

## 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 One of the stories will become a short film in 2023!

Now streaming worldwide a discussion between the 3 authors as well

Academy Awards® accredited Short Shorts Film Festival and Asia (SSFF & ASIA), is collaborating with Japan Cultural Expo on a project about short stories based 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 Iwate, Shizuoka, and Okinawa that can be read in English. One of the short stories will become a short film produced by SSFF & ASIA and will be premiered in 2023.

Moreover, the SSFF & ASIA 2022 Screening in Autumn 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; Masami Kakinuma, Kento Norikane, and Bin Sugawara talked about the background, development, and writing of the stories as well as which folktales they based their stories 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/>**



Project sponsored and  
co-sponsored by the 2022 Japan  
Cultural Expo

#### [Creation of short stories all around Japan: 3 stories]

Iwate Prefecture x  
Masami Kakinuma  
"Go for it"



Years have passed since Yuto last visited his grandmother in Iwate Prefecture. The first evening at her house, he encounters a little girl; along with fond memories, a deep-seated worry comes rushing back to him. The worry haunts him until he takes his leave...

Shizuoka Prefecture x  
Kento Norikane

"The Two of Us, in a Town with a View of the Sea"



Close friends since childhood, Kanna and Miya grow up running through Atami. One day they decide to post on social media a photo of themselves posing in front of the statue of OMiya and Kan'ichi. Hard feelings ensue.

Fukuoka Prefecture x  
Bin Sugawara  
"Jars of Amber"



When the protagonist moves into a home she bought in the suburban neighborhood outside of Fukuoka where she and her parents lived when she was small, she brings along cuttings of plum trees that her mother had tenderly cared for before she passed away. A story that follows plum trees between Fukuoka and Tokyo and the family memories that go with them as well as the beginning of the protagonist's new lifestyle.



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

### [Authors Profiles ]

#### **Masami Kakinuma**

Born in Tokyo in 1985 and raised in Kanagawa Prefecture, Masami Kakinuma is a graduate of Seisen University's Faculty of Arts, where she majored in Japanese Language and Literature. She worked for a university before becoming a lyricist. She has written lyrics for Juju, Snow Man, Johnny's Jr., Musical: Touken Ranbu, The Prince of Tennis: RisingBeat, Love Live! Nijigasaki High School Idol Club, Win Morisaki, Asaka, Sachika Misawa, and Serena Kozuki, among others.

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.

#### **Kento Norikane**

Author. Born in 1992. Lives in Hyogo Prefecture. In 2017, from the public offering, "Eating is slow vol. 3 (bookstore)" published "Woman with a decayed tooth." In 2019, the short story "Man on the opposite bank" (Planet and Whistle Books). In 2020, "Ken-chan" was published in "kaze no tanbun Children of the mobile library (Kashiwa Shobo)." 2021, 7th Book Shorts Award Grand Prize.

#### **Bin Sugawara**

Poet In 2011, released a collection of poems, "Naked on a Veranda, the Rabbit and his Minx" from the American publisher PRE/POST. Since then, he has expressed poetry in a wide range of ways, such as readings on radio, providing lyrics, and performing around the world in Europe, the United States, and Russia, with a focus on writing activities. His recent publications include "Kanohito"(The Tokyo Newspaper), a collection of poetry that smells like lemon when burned, "Throw fresh fruits into the sky to make lots of stars" (Mitosaya), "Taking off our Seasons, the Two of Us Dive"(Raichosha). Part-time Lecturer, Tokyo University of the Arts.

**【Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia】** Since 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>

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Stills are available;

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Jh7kArPCVvJkzovWGrteAWFLMfkRWceG?usp=sharing>