

## Accredited by the Academy Awards® Short Shorts Film Festival & ASIA 2022 Introducing over 200 films that were nominated from more than 5,500 submissions

Opening of the Online Venue of SSFF & ASIA 2022!  
Special Programs include - "13 Japanese Directors on the Rise"  
& the release of "Boy Sprouted," a short film written by A.I.  
Worldwide screenings of the Online Venue begin today!

Academy Awards® qualifying Short Shorts Film Festival & ASIA (SSFF&ASIA) has launched the official website for the 2022 nominees! <https://shortshorts.org/2022/en/>

This year's film festival will be held at multiple venues in Tokyo, starting with the opening ceremony on June 7th (Tuesday) and ending with the award ceremony on June 20th (Monday). The online theater starts global streaming from April 28th, today.

To embody this year's theme "Meta Cinema: Transcend, Discover, Begin~", one of the opening short films of the online venue is "Boy Sprouted, the script written by AI, a first in Japan. Also kicking off is the virtual movie theater in the virtual venue, "DOOR."

**Announced on the official website of the festival, over 200 films were selected from out of 5,720 films that were submitted from 126 countries and regions around the world.**

Nominees of the Official Competition supported by Sony, the Animation Competition, the Non-Fiction Competition and the Smartphone Film Competition supported by Sony's Xperia will be streamed online starting June 4th on the online venue as well as at Tokyo venues from June 7th to 20th.

As special screenings of this year's film festival, "High School Girls" by director Park Ji-Wan ("The Day I Died: Unclosed Case"), "Good Morning Midnight" starring Fanny Ardant and "The Vandal", an animated short that depicts "lobotomy" produced by Darren Aronofsky ("Black Swan") will be streamed worldwide starting June 4th.

In addition to "Boy Sprouted," as the opening film of the festival, a special program, "Japanese Filmmakers on the Rise" will start worldwide streaming on the online venue today. Short films by 13 Japanese filmmakers who will follow in the footsteps director Ryusuke Hamaguchi, who is currently enjoying increased recognition around the world.

Some awards will be announced in advance and at the Opening Ceremony on Thursday, June 7. Awards that will be sent for consideration at the Academy Awards® 2023 and the George Lucas Award (Grand Prix) will be announced on June 20, at the Award Ceremony.

### Special Screening: International Program



**Dir : Elisabeth Silveiro**  
France/22:36/Drama/2021

### Special Screening: Asia Program



**『HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS』 Dir : PARK Ji-wan**  
Korea/ 15:47 /Drama/2008

### Special Screening: Animation Program



**『The Vandal』 Dir : Eddie Alcazar**  
USA/ 15:38/Animation/2021

A short film written by AI

### April 28th, Online Venue Opening Program



**『BOY SPROUTED』 Dir : Yuko Watanabe**  
Japan /26:15/2021/Japan



**Who is the next Ryusuke Hamaguchi?**  
~13 Japanese Filmmakers on the Rise~

The directors who have been nominated & won at SSFF & ASIA, 21 short films by 13 Japanese directors who are currently in the spotlight, making their screening debut and winning prizes at overseas film festivals:  
Taishi Okuyama / Ken Ochiai / Toshimichi Saito / Yuki Saito / Kazuhito Nakae / Mayu Nakamura / Yuji Hariu / Isamu Hirabayashi / Michihito Fujii / Yukinori Makabe / Daigo Matsui/ HIKARI/ Raita Yabushita

SSFF & ASIA collaborates with the Governor of Metropolitan Tokyo and established "Cinematic Tokyo Competition" in 2016. Introducing short films that take "Tokyo" as their subject. It shows the many attractions that Tokyo has to offer.

Various works expressing "Tokyo" are selected and are on the website.

The best short award (Governor of Tokyo Award) will be announced throughout the festival. We will also hold an online seminar event linked to this year's film festival theme "Meta Cinema" to support Japanese creators.



## Cinematic Tokyo Program ※starts streaming on May 19<sup>th</sup> Thursday



### 『Tokyo Rain』

**Director : Michel Wild**

**Switzerland / 12:07 / Fantasy / 2021**

Heavy rain has been hitting the facades of Tokyo. Masahiro is alone in his office. He calls his wife, who doesn't seem to be excited about her husband's overtime. He falls asleep on the computer during his monotonous paperwork. He has a nightmare. When he wakes up, nothing seems the way it used to be.

Online

Tokyo

## 2022 Oscar® winner Ryusuke Hamaguchi's Talk Seminar is now on YouTube



How Ryusuke Hamaguchi expresses "life" in films.

A seminar by Director Ryusuke Hamaguchi, who is now gaining recognition with his film "Drive My Car," reveals how he confronts fiction and reality.

<https://youtu.be/BeKdG923JTE>

## Exciting films from each program

With more than 5,500 submissions, there were a number of films that reflect the world and society of today. Most of this year's shorts continued to depict the pandemic and the changes in family, personal/working environments in a restrictive society. In the Animation competition, there were many films for adults that depicted human loneliness and conflict that cannot be expressed through live action narrative.

In the Non-Fiction Competition, short films with strong social messages about environmental and racial issues as well as films that placed focus a particular person and brought new discoveries from that personal story.

**Nominees of the Official Competition supported by Sony (International, Asia International, Japan) starts Streaming at Online Venue starting June 4<sup>th</sup>**

### 【Special Screening: International Program】 Streaming starts June 4<sup>th</sup>



**Starring French Actress  
Fanny Ardant ("8 Women")**

Online

TOKYO

### 『Good Morning Midnight』

**Dir : Elisabeth Silveiro / France / 22:36 / Drama / 2021**

Like every night, Sasha goes to drown her loneliness in alcohol at the local bistro. But this time, she meet Paolo, an attractive man who wants to talk to her.

### 【Special Screening: Asia International Program】 Streaming stars June 4<sup>th</sup>



**From the up-and-coming female Korean director  
Park Ji-Wan depicts the life of a woman**

Online

TOKYO

### 『High School Girls』

**Dir : Park Ji-Wan / South Korea / 15:46 / Drama / 2008**

High school girls A, B, C, D, and E are playing poker. S and T are fighting over marks they got in a sham exam. Y is spending an odd night with the practice teacher. They are all high school girls. They are all the "time" you have passed through.



**Focusing on the directing talent of Japanese Actresses**

Online

TOKYO



『Senko-hanabi』

Dir : Hitomi Kuroki/Japan/25:00/Drama/2022

Miki suddenly returns to her home town. When her parents realize that she is expecting, they question her. Then Miki finds a letter in her desk. The letter, which she and her best friend Uzuki had continued writing during their school days, contained the lyrics that gave them comfort back then.



『Communication to be understood』

Dir : Atsuko Maeda/Japan/18:50/Comedy/2022

Kie's loud crying, echoes throughout the small coffee shop. Yumi gently watches over her. The manager of the coffee shop thinks he knows the reason for Kie's crying and tells her but... A girl power comedy!

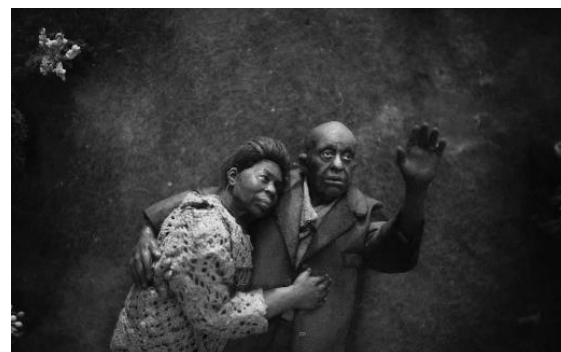


『STORY』

Dir : Tina Tamashiro/Japan/16:20/Fantasy/2022

A blank, white room. In the room, a beautiful boy lies alone on his bed. Beside the bed, a girl talks to the boy about her unexpected feelings. What will become of their thrilling relationship?

[Special Screening: Animation Program] Streaming starts June 4<sup>th</sup>



**Produced by Darren Aronofsky of "Black Swan"**  
**An animated film about a Lobotomy**

Online

TOKYO

『The Vandal』

Dir : Eddie Alcazar/USA/15:38/Animation/2021

A man recovering from a lobotomy suddenly loses the love of his life, who was also his caregiver. The aftermath leads his mind into the incomprehensible.



**Digital Hollywood Digital Frontier Grand-Prix 2022**  
**Movie Category Best Animation Award**

Online

TOKYO

『FRANK THE PIG』

Dir : Hiroshi Imafuku/Japan/9:06/Animation/2021

It's over. Frank has failed at his big task and will soon be killed. He spends his remaining time in a motel room and decides to live a slacker life but a chance encounter with a young daughter aspiring to be a singer brings back his lust to life..

## Exciting films from each program

【Non-Fiction Program (pickup)】 [Streaming starts June 4<sup>th</sup>](#)



**Racism and Society in the U.S. and Japan**

Online

TOKYO

『Living While Black, in Japan』

Dir : Shiho Fukada & Keith Bedford/Japan/15:13/Non-Fiction/2021

African Americans in Japan discuss how racial issues in the U.S. affected their decision to live abroad.

【Smartphone Film Competition supported by Sony's Xperia (pickup)】 [Streaming starts June 4<sup>th</sup>](#)



**A documentary about Syria during war, shot from a rooftop.**

Online

TOKYO

『A city without sky』

Dir : Zain Issa/Syria/05:38/Documentary/2021

About the life of a young man living in a conflict area during the war. His feelings about his city and his home. He does not know what will happen to him tomorrow or in a few hours. This is the fear that war gives him

【U-25 Program (pickup)】 [Streaming starts May 26<sup>th</sup>](#)



**The youngest (10 years old) director ever to be nominated.**

Online

TOKYO

『Boy pays for the fight』

Dir : Tao Oka/Japan/05:00/Comedy/2021

Takashi goes to elementary school & loves heroes. When he puts on a mysterious suit, he hears the voice of the latest model AI Pate No. 60. A mysterious villain is waiting for him. It is time to fight like the hero of his dreams. A lonely force for justice, the modern scientific warrior Paidman.

【Game Movie Program (pickup)】 [Streaming starts May 26<sup>th</sup>](#)



**Selected screenings of animated shorts created using game engines and films adapted from the world of games**

Online

TOKYO

『Noguchi's Bell Episode 2』

Dir : Michael Pachidamrong/Thailand/20:17 /Animation/ 2022

In a futuristic dystopia populated by ancient warriors, advanced robots, and creatures of Japanese folklore, one Lord reigns with oppression and atrocity over all who oppose him. All that stands in his way is a lone samurai with a strange bell.

【Focus on Japan Special Program (pickup)】 [Streaming starts May 26<sup>th</sup>](#)



**A rich selection of genres including drama, animation, and vertical short films.**

Online

TOKYO

『#love/delusion from in you Tokyo』

Dir : Hana Matsumoto/Japan/Drama/17:37/ 2020

Masahiko Katsuse's romantic fantasy tweets, which has been viral in numerous timelines, has finally been made into a film! The boyfriend's tweets are depicted from the girlfriend's point of view.



## The story of Regeneration, beyond SDGs created by filmmakers around the world

SSFF & ASIA sent out awards and messages related to SDGs through films with "Save the Earth! Minister of the Environment Award" and the J-WAVE Award, as well as "War and the Power to Live," "Diversity," and the "Ladies for Cinema Project."

From this year's collection of works, highlighting films that shows the need for action to make the earth, the world, and society a better place beyond SDGs.

\* The "Save the Earth! Minister of the Environment Award" and "Save the Earth! J-WAVE Award" will be announced on June 5th, Environment Day, and the awards will be presented at the opening ceremony.

**[Shibuya Diversity Program] Streaming starts May 19<sup>th</sup>**



**Race, Religion, Immigrants, LGBTQ+...**  
**Films to think about diversity in the world**

Online

TOKYO

『Lucky Fish』

Dir : Emily Jampel/USA/8:24/Romance/2021

Two Asian-American teenagers meet in the bathroom of a Chinese restaurant while having dinner with their families

**[Ladies for Cinema Project Program] Streaming starts May 26<sup>th</sup>**



**A project to support female filmmakers**  
**around the world.**

**A film that depicts same-sex marriage in Japan**

Online

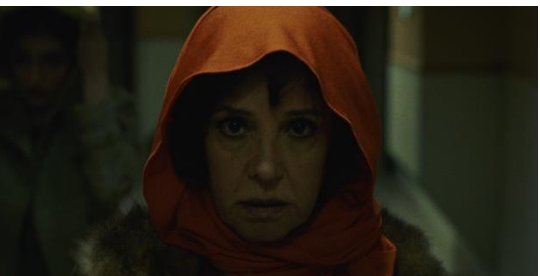
TOKYO

『Veils』

Dir : Erila Nakayama/Japan/18:02/Drama/2021

Ayumi and Sayaka are looking forward to having a wedding photo shoot on their five-year anniversary.

**[War and the Power to live Program supported by Red Cross] Streaming starts June 4<sup>th</sup>**



**Staying close to people in the midst of**  
**the overwhelming violence of war**  
**Now is the time to give a cheer to the power of life!**

Online

『Winter of '79』

Dir : Julia Elihu/USA/20:29 /Drama/ 2021

At the onset of the 1979 Iranian Revolution, a Persian-Jewish mother is forced to question her faith in her country.

**[KIDS Program (pickup)] Streaming starts May 5<sup>th</sup>**



**Experience the world through short films!**  
**Centered on non-dialogue shorts,**  
**this program will engage**  
**both adults and children.**

Online

TOKYO

『CO COTTON』

Dir : YU YAT TUNG/Hong Kong/6:05/Animation/ 2021

An adventure about a school girl find out the childhood memory in the developing city.

**Save the Earth! Minister's Award, J-WAVE Award Nominees : June 5<sup>th</sup> (Environment Day)**

From the left : 『Penthouse』 (Dir: Vegard Dahle & Line Klungseth Johansen) ,

『Nuisance Bear』 (Dir: Jack Weisman, Gabriela Osio Vanden),

『Present for Future』 (Dir: Shamir Raiapov) , 『Where is my darling?』 (Dir: Adam Finney)



# [COMPETITIONS & AWARDS]

## [COMPETITIONS]

### ●Official Competition supported by Sony

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

### ●Smartphone Film Competition supported by Sony's Xperia

Supported by Xperia, a smartphone made with Sony's latest technology, this competition was established with the goal to expand the range of visual expression and opening new challenges for filmmakers to create a new visual style unique to smartphones.

### ●Animation Competition

We look for a wide range of animated short films! The Best Short Award Winner will be eligible for nomination at the annual Academy Awards® the following year.

### ●Cinematic Tokyo Competition

Established in 2017, the Cinematic Tokyo Competition introduces short films that take "Tokyo" as their subject. It shows the many attractions that Tokyo has to offer.

### ●Non-Fiction Competition

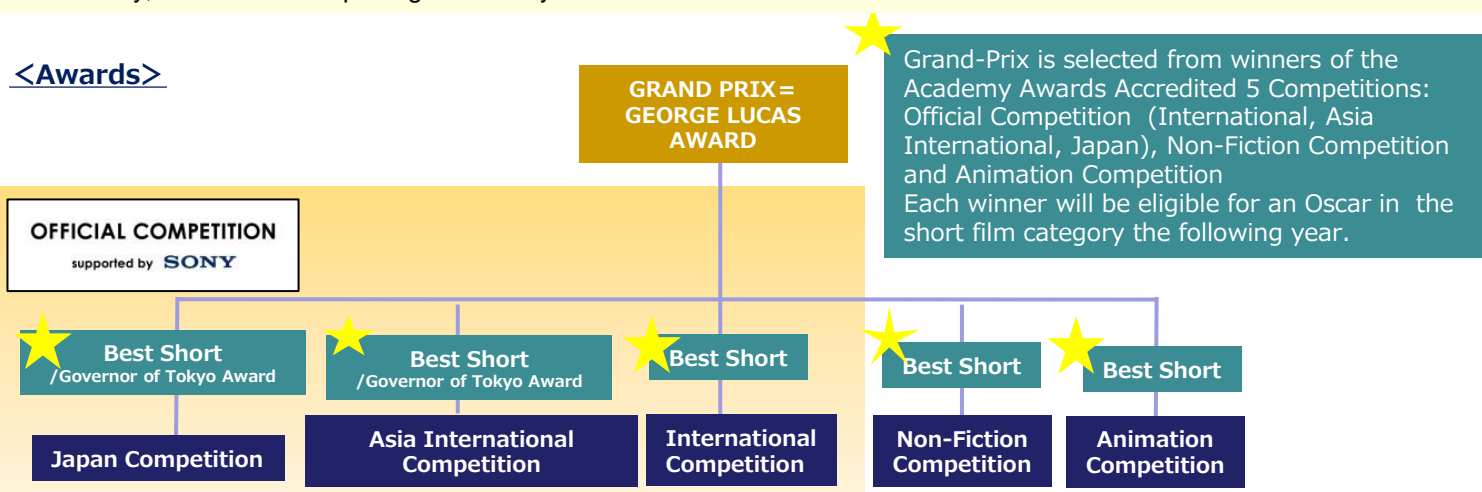
In 2018, to commemorate the 20th anniversary of SSFF & ASIA, we established the "Non-fiction Competition. Being an Academy Awards® accredited short film festival has allowed us to present this competition, which will let the audience experience the power of visual images.

●**Branded Shorts Competition** Featuring branded shorts of companies & organizations in Japan & the world.

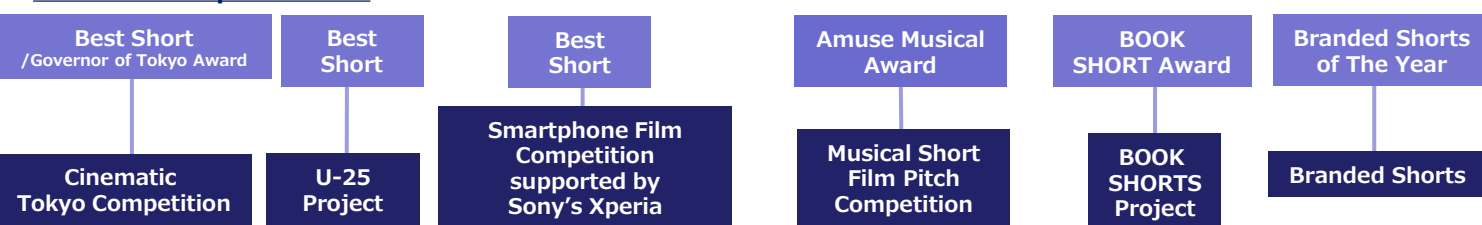
●**U-25 Project** Established in 2019 to support promising filmmakers in Japan. Called out for submissions of short films under 5 minutes made by directors in Japan under age 25.

Official Competition supported by Sony, Best Short awards and the Grand Prix will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on Monday, June 20. The Opening Ceremony will be held on June 7.

## <Awards>



## < Other Competitions >



※In addition to the competitions, the following awards will be given to the best shorts from 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
- Deloitte Digital Award**... Award given to the Branded Short with the theme "fusion of digital and humanity" under the following criteria: Purpose, New, Design, Human Experience and Engagement.
- MILBON BEAUTY AWARD**... Given to the short film that best embodies "beauty" from among the selected films.
- Audience Award**... Audience members will vote to give the award to one winner from the each of the main competitions listed.
- Best Actor Award**... Winners will be selected from each of the three official competitions (International, Asia International & Japan Competitions).
- Global Spotlight Award**... Given to the creator or artist of a short film that inspires a broad audience and receives widespread, global attention.
- Most Viewed Award**... Award for the most viewed film online at the Festival from the competition films screened online starting June 4.

## [Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2022]

- SSFF & ASIA President: Tetsuya Bessho
- Dates: Festival - Tuesday, June 7th to Monday, June 20th
- \* Online venue: Thursday, April 28th - Thursday, June 30th
- Screening venues: Online venues and multiple venues in Tokyo
- \* Screening period differs for each venue.
- Entry fee: Free of charge with the exception of special events  
(Reservation bookings scheduled to begin April 28th)
- Homepage: <https://shortshorts.org/2022/en/>
- Organizer: Committee for Short Shorts /  
Committee for Short Shorts Film Festival Asia
- \* Program details are subject to change.
- \* The times or content may be subject to change based on  
the status of the spread of the new coronavirus infection.



<Festival Main Visual>

### [SSFF & ASIA 2022 SDGs Initiatives]

SSFF & ASIA has digitalized distribution of printed materials since 2020. We will develop as a film festival by implementing SDGs step by step. We will also continue to develop programs with themes of "Diversity" and "War and the Power to Live," as well as "Save the Earth! The festival will encourage the awareness of filmmakers and participants about SDGs through our programs like the "Ladies for Cinema Project" and various awards for these SDG programs.

### [Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia]

In 1999, actor Tetsuya Bessho, member of the Screen Actors Guild of America (SAG), has worked to introduce the then new genre, "short films," which he first encountered in the United States, to film fans in Japan as the American Short Shorts Film Festival.

In 2001, the festival was renamed the Short Shorts Film Festival.

In 2004, SSFF was recognized as an Academy Award® accredited film festival.

In the same year, with the aim of promoting new visual culture from Asia and nurturing up-and-coming young filmmakers, the Short Shorts Film Festival Asia (SSFF ASIA, co-sponsored by Tokyo Metropolitan Government) was established and the festival is now known collectively as SSFF & ASIA.

To commemorate the festival's 20th anniversary in 2018, the Grand Prix film was named the "George Lucas Award" in honor of director George Lucas.

In January 2019, the Short Shorts Film Festival in Hollywood was held to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the festival. Beginning with the 2019 festival, in addition to the Official Competitions (International, Asia International, and Japan), the Non-Fiction Competition and this year, the Animation Competition Best Short Award winners have also become eligible for nomination at the Academy Awards the following year.

SSFF & ASIA will continue to support young creators through the festival.

[Official website] <https://www.shortshorts.org/index-en.php>

The SSFF & ASIA 2022 website is scheduled to open on Thursday, April 28, 2022.

### Press Inquiry:

Committee for Short Shorts PR: Fuyumi Tanaka E-mail [press@shortshorts.org](mailto:press@shortshorts.org)

【Still images are available here】

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kfavt9mxTmJVHz9CqfgWkJLMC7oWqUrn?usp=sharing>