

## Press Inquiries:

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## Grand Prix selected for the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2013, an Academy Award® recognized international short film festival: winning film is work from the U.K. depicting employment issues

The Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA) is an Academy Award® recognized film festival now celebrating its 15th anniversary. The festival, Asia's biggest short film festival, will hold its award ceremony within the grounds of the Meiji Shrine on June 9th, 2013. This year the Grand Prix winner is the film "The Mass of Men", a U.K. production that was screened under the International Competition. Winning the Grand Prix at SSFF & ASIA makes the film eligible for nomination in the short film category in the upcoming Academy Awards.

Along with the Grand Prix, the festival's other awards are also presented during the ceremony. Among these awards include the Ministry of the Environment's Minister's Award that is given to a film competing in the Save the Earth! Competition, the category screening films highlighting environmental issues. The UULA Award and the Best Short Award are also presented for festival favorites the Music Shorts Competition and the CG Animation Competition supported by Digital Hollywood, respectively. (※for additional information regarding all the awards please refer below)

The winning films will be screened from June 19th to July 15th, 2013 at the Brillia Short Shorts Theater, a theater in Yokohama specializing in showing short films and which also acts as one of the main venues for this festival. In the near future it is also planned to add more short films available for free online streaming through the partnership with Nestle Amuse, which can be accessed at <http://nestle.jp/ssff/>. (※available films TBD)

### Grand Prix & Best Short Award in the International Competition



#### 【DIRECTOR : Gabriel Gauchet】

Gabriel attended the Academy of Media Arts, Cologne until 2010, also attending 'Escuela Internacional de Cine y Television', Cuba in 2008. In 2013, he graduated from the National Film and Television School, UK with a Directing Fiction Masters. Gabriel was a BAFTA nominee for Best Short Film in 2012 with "Mwansa The Great."

#### “THE MASS OF MEN”

Gabriel Gauchet | UK | 16:00 | Thriller | 2012

Richard, an unemployed 55-year-old, arrives three minutes late for his job center appointment. An advisor, stifled by the limits of the system, has no choice but to penalize him for his tardiness. To avoid plunging further into destitution, Richard takes desperate measures.

## Best Short Award in the Asia International Competition



### 【DIRECTOR: Tina Pakravan】

Tina holds a bachelor's degree in Cinema and has worked on several features as production manager and assistant director. She is also an actress and scriptwriter. "Knot" (2012) and "It Was My City" (2012) make up her filmography.

Iranian Film Festival 2012 (USA)  
Shnit Film Festival 2012 (Switzerland)  
Reggio Film Festival 2012 (Italy)

### “It was my city”

Tina Pakravan | Iran | 8:00 | Drama | 2012

People are living their lives, catastrophe strikes, it's war...

## Best Short Award in the Japan Competition



### 【DIRECTOR: Kimie Tanaka】

Kimie, born in Nagoya, received an Economics BA from the University of Tokyo. After working at a bank for four years she changed her career path and became a filmmaker in New York, and then Paris. She currently lives in Singapore and is a Film Directing MFA candidate at NYU Tisch School of the Arts.

### “Kotobuki/To Us”

Kimie Tanaka | Japan/Singapore | 15:00 | Drama | 2013

A single girl living and working in Tokyo visits her hometown only to find out that her life no longer belongs there.

## Save the Earth! Competition /J-WAVE Award



### 【DIRECTOR: Meghna Gupta】

Meghna studied Film and Television at London College of Communication, followed by an Anthropology Masters at University College London. She currently produces music videos and short content at Soul Rebel Films. She's also developing a documentary trilogy about renewable energy in South Asia and a series of shorts about Facebook in developing countries.

### “UNRAVEL”

Meghna Gupta | UK/India | 13:35 | Documentary | 2012

“UNRAVEL” follows the Western world's least wanted clothes on a journey across Northern India, from the open sea to an industrial interior. They get sent to Panipat, a sleepy town and the only place in the world that wants them, to be recycled back into yarn.

CFC Worldwide Short Film Festival 2012 (Canada)  
Audience Choice Award  
Edmonton International Film Festival 2012 (Canada)  
Best Short Documentary  
Tampere Film Festival 2012 (Finland)

"STOP! Global Warming Competition" which was established with the "Challenge 25 Campaign", is now changing to become the "Save the Earth!" Competition.

This year, we have selected 7 short films from 155 submitted works gathered from around the globe. Also J-WAVE Award, endorsed by J-WAVE, Tokyo's #1 FM radio station, will be selected from Save the Earth competition films by five J-WAVE listeners.



**“Autumn Leaves”**

Aude Danset & Carlos De Carvalho France | 10:31 | Animation | 2013

Abel lives in winter, and Apolline in summer. Isolated by their "natures", they've never met. They're not supposed to. So when Abel crosses the border and discovers Apolline, curiosity overwhelms him. Their encounter soon becomes complicated, and each will have to compromise in order to protect the other...

Anney International Animation Film Festival 2012 (France)  
Chilemonos International Animation Festival 2013 (Chile)  
Neum Animated Film Festival 2013 (Bosnia and Herzegovina)

**The world of dynamic and fantastic films made by world-level CG animation creators.**

The CG Competition is marking its third year and features CG short films from around the world. Once again this year, we will screen amazing short films selected from 147 entries, that use the latest in CG technology that will surprise and excite you. The line-up chosen by the selection committee will be full short films with a variety of perspectives that not only features, CG technology, but also manage to entertain and move your heart as well.

This CG Competition is a collaboration with Digital Hollywood Co., LTD., the leading university for IT and digital technology, and will introduce world level CG films in Japan as well as striving to showcasing the world level CG creators from Japan to the world.

**Music Shorts Competition UULA Award**



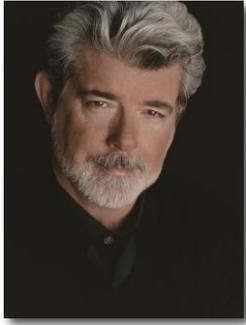
**“SKY”**

Naoto Monma | Japan | 9:00 | 2013

♪「SKY」Artist :MAY 'S

Ajun, a Korean girl cheated into working at a brothel, and Hiroshi, a member at the tail end of the gang running the establishment, fall in love with each other. Becoming hopeful, they head to the airport to abscond.

The new UULA Award will be given out this year within the Music Shorts Competition to the most creative film submitted by filmmakers inspired by artists' music. UULA entertainment service gives users access to thousands of songs and videos across a variety of genres. The director of the work who wins the award will be given additional support to help complete their next work, which will then be streamed on UULA.



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George Lucas

The festival was started by actor Tetsuya Bessho, a native of Japan and SAG member. Wanting to introduce Japanese audiences to short films, something many Japanese were unfamiliar with, he began the Short Shorts Film Festival, holding the first festival in the Harajuku neighborhood of Tokyo in 1999. From 2004, the Short Shorts Film Festival Asia was started to specifically highlight films from Asia including those from Japan. To this day, the two festivals are held together as the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, which has grown to become the largest short film festival in Asia. Building off of strong connections with festivals all over the world, SSFF & ASIA has worked not just to show Japanese audiences a wide variety of films from across the world, but has endeavored to bring Japanese short films closer to audiences the world over.

The festival is the only film festival in Japan that is recognized by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as an official qualifier of short films for Academy Award® nomination. Accredited since 2004, the grand prize winner of the festival will be eligible for nomination in the upcoming award season, providing a bridge from Japan for young filmmakers to achieve their dreams.

Since its first year all the way to the present, the festival has received the warm support of director George Lucas, acclaimed for films including the Star Wars series. Over the years the festival has gotten support from a number of other accomplished directors, from Martin Scorsese and Sophia Coppola, to Hong Kong's Johnnie To and Wong Kar-wai, to Germany's Tom Tykwer. We have also received the kind support of director Jason Reitman, who won the SSFF & ASIA 2001 "Audience Award" for his film *In God We Trust*, and later went on to be nominated for his film *Up in the Air*, starring actor George Clooney.



SSFF & ASIA  
Founder, Tetsuya Bessho