

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 2015

Bringing short films from all over the world to TOKYO! Enjoy many programs with Free Admission!

“Miroirs d’ete” starring Xavier Dolan, winner at Cannes Film Festival 2014

“Blue Season” featuring Daisy Ridley from “Star Wars: Episode VII The Force Awakens”

“Hollywood Portfolio” with Eddie Redmayne and numerous other British stars, and many more films.

The lineup for the Academy Awards® accredited Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2015 (SSFF & ASIA), headed by actor and Festival President Tetsuya Bessho, has been announced. This year the 17th edition of the festival, one of Asia’s largest international short film festivals, will kick off on Short Film Day, 4 June (Thu), and run until 14 June (Sun). Admission to screenings will be free of charge, with the exception of selected paid events. Last year we welcomed 16,716 attendees to the festival.

Highlights of this year’s festival include “Mirrors,” starring a 15-year-old Xavier Dolan. Dolan, who has also proved his directorial abilities with films such as “Mommy,” for which he was jointly awarded the 2014 Cannes’ Jury Prize, will join the Cannes Film Festival Jury this year. “Blue Season” starring Daisy Ridley, the heroine of “Star Wars: Episode VII The Force Awakens” scheduled for December release, will also screen, as will “Hollywood Portfolio,” featuring 44 British actors and actresses including Eddie Redmayne, and “21-87” directed by the Canadian video artist Arthur Lipsett, a filmmaker who had a profound influence upon the likes of George Lucas and Stanley Kubrick. Furthermore, with other programs such as the parent-child friendly “Children Program” screening at SSFF & ASIA for the first time, this is a lineup where you can enjoy short films from around the world, old and new, and sense their diversity.

In total we received around 5000 submissions, with about 200 of these carefully selected to screen in competition and in special programs. Films by directors such as Gekidanhitori, Chihara Junior, Bakarhythm, Hayashi Mori will appear in competition.

The Grand Prix winner and award winners for each competition will be announced at the Awards Ceremony held on 15 June (Mon).



“Mirrors” starring Xavier Dolan in his early days



“Blue Season” starring Daisy Ridley of “Star Wars: Episode VII The Force Awakens”



© Jason Bell

A total of 44 actors and actresses representing the U.K. appear in “Hollywood Portfolio”

【Focus on UK】

If one looks to the past, the significant impact that UK culture has had on Japan can be traced back to the era of The Beatles and beyond. More recently, British-born talents have been particularly active in the film industry, as directors, actors and actresses. For this year's program focusing on UK short film, we will deliver a broad selection of films spanning documentary, animation, drama and other genres. Royal photographer Jason Bell's directorial debut "Hollywood Portfolio," created for the magazine "Vanity Fair," will be shown as a Special Screening.

"Hollywood Portfolio" Jason Bell / UK / 6:57 / Drama / 2015

A total of 44 actors and actresses representing the U.K. have gathered! 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.



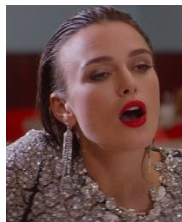
Eddie Redmayne



Benedict Cumberbatch



Orlando Bloom



Keira Knightley



Kenneth Branagh



Judi Dench

【Maestro & Celebrity Shorts】

The tendency of film directors and actors at the forefront of cinema to direct and star in short films is not limited to abroad, but is spreading throughout Japan. With short film being a critical step in the career of these individuals and crucial in building a foundation for up-and-coming creators, there are many reasons to support the cause.



Starring Daisy Ridley of "Star Wars: Episode VII The Force Awakens"

"Blue Season" Lee Jones / UK / Sci-Fi / 5:00 / 2013

A dark and tense sci-fi tale. Sarah wakes up to find herself hanging upside down, scared and alone. As she screams for help a phone rings, the person on the other end helps Sarah plot her escape, but is all as it seems to be?



Starring Kirsten Dunst of "Marie-Antoinette"

"Aspirational" Matthew Frost / USA / 2:37 / Drama / 2014

Can you tag me? A satire that lampoons the current selfie trend. Kirsten Dunst is approached by two girls who recognize her as they are driving by. They want only to take selfies with the celebrity and upload it to their social network instead of engaging in an actual conversation.



Starring Richard Madden of "CINDERELLA"

"Strays" Robert McKillop / UK / 25:12 / Drama / 2011

Brothers Nick and Elliot are small-time thieves on the run, living a life of excess. However, as Nick's manic behaviour becomes increasingly frenzied, Elliot struggles to reign him in. Strays is a thrilling drama about two brothers who belong together, but for their own good realise they need to be apart.



Starring Jung Woo Sung of "Moment to Remember"

"The Killer Behind, the Old Man" Jung Woo Sung / South / Korea / 24:16 Drama / 2014

Jang-ho is middle-aged and spends most of his time watching people working out at a fitness club. Jang-ho's day job is at the fitness club, but being a hitman his real profession. One day, Jang-ho receives an extraordinary request for murder...



Arthur Lipsett (1936-1986) was an enigmatic Canadian avant-garde filmmaker who has a direct influence on the making of George Lucas' "Star Wars" series

"21-87" Arthur Lipsett / Canada / 9:33 / 1964

A wry commentary on machine-dominated man, the man to whom nothing matters, who waits for chance to call his number. The film is a succession of many unrelated views of the passing crowd.

【Academy Awards® Program】

As an Academy Awards® accredited short film festival, we proudly introduce the "Academy Awards® Program", which includes this year's winning live action short. This is a unique opportunity for you to see the very best of the world of short film.



Winner of the 87th (2015) Academy Awards® Short Film Live Action “The Phone Call”

Mat Kirkby / UK / 20:00 / Drama / 2013

Heather is a shy lady who works at a helpline call center. When she receives a phone call from a mystery man, she has no idea that the encounter will change her life forever.

【Children’s Program supported by Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival】

In France children begin watching short films as part of their education in kindergarten. We have worked with Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival, the world’s largest short film festival with 37 years of history, to create a program suitable for children 4 years and up. Please be sure to bring your children and enjoy this lineup focused on non-dialogue animations.



“My Little Croco”

Etienne Bagot-Caspar, Yohan Cohen, Francois Mancone, Maickel Pasta, Milian Topsy / France / 6:30 / Animation / 2013

Mr. Croco's life is turned upside down the day he comes across a baby of a most unexpected kind...

【French Film Festival ~Short Film Selection】

SSFF & ASIA proudly presents "Short Film Selection" from French Film Festival (June 26 - 29). The lineup consists of various short films, ranging from animation to human drama, directed by upcoming French filmmakers. "Savage Night" starring Shinobu Terashima and Susumu Terashima is one of the must-see films this year.



“GUEULE DU LOUP”

Alice Vial / France / 24:00 / Fiction / 2014

Eight-year-old Elisa lives alone with her mother Jeanne, in a small isolated village of the French Alps. The little girl suffers from her mother’s absence as Jeanne works every night in a bar in town. Elisa tries to fill her loneliness by constantly wearing a wolf hand puppet.

【Focus on Québec supported by Saguenay International Short Film Festival】

The official language of Québec is French, and elements of individual speech, thought and culture from France endure. Montreal, the biggest city in Québec and second largest city in Canada, strongly supports film production. In 2014, it succeeded in attracting 10 Hollywood film productions, including the latest film from director Robert Zemeckis (“Back to the future” series). We will introduce short films from film production powerhouse Québec that overflow with originality.



Starring Xavier Dolan in his early days

“Mirrors”

Etienne Desrosiers / Canada, Québec / 14:00 / Drama / 2006

Julian is a melancholic teenager on holiday at the family cottage. Parents, brother, lakeside, and a world that seems out-of-place.

【War and the Power To Live Program supported by Red Cross】

This year marks 70 years since the end of the Second World War. Even though there are no longer wars on this scale, conflict continues in areas stretching across the globe. It is not only war, but terrorism and urban crimes that take many precious lives. For the Japanese, too, this is no longer something that just affects others. Why do people go to war? What is it that makes people willing to risk their lives? At this 70 year milestone, how about coming together with those who are most important to you and thinking about what it means to live peacefully?



“The Chicken”

Una Gunjak / Germany, Croatia / 14:57 / Drama / 2014

As a present for her 6th birthday, Selma gets a live chicken. When she realizes the animal is going to be killed to feed the family, she decides to save it and set it free, unaware of the high stakes such action will lead to.

[Ian Hunter unveils the secrets of visual effects]

Ian Hunter, whose credits include Christopher Nolan's "The Dark Knight" and "Inception," won this year's Academy Awards® for Best Visual Effects with the film "Interstellar." He will demonstrate the magic of visual effects, ranging from traditional miniature/stop motion techniques to the latest digital approaches.

Ian Hunter profile

Ian Hunter has established himself as a visionary storyteller in the field of motion picture visual effects and production, winning numerous awards for his work in both features and commercials.

Bringing his unique style and creative vision to each of his projects, Hunter has won several VES Awards for his work including sequences in THE DARK KNIGHT and INCEPTION. He was recently a visual effect supervisor on the film INTERSTELLAR.

Hunter's directorial debut was the award-winning horror short "Allure", Two national Subway commercials followed. Hunter is also a member of the Visual Effects Society & the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences and a Co-Founder of New Deal Studios. Ever the creator, Ian deftly parlays his experience in visual effects and film design into the cutting edge virtual reality world.

Time and Date: 7 June (Sat) 15:40~17:30

Venue: Omotesando Hills Space O

Ticket Price: ¥1,500



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Ian Hunter

【Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2015】 *All events and films are subject to change.

Schedule / Venue

<Tokyo>

Omotesando Hills Space O

4 June (Thu) *Opening Ceremony*

5 June (Fri) – 7 June (Sun)

SHIDAX CULTURE HALL

5 June (Fri) – 7 June (Sun), 11 June (Thu) – 14 June (Sun)

Andaz Tokyo Andaz Studio

8 June (Mon) – 12 June (Fri)

Laforet Museum, Harajuku

11 June (Thu) – 14 June (Sun)

iTSCOM STUDIO & HALL Futakotamagawa rise

12 June (Fri) – 14 June (Sun)

Shibuya Hikarie

15 June (Mon) *Awards Ceremony*

<Yokohama>

Brillia Short Shorts Theater

5 June (Fri) – 14 June (Sun)

※Opening Ceremony and Awards Ceremony are not open for general admission.

■ All Screenings and Events in Tokyo and Yokohama are Free Admission, with the exception of a few selected events.

• Advance Reservations for both Paid Admission and Free Admission Screenings and Events can be made as of 13:00 on 27 April (Mon).

※ Advance Reservations can be made via the official festival website.

■ Special Passport limited to Tokyo Venues

Passport Price: ¥4,000 (original festival goods are included)

The passport can be used for an unlimited number of reservations for Free Admission screenings and events at the following three Tokyo venues:

Omotesando Hills Space O, Laforet Museum, Harajuku, iTSCOM STUDIO & HALL Futakotamagawa rise.

The Passport can be purchased online via the official festival website. Please see the website for further details.

※Please note that purchases cannot be refunded.

Official Competitions

One film is selected from among the three Best Short Film Award winners (International Competition, Asia International Competition, Japan Competition). The film chosen will be eligible for an Academy Awards® nomination in one of the short film categories the following year.

■INTERNATIONAL Competition

• *Best Short Award* Prize: ¥600,000

An official competition program that screens short films from every corner of the world, with the exception of Asia and Japan

■ASIA INTERNATIONAL Competition

• *Best Short Award* Prize: ¥600,000

An official competition program of international short films that presents works from throughout Asia, with the exception of Japan.

■JAPAN Competition

• *Best Short Award* Prize: ¥600,000

An official competition that looks at short films from Japan.

■Save the Earth! Competition

• *Best Short Award (Minister's Award, the Ministry of Environment)* Prize: ¥500,000

• *J-WAVE Award* Prize: ¥500,000

The J-me Cinema Circle jury will select the award winner from the Save the Earth! Competition.

This competition was launched with the Japanese Ministry of the Environment in 2008. It gathers a wide variety of films that approach environmental issues and offer enlightening ideas about protecting the environment through the medium of film.

■CG Animation Competition

• *Best Short Award* Prize: ¥600,000

The CG Competition began in 2011 and offers a chance to enjoy full CG animation shorts. These top quality films are fun for adults as well as children!

This award will be given to the best film in the CG Animation Competition as chosen by the three jury members, Digital Hollywood Co., Ltd. and Committee for Short Shorts.

■Music Shorts Competition

• *Creative Award*

This award will be given to the most creative film submitted by filmmakers inspired by artists' music.

• *Cinematic Award* Prize: ¥300,000

This award will be given to the most cinematic music video.

The Music Shorts Competition, established in 2009, presents a fun program showing the fusion of music and video. It introduces short films that have a story much like a normal film, but with the added pleasure of music.



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

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."



SSFF & ASIA
Founder, Tetsuya Bessho

The festival was begun by actor Tetsuya Bessho, a native of Japan and SAG member.

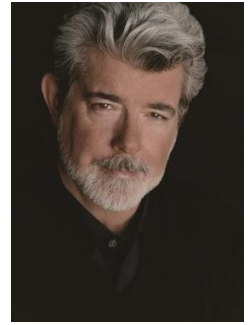
Wanting to introduce Japanese audiences to short films, something many Japanese were unfamiliar with, he began the Short Shorts Film Festival, holding the first festival in the Harajuku neighborhood of Tokyo, in 1999. In 2004, the Short Shorts Film Festival Asia was established to specifically highlight films from Asia including those from Japan. To this day, the two festivals are held together as Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, which has grown to become the largest short film festivals 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.

SSFF & ASIA is the only film festival in Japan recognized by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences as an official qualifier of short films for Academy Awards® nomination.

Receiving accreditation in 2004, the Grand Prix winner of the festival is eligible for an Academy Awards® nomination in one of the short film categories the following year. In this way we provide a bridge to assist young filmmakers in achieving their dreams.

Since its first year, 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, too, including Martin Scorsese, Sophia Coppola, Hong Kong's Johnnie To, Wong Kar-wai, and 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 Oscar nominated for his film "Up in the Air," starring actor George Clooney.



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George Lucas

