frame of this project, young contemporary writers create short stories inspired by local legends set in various locations around Japan.

This year, the project introduces three exciting short stories set in Okinawa, Hiroshima, and Kumamoto that can be read in English. Moreover, the SSFF & ASIA 2021 Autumn Film Festival hosted a panel discussion with the three writers involved in this project. The video of their talk can be viewed online for free with English subtitles.

The authors: Kumiko Takahashi, Masatomo Tamaru, and Nako Mori talked about the background and the writing and development of the stories, which folktales they based it on. This discussion is now available online with English subtitles. We hope to deliver the wonders of Japan through this project.

URL : <https://www.shortshorts.org/japanculturalexpo/en/creation-of-stories-all-around-japan/>



[Creation of short stories all around Japan: Participating Authors and Stories' Synopsis]

Okinawa Prefecture x
Kumiko Takahashi

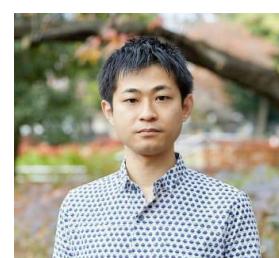
"Mom's Celestial Robe of Feathers"



Ruri cleans the garage and finds something that was once very important to her mom. Ruri realizes that before she became a mother, her mom had dreams of her own, and Ruri wants to support her in that.

The traditional Ryukyu theater piece Mekarushi brings tears to Ruri's mom's eyes, and she reaches a big decision.

Hiroshima Prefecture x
Masatomo Tamaru
"Time Arrows"



Summoned by their ailing father, three adult children return to their childhood home of Hatsukaichi in Hiroshima Prefecture. When they arrive, their father asks them to go to the island of Innoshima to collect time arrows made by a craftsman there. The three time arrows trigger a profound change in their strained family relations.

Kumamoto Prefecture x
Nako Mori
"Dancing Girls"



Second-year high-schooler Himawari doesn't have any particular dreams or goals but feels pressured to do something other than laze around with her best friend Sumi. To achieve a breakthrough, the pair make up their minds to join that emblem of summer in their home prefecture of Kumamoto, the Omote-yan Open Dance...



Archived Discussion URL <https://youtu.be/noSWwGtaK2w>

【Authors Profiles】

Kumiko Takahashi

Writer, Poet, and Songwriter. Born in Ehime Prefecture, 1982.

After working in the music industry she went into writing.

Her publications include a novel collection "Gururi" (Chikuma Shobo), a collection of essays, "Tabi wo Sumikatosu" (Kadokawa), and a collection of poems and drawings, "Konya Kyoboudakara Watashi" (Mishima) etc. She has provided lyrics for many artists, wrote scripts for a play of a modernized Ningyo Joururi (a puppet theater), and recites poetry in other times.

Masatomo Tamaru

Born in Ehime, 1987.

Graduated from the Faculty of Engineering at the University of Tokyo.

He is one of the essential writers of modern short stories and on top of that he is also the head judge for the Bocchan Literary Award. He also holds a creative writing courses throughout Japan.

His publications include, "Umiiro no Bin", "Otogi Company" etc.

Official Site: <http://masatomotamaru.com/>

Nako Mori

Born in Kanagawa 1997.

Received a HOPPY HAPPY AWARD for Book Categories in 2019 and a Book Short Award in 2020.

【Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia】

"Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia" (SSFF & ASIA) is a film festival held at the Harajuku/Omotesando area in Tokyo, in June every year since its first festival in 1999. It is one of the largest international short film festival in Asia, and every year more than 10,000 works are gathered from all over the world. Led by its official competition (Japan division, Asia International division, international division), the festival consists of various divisions and programs with diverse genres - from "environment," to "tourism," "CG animation," "non-fiction" and more. In addition, the winner of the Grand Prix award is eligible to be nominated in the short film category of the Academy Awards® the following year. In celebration of its 20th anniversary in 2018, the festival Grand Prix was named the "George Lucas Award" in honour of the great director George Lucas.

【official web】 <https://www.shortshorts.org>

【Press Inquiry】

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Stills are available;

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GahwlPpla6u09V91B0Ztz-TfaggFw4Gd?usp=sharing>