

Academy Awards® accredited Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2015

**Jurors Norika Fujiwara, Jun Kaname, Jung Woo Sung and Naomi Kawase
appear on the red carpet**
Academy Awards® qualifying Grand Prix goes to a talented Iranian director
Music Shorts Competition awards announced
KANA-BOON and GLAY make an appearance

This year is the 17th year that Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA), a qualifying film festival for the annual Academy Awards® and one of Asia's largest international short film festivals, has been held. The Award Ceremony took place at Shibuya Hikarie Hall on June 15.

Jurors Tow Ubukata, Eiji Okuda, Jun Kaname, Naomi Kawase, Jung Woo Sung, Norika Fujiwara, and Festival Ambassador LiLiCo walked down the red carpet. The Grand Prix went to "Cloudy Children" by Reza Fahimi, an Asia International Competition nominee. This film will be eligible to go forward as a nominee at the next Academy Awards® (Feb 2016).

In addition to the three official competitions, the winners of the CG Animation Competition Best Short Award, the Music Shorts Competition Cinematic Award and Special Mention, and the UULA Award were announced, with KANA-BOON and GLAY making stage appearances. Furthermore, there were many other guests, including AKB48's Rie Kitahara, Shinobu Mogi and Chiyori Nakanishi, who offered their support for the AKB ShortShorts collaboration project.

Each of the award winning works (excluding the Music Shorts Competition Special Mention Award winner) will screen at Brillia Short Shorts Theater (Minatomirai, Yokohama), a cinema that specializes in short film, from June 24 (Wed) to June 26 (Fri). Furthermore, a special selection of films, including various award winners, will also screen at United Cinemas in Toyosu, Toyohashi and Fukuoka for three days, from June 24 (Wed) to June 26 (Fri).

※Please refer to the addendum for information on the award winners announced at the ceremony

SSFF & ASIA 2015 Grand Prix / Asia international Competition Best Short Award (Governor of Tokyo Award)



【Director Profile / Screening History】

Reza Fahimi (1987, Iran) is a scriptwriter and a director. He studied filmmaking at the Soore Art University of Tehran, with a concentration in Directing. "Cloudy Children" is his second short film.

- Tehran International Film Festival 2014 (Iran) Best Film, Best Direction and Best Screenplay

『Cloudy Children』

Director: Reza Fahimi / Iran / 18:04 / Drama / 2014

In the village, two students are fighting over the things that they could never have. In the end, they share everything which does not belong to them.

■ Official Competitions: submissions and screening summary

	No. of submissions	No. of works selected to screen
① International Competition	3,436 (from 75 countries/regions)	45 (from 26 countries/regions)
② Asia International Competition	760 (from 20 countries/regions)	18 (from 10 countries/regions)
③ Japan Competition	363	22

■ Best Short Award Prize Money: 600, 000 JPY

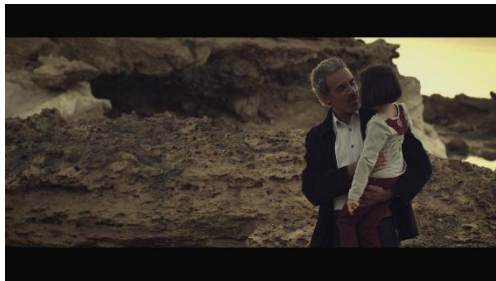
※One Best Short Award is given to one stand out film selected from amongst the nominees for each of the three official competitions (International, Asia International, Japan).

For the Asia International and Japan competitions, there is an additional Governor of Tokyo Award that is jointly awarded.

■ Official Competitions Jury (in order of the Japanese alphabet):

Tow Ubukata (Author), Eiji Okuda (Actor, Film Director), Jun Kaname (Actor), Naomi Kawase (Film Director), Jung Woo Sung (Actor, Film Director), Norika Fujiwara (Actress).

International Competition Best Short Award



【Director Profile / Screening History】

Lofti Achour is an author, actor, film director and stage producer who has produced over 25 plays in places such as London, Paris, Carthage, Jordan and Egypt. He also had an art installation at "Nuit Blanche" in Paris in 2006. He has directed four short films and shot his first feature film "Brûle" last winter.

- Middle East Film Festival 2014 (United Arab Emirates) Best Arab Film
- Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival 2015 (France) Audience Award and Special Mention of the Jury
- Rencontre des Réalisateurs 2015 (Tunisia) First Prize

『Father』

Director: Lofti Achour / Tunisia / 18:00 / Drama / 2014

Hédi is a taxi driver in Tunis. One evening he drives a pregnant young woman to the hospital as she is going into labor. This brief encounter will bring about a series of random tragic and unexpected events, leading to a life-changing experience for both of them.

Japan Competition Best Short Award / Governor of Tokyo Award



【Director Profile / Screening History】

Tsukasa Kishimoto (1968, Okinawa) made his directorial debut in 2007 with horror feature "Akōkurō," which he also wrote. He wrote and directed for the TV show "Ryujin Mabuyer," the short film "Mother of the Groom," and directed the 2013 film "Ryuku Battle Royale." He is a leader in the Okinawan film community.

- Okinawa International Film Festival 2015 (Japan)

『Kerama Blue』

Director: Tsukasa Kishimoto / Japan / 19:58 / Drama / 2015

A couple travels abroad to a small inn on Zamami island, Okinawa. Even though they don't share a language with the people of the island, the wife feels a closeness with the grandmother of the inn. The husband, however, rejects their hospitality and remains hostile until a dive in the sea opens his heart.

CG Animation Competition Best Short Award



【Director Profile / Screening History】

Jossie Malis (1976, Lima, Peru) is an illustrator, animator and filmmaker and director of the studio Zumbakamera, sending signals to the outer space from the island of Mallorca (Spain). With a special passion for the imaginary, which incorporates machines and the cosmos, he is dedicated to the creation of short films and series such as the award-winning Bendito Machine.

- Horror & Fantasy Film Festival 2014 (Spain) Best Short Film International Jury Prize
- Barrie Film Festival 2014 (Canada) 2nd Prize Open Category
- Interfilm Berlin International Short Film Festival 2014 (Germany)

『Bendito Machine V - Pull the Trigger』

Director: Jossie Malis / Spain / 11:54 / Animation / 2014

Trapped against his will in a turbulent conflict, an exotic traveler must wait patiently until the storm has passed.

CG Animation Competition

The CG Animation Competition, which is now celebrating its fifth year, is presented in collaboration with Digital Hollywood Co., LTD, a leading university for IT and digital technology. We received 217 submissions from 31 countries around the world, with 22 films from 11 locales selected to screen.

No. of Submissions: 217 No. of films screening: 20 (excluding special presentations) No. of Countries/Regions: 9
Prize Money: 600,000 JPY

CG Animation Competition Jury (in order of the Japanese alphabet):
Seiji Mizushima (Animation Director), Takashi Yamazaki (Film Director),
Tomoyuki Sugiyama (President of Digital Hollywood University).

■ What is the Music Shorts Competition?

The Music Shorts Competition screens official music videos carefully selected from a short film perspective, as well as original shorts based on songs authorized by music labels. It introduces short films that have a story much like a normal film, but with the added pleasure of music.

- UULA Award

This award will be given to the most creative film submitted by filmmakers inspired by artists' music.
Prize Money: 300,000 JPY

- Cinematic Award

This award will be given to the most cinematic music video.
Prize Money: 300,000 JPY

Music Shorts Competition UULA Award



『SHIORI』

Director: Iori Fujiwara / Japan / 9:59 / Music Short / 2014

Artist: Tomoko Tane Song title: 『WARATTETE (Keep on Smiling)』

Shiori makes bookmarks in order to restore her memories of him.

【Director profile】

After filming period dramas for Toei, Iori Fujiwara went independent as a screenwriter and director. Since then, stage productions and scriptwriting for shows make up the bulk of his work. In 2013, the film "Holiday", which he wrote and directed, ran at Hollywood's TLC Chinese Theatre.

【Tomoko Tane profile】

Tomoko Tane made her major debut in 1985 with "You're The One" by CBS Sony. She writes, composes and arranges her music by herself.

Music Shorts Competition Cinematic Award



『Ikiteyuku Full ver.』

Director: Santa Yamagishi / Japan / 25:00 / Music Short / 2014

Artist: KANA-BOON Song title: 『Ikiteyuku』

A boy heads to Tokyo, leaving his girlfriend behind. Later they have a reunion by the sea.

【Director profile】

Since 2008, director Santa Yamagishi (1978) has been working as a freelance director, directing various music videos, including SAKE ROCK, Unicorn, ASIAN KUNG-FU GENERATION, and Nogizaka 46. He also works as a production unit with Gen Hoshino and Daijiro Ohara.

【KANA-BOON profile】

A 4-piece rock band from Osaka, KANA-BOON made their major debut in 2013. They play at various rock festivals and have garnered widespread attention. In 2015, they released their second album, TIME. They are extremely popular among teens and are considered an up-and-coming rock band on the Japanese music scene.

Music Shorts Competition Cinematic Award



『HASHIRE MIRAI』

Director: ARATA / Japan / 18:37 / Music Short / 2014

Artist: GLAY Song title: 『HASHIRE MIRAI』

A group of teenage boys pursue their dreams.

【Director profile】

An 2000, ARATA (1978) began his career as a leader for the band Full Of Harmony and made his debut with Victor Entertainment. In 2008 he started a new career as a filmmaker and has since directed various music videos and TV series.

【GLAY profile】

GLAY debuted in 1994 and have become titans on the Japanese music scene ever since. They are one of the best-selling artists of all time in Japan, having sold tens of millions of copies of their singles and albums over the years. In 2010, they established their own music label Loversoul Music & Associates, to pursue their dreams even further.

Fashion Short of the Year 2015

In 2014 SSFF & ASIA established the Fashion Short of the Year Award, paying attention to the unique collaborations between fashion brands and "short film." We select the most cinematic short film created by a fashion brand.

44 actors and actresses representing the U.K. have gathered, including Best Actor Oscar winner Eddie Redmayne!

『Hollywood Portfolio』

Director: Jason Bell / UK / 6:57 / Drama / 2015

The British invasion of Hollywood is upon us! Fashioned like a World War II-era newsreel, complete with barking narrator and vintage footage, this is a film in three parts. See the Brits preparing for war, going off to America to infiltrate the film industry, and, finally, assuring victory. This is the first time that Vanity Fair has created a short film specially for the Hollywood Portfolio.



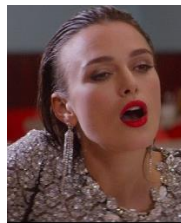
Eddie Redmayne



Benedict Cumberbatch



Orlando Bloom



Keira Knightley



Kenneth Branagh



Judi Dench

Best Actor / Best Actress Award

Awards given to the best actors and actresses appearing in films within each of the official competitions.

Competition	Award	Film title	Award winner
Japan Competition	Best Actor	A Warm Spell	Shinnosuke Fukushima
	Best Actress	Camouflage	Minori Ichyanagi
Asia International Competition	Best Actor	Cloud & Mud	Yu Wang
	Best Actress	The Palace On The Sea	Wu Ke-xi
Asia International Competition	Best Actor	All The Pain In The World	Peter Faulkner
	Best Actress	The Salt of the Earth	Nelli Tsay

Audience Award

One Audience Award is given to the film that receives the most votes from festival audiences amongst the nominees for each of the official competitions.

Prize Money: 200,000 JPY

※ Winners will be announced via the official film festival website.

■ About Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA)

This Japan born, Academy Awards® accredited festival is one of the largest film festivals in Asia. The festival was started by actor Tetsuya Bessho, a native of Japan and SAG member, as he wanted to introduce Japanese audiences to short film - a format that many people in Japan were unfamiliar with. The first ever festival was held in the Harajuku neighborhood of Tokyo in 1999. Six short made back when George Lucas – the director best known for the “Star Wars” series - was still a student were screened. Since then we have received an annual letter of support from the Mr. Lucas.

In 2001 the festival became known officially as Short Shorts Film Festival (SSFF), and in 2004 was accredited as a qualifying festival for the Academy Awards®. This means that the winner of the festival Grand Prix is eligible to be nominated in one of the short film categories of the Academy Awards® held the following year. This opportunity offers a bridge between Japan and the Oscars, so that young talents may realize their dreams.

Furthermore, Short Shorts Film Festival Asia (SSFF ASIA) was established with support from Tokyo Metropolitan Government in 2004. The new festival was a way to introduce new Asian film culture and nurture young filmmaking talents from the region. To this day, the two festivals are held together as Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia. Aside from the three Official Competitions, there are categories and programs compiled around “music,” “environment” and “CG animation” related shorts.

The short film specialist theater Brillia Short Shorts Theater was established in the Minatomirai area of Yokohama in 2008. Whilst providing one of the festival’s annual venues, the theater has welcomed over 280,000 audience members to date. As the festival expands its activities in Japan, spreading the word of short film, it will also continue to support young creators and provide a springboard into the film industry.

■ SSFF & ASIA endorsement messages from maestro directors around the globe SSFF & ASIA

My experience with my initial short film set the tone for a filmmaking career full of tales of fantasy and adventure that continues to this day.

- *George Lucas*

Making short films is the smartest way to find out for yourself where you head it at.

- *Milos Forman*

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia celebrates those filmmakers who dare to start small but dream big!

- *Robert Rodriguez*

A short film is a challenge of precision and poetry. For the young filmmaker, it is also a wonderful platform to showcase their talents.

- *Wong Kar Wai*



(From Left to Right)

- 1999: SSFF & ASIA Festival President meets Director George Lucas at a party held at the Embassy of the United States.
- 2008: The short film specialist cinema Brillia Short Shorts Theater opens.
- 2015: Opening Ceremony.

【For enquiries regarding this event】

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