

Academy Award® Accredited & Asia's One of the Largest International Film Festivals
SHORT SHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & ASIA 2022

Festival President Tetsuya Bessho
Makes a courtesy call to the Governor of Tokyo
Announcing the Best Short Award (Governor of Tokyo Award) for the
Cinematic Tokyo Competition

Specially produced short film "Samurai Swordfish" has also been completed.



Actor Tetsuya Bessho, president of Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA), one of Asia's largest international short film festivals accredited by the Academy Awards®, paid a courtesy visit to Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike at the Tokyo Metropolitan Government Building on Monday, May 23, 2022.

Upon hearing Bessho's explanation that the theme of the festival, now in its 24th year, is "Meta Cinema," Governor Koike said, "Continuity is strength. I think it is wonderful that we are celebrating the 24th anniversary this year. In addition, this film festival has become more & more well-known each year, and the number of people taking on new challenges has increased. Films enrich us, make us think, and give us opportunities. Feature films are interesting, but there are parts that are interesting only because they are short," she praised and talked about the appeal of short films.

During the courtesy call, Governor Koike announced the outstanding short films in the Cinematic Tokyo Competition, a collaboration between SSFF & ASIA and the Tokyo Metropolitan Government to promote the diverse attractions of Tokyo by inviting short films from around the world with the theme "Tokyo." This year, 257 submissions were received from all over the world, **and the winner of the Cinematic Tokyo best Short Award (Governor of Tokyo Award) was "Tokyo Rain," directed by Michel Wilde and Robert Schneider of Switzerland.** Bessho introduced the film by saying, "It is a story about a businessman who falls asleep at his desk in his office at night and has a nightmare that Tokyo is caught in a flood. He also praised the quality of the film, saying, "The graphic beauty of the images and the elements of environmental issues are excellent!" **He also announced the completion of "Samurai Swordfish," a short film from the "Cinema Sports Project," a project to create original short films that express the vibrancy of Tokyo, where international sporting events are held, and make people want to visit the places where they were shot.** In addition to Hiroki Iijima, who plays the lead role, the cast included Maito Fujioka, Marty Friedman, Hiroshi Fujioka (special appearance). Keiichi Kimura and Takayuki Suzuki, gold medalists in the 2020 Para Swimming Championships, also made cameo appearances. The trailer was shown for the first time today during the courtesy visit. Governor Koike commented on the film, "I saw that the film is filled with the charms of para-sports and Tokyo, and that it will convey Tokyo's appeal to the world.

After the courtesy visit, Bessho commented, "This year, we have decided to hold a full-fledged hybrid of live and online events. In an age where online and real life are overlapping, what kind of visual communication can we have as a film festival in the 21st century? I would like to communicate the power of films and images to everyone while making full use of the online platform," he said, expressing his enthusiasm for the festival.

SSFF & ASIA has co-sponsored the Cinematic Tokyo Competition since 2016 with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government as a competition to promote the "Tokyo Brand," a tourism policy of the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. The Governor of Tokyo Award will be presented to "Tokyo Rain," the best film in this category announced today, at the awards ceremony to be held on Monday, June 20. "Tokyo Rain" can already be viewed online at <https://shortshorts.org/2022/en/program/tokyo/tokyo-rain/>, and "Samurai Swordfish" will be available on YouTube (<https://youtu.be/D2Tsiy-h81c>) from today.

< Outline of the Event >

Title:	Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia President - Tetsuya Bessho Courtesy Call
Date / Time	May 23, 2022 (Monday) 11:00 - 11:15
Participants:	Governor Yuriko Koike (Governor of Tokyo), Tetsuya Bessho (SSFF & ASIA, Festival President) Seigo Tono (SSFF & ASIA Festival Executive Director), Shoko Takegasa (SSFF & ASIA Festival Director)

Cinematic Tokyo Competition Best Short Award / Governor of Tokyo Award: 『Tokyo Rain』

Founded in 2017, the "Cinematic Tokyo" program showcases short films introducing the various charms of Tokyo. 257 short films were submitted from around the world and 6 were selected as the finalists. The Governor of Tokyo, Yuriko Koike announced the Best Short Award of this competition as "Tokyo Rain" today.

『Tokyo Rain』

Director : Michel Wild & Robert Schneider /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. <https://shortshorts.org/2022/program/tokyo/tokyo-rain/>



Cinema Sports Project Special Production 『Samurai Swordfish』

The aim of the project is to produce and promote a short film with elements of major international sports events that are taking place in Tokyo since 2019 to 2020.

『Samurai Swordfish』

Written & Directed by Hiroki Horanai / Japan / 24:58 / Drama /2022

Casts: Hiroki Iijima, Maito Fujioka, Keisei Kawahara, with Marty Friedman and Hiroshi Fujioka

Edo, 1863. Aisuke Kajiki, a young blind swordsman, is entrusted the son of his best friend Toramaru Sakakibara, who is about to join the Shogun's Samurai Unit and promises to train him well. However, after Toramaru's death in battle, Eisuke drowns in a river and is transported in time to present-day Tokyo. Eisuke and his descendant, Ryusei, a college student, go to meet Toramaru's descendant, Taiga, a swimmer. The blind samurai's promise to his best friend in Edo is fulfilled 160 years later in present-day Tokyo through para-swimming.



Cinema Sports Project site :

https://www.shortshorts.org/cinemasports_project/en/

Full movie :

<https://youtu.be/D2Tsiy-h81c>

Director: Hiroki Horanai

Born in Japan, 1985. Started making films in junior high school.

Graduated from Hosei University. Currently working as a director at Dentsu Creative X. In 2018, he won the SSFF&ASIA Cinematic Tokyo award for "Tokyo Comet."



▼ Stills are available from the folder below

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1JOQJZAM9vywyXcRU-Beb7v5mMoZdljCWp?usp=sharing>

【Short Shorts Film Festival & ASIA 2022 Outline】

- President : Tetsuya Bessho
- Dates : June 7th (Tue) ~ June 20th (Mon)
Online Screening April 28th (Thurs) ~ June 30th (Thurs)
- Screening Venues : Opening Ceremony at LINE CUBE SHIBUYA
Euro Live
Omotesando Hills Space O
TORQUE SPICE & HERB, TABLE & COURT
iTSCOM STUDIO & HALL Futakotamagawa Rise
Akasaka Intercity Conference
※Schedules varies by venue
- Admission : Free ※Special events will have an admission fee
- Official Website : <https://www.shortshorts.org/2022/en>
- Organizer : Committee for Short Shorts / Committee for Short Shorts Film Festival Asia

※All event schedules are subject to change due to COVID-19.



<Poster Visual>

【Contact Information】

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