

SHORTSHORTS



FILM FESTIVAL & ASIA 2015

Press Release

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**A qualifying film festival for the annual Academy Awards®
 Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia kicks off in June**

All Festival Programs (Special Events Excluded) To Be Free Admission / LiLiCo Re-appointed As Festival Ambassador

This year 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, will be held from June 4th (Opening Ceremony) through June 15th (Award Ceremony) over venues in Tokyo and one in Yokohama. Nearly 5,000 short films from over 110 different countries and regions around the world were in the running, with the cream of the crop -- some 200 titles -- being selected to screen at the festival. Last year, we had a record public attendance of 16,716.

Besides the three official competitions, from which one overall Grand Prix winner will be eligible for an Academy Awards® nomination in one of the short film categories, we have three other competition programs: "Music Shorts," "Save the Earth!" and "CG Animation." For many young filmmakers from Japan and overseas, SSFF & ASIA provides a step up onto the international stage. 2012 SSFF & ASIA Grand Prix winner Atsuko Hirayanagi, for example, was awarded 2nd prize by "Cinefondation" at Cannes Film Festival 2014 for her latest short film, "Oh Lucy" (starring Kaori Momoi). She was the first Japanese female director to have won such a prize.

After being appointed as Festival Ambassador in 2014, celebrity and film commentator LiLiCo has been re-appointed for this year's festival. Once again, she will be appearing at the opening event as well as screenings throughout the festival, energizing the crowds and getting audiences in a convivial mood.



Cinematic Moment

With this year's theme, we take a close up look at those shining moments that play out in the world of cinema, expressing short film – the rich movie experience delivered in a condensed time – in new visual terms.

Festival Ambassador

LiLiCo was born in Stockholm, Sweden, to a Swedish father and Japanese mother. In 1989, at the age of 18, LiLiCo came to Japan and began working in the entertainment industry. She now appears as a film commentator on TBS's 'King's Brunch,' MCs film and fashion events, and makes numerous appearances on talk shows and radio programs. She is also active in many other fields, and provided the Japanese voiceover for a key character in "South Park."

Schedule / Venue

Festival dates: 4th June (Thurs) - 15th June (Mon)

Venues:

<Tokyo> Omotesando Hills Space O, LaForet Museum Harajuku, Shidax Culture Hall,
iTSCOM STUDIO & HALL Futakotamagawa Rise

<Yokohama> Brillia Short Shorts Theater

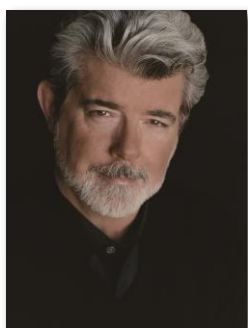
* Screening dates vary according to the venue

Organized by: Committee for Short Shorts / Committee for Short Shorts Asia

Ticket prices: Free admission to all festival programs in Toyko and Yokohama venues (special events excluded)

*Ticket fee applies to special events

*Latest information on the screening lineup and ticketing will be updated regularly in the run up to the festival



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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 Awards® 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 and up 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

