

A qualifying film festival for the annual Academy Awards®

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia

**Short Film “Shabu-Shabu Spirit” Will Premiere Globally and  
Begin Streaming Online on March 25 -  
Five Short Films under Theme of “WA - SHOKU” (Japanese  
Food) Will Also Begin Screening Online Free of Charge! -**

In December 2014, Wa-shoku - traditional Japanese cuisine and food culture - was recognized as an Intangible Cultural Heritage by UNESCO. Japan is home to diverse and abundant nature, and has nurtured its own original food culture. The tradition of the cuisine, very much rooted in the unique Japanese temperament, is understood as a “culture” that should be protected by Japan.

On this occasion, Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA), one of the largest international short film festivals in Asia, has collaborated with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to launch “Project Introducing The Attractions Of Japanese Food And Food Culture,” designed to spread the attractions of Japanese food and Japanese food culture throughout Japan and the world.

Under the project, a Special Production Short Film titled “Shabu-Shabu Spirit” has been produced. This short film is screened online in full from March 25 (Wednesday) alongside an additional “WA - SHOKU (Japanese Food) Program,” which includes five short films carefully selected around the Japanese Food theme. Furthermore, “Shabu-Shabu Spirit” will be shown at Expo Milano 2015, due to open in Milan, Italy on May 1. Through such activities, we will further promote Japanese food and Japanese food culture.



### Shabu-Shabu Spirit

Yuki Saito / Japan / 2015 / comedy / 10:32 minutes

A fiancé, Keita, goes to meet the family, and the father, Shozo, begins his secret appraisal – a test to see whether this fiancé is worthy or not of marrying his daughter. Trying to reduce the distance between them, the mother prepares a single nabe (cooking pot) for the shabu-shabu meal. As Shozo’s eyes glint brightly, Keita reaches towards the shabu-shabu.

Home page: <http://www.shortshorts.org/shabu-shabu-spirit/index-en.html>

## WA - SHOKU (Japanese Food) Program Lineup



### Noodles

Jordan Feldman / France / 2004 / Romance / 5:30 minutes

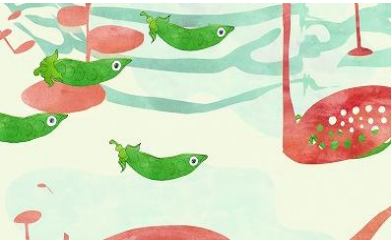
Francoise's arrival in a Japanese restaurant at lunchtime causes a chain reaction.



### Izakaya HAGAKURE

Hatsuhiko Kaneda / Japan / 2012 / Drama / 11 minutes

An average day at a small izakaya doing steady business in the corner of a residential area is depicted in a matter-of-fact way. What thoughts run through the mind of the shop's owner?



### Fully cooked for you

Yuka Imabayashi / Japan / 2011 / Animation / 3:44 minutes

A mother is making a traditional New Year's vegetable dish for the family, and her child is watching. The ingredients are animals of peas, carrots, burdock root and konjak. Enjoy the dish!



### Teppanyaki

Matthew Fisher / USA / 2014 / 10:34 minutes

Mono no aware - Japanese for 'sadness for the transience of things.' This story explores the environment of the teppanyaki restaurant through the eyes of an aging chef. A slice-of-life meditation on life's fading joys, and its moments of rejuvenation.



### A Sushi Love Story

Mike Blaney / USA / 2010 / Animation / 2 minutes

A young sushi is torn between love at home and adventure abroad.

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