

A qualifying film festival for the annual Academy Awards®
Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2015

TEKKEN, May J., LiLiCo and many more fabulous guests in attendance! Numerous awards to be announced at the Opening Ceremony!

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 kick off on June 4, "Short Film Day" (recognized by the Japan Anniversary Association)! It will run through to June 14, taking place over five venues in Tokyo and one in Yokohama. The Grand Prix will be announced at the Awards Ceremony on June 15 (Mon).

This year marks the 17th anniversary of the festival, which was established by Actor Tetsuya Bessho in 1999. Aside from the Official Competitions (International, Asia International, Japan) - the Grand Prix winner of which will be eligible for nomination in one of the short film categories at the Academy Awards® held the following year - there are also competitions themed around "music," "environment" and "animation," making a total of 6 competitive categories. These lineups are screened alongside additional non-competitive special programs. This year's festival will screen around 200 films, selected from more than 5000 submissions received from around 100 countries and regions throughout the world.

A total of five awards will be announced at this year's Opening Ceremony: the **Spotlight Award**, given to an individual who develops or popularizes short film culture in Japan; the **Special Mention Award**, given to individuals or works that make a special contribution to the media and film industries; the **Save the Earth! Competition Best Short Award (Minister's Award, the Ministry of Environment)** and **J-WAVE Award**, each given to films that enlighten audiences about environmental issues through the power of images; the **Book Shorts Award**, given to a submitted short story that will go on to be made into a short film.

The Spotlight Award will be given to **TEKKEN** - the director of an iconic flip book style manga that has received much praise both at home and abroad - and his **brand new work "SLIDE"** will be premiered. The Special Mention Award will be awarded to the unique collaboration song/video **"YUMENO UKIYONI SAITEMINA"** by **MOMOIRO CLOVER Z vs KISS**, and video messages from both groups will be screened. Furthermore, the completion of the UULA and ShortShorts collaboration project short film "Don't give us bouquet!," starring Rika Adachi and based on **May J.**'s latest song "Love is tough," will be announced. There will be many fabulous guests in attendance, including the Save the Earth! Competition Jury members **Yuki Iwata, Ritsuko Tanaka, Jun Hori and Lou Ohshiba**, as well as **Festival Ambassador LiLiCo** and **SSFF & ASIA President Tetsuya Bessho**.



【For enquiries regarding this event】
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■ **Spotlight Award: TEKKEN**

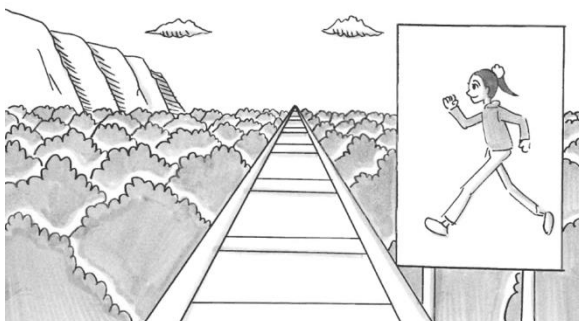
An award given to an individual who develops or popularizes short film culture in Japan



TEKKEN

Born in May 12, 1972 in Nagano Prefecture's Omachi City. He is a former amateur pro wrestler. In 1995 he joined Gekidan Tohai company but left after 3 months. He began appearing as a comedian under the name TEKKEN in 1997, and transferred to Yoshimoto Kogyo Co., Ltd. in September 2007. His film "Pendulum" was created as part of a Japanese variety TV show in 2012. Taking the song "Exogenesis: Symphony Part 3 (Redemption)" by British rock band MUSE as it's backing track, the animation depicts the story of a married couple through the years, shown at the center of a pendulum swinging from left to right. After "Pendulum" was uploaded to YouTube it swiftly attracted much attention from around the world. It even made it to the ears of the MUSE band members, and was picked up and used as the official music video for their song "Exogenesis," thereafter gaining further exposure across North America and Europe. Since then Tekken has been working increasingly in the 'flip book' animation style, and is currently focusing on production. In 2013 "Pendulum" was awarded the 42nd Japan Cartoonists Association Award Special Award, and in 2014, it won the Silver Award at the Asia Pacific Advertising Festival.

"Pendulum" made people cry the world over. Now, after a three year wait, the latest Tekken animation is here!



『 **SLIDE** 』

TEKKEN / Japan / 8:00 / Animation / 2015

A rollercoaster flip book.

【 **Screening Schedule** 】

June 11日(Thu) 13:30~15:20 Venue: Brillia Short Shorts Theater

June 12日(Fri) 17:50~19:40 Venue: LaForet Museum Harajuku

June 13日(Sat) 11:20~13:10 Venue: Shidax Culture Hall

※The film is screening as part of the Asia International B program

<http://www.shortshorts.org/2015/prg/ja/1879>

■ **Special Mention Award: MOMOIRO CLOVER Z and KISS 『 YUMENO UKIYONI SAITEMINA 』**

An award given to individuals or works that make a special contribution to the media and film industries.

A collaboration between the American hard rock band KISS and the Japanese girl idol group MOMOIRO CLOVER Z was established with the *ukiyo-e* themed song "YUMENO UKIYONI SAITEMINA." (Coincidentally, the four members of KISS, known to be big fans of Japan and the *ukiyo-e* form, have each created *ukiyo-e* woodblock print portraits of themselves). As soon as the music video was announced, there was a massive response from fans around the globe. Video messages from MOMOIRO CLOVER Z and KISS celebrating their award victory are available via the official SSFF & ASIA 2015 website (*in Japanese and English*).

http://www.shortshorts.org/2015/ja/competition_award/award.php



< **MOMOIRO CLOVER Z comment** >

This song and music video were made in collaboration with the legendary rock band KISS. In it, we battle the world of animation and live action against *ukiyo-e* backgrounds. It's such a unique piece. We are glad to be promoting Japanese culture in this way, and I'm sure KISS is also happy about it. Thanks to this collaboration with the members of KISS, our outlook on the world has really broadened. We really hope to take part in more projects like this in the future.

< **KISS comment** >

Thanks so much for letting us win this Short Shorts Festival & Asia award! We're very proud of our collaboration with MOMOIRO. For us to learn something about Japan that we didn't know, [...] *ukiyo-e*, and combining that with rock and roll, we came up with something very special – a number one song and an awesome, awesome video. We'd like to thank everybody for all your participation, and...we love *ukiyo-e*. Enough about us, we wish all the award nominees the very best of luck in the competition. We hope you enjoy the next few days of the Short Shorts festival here in Tokyo, happy 17th anniversary, and congrats on your success to all who are present here tonight. Wow!

■ **1st Books Shorts Award**

『 **HANA** 』 by **Shion Yuki** (Based on: "The Nose" by Ryunosuke Akutagawa)

Hana is a high school student with a nice face; she is pretty popular and has good grades. But, her chest is so small! On her birthday, she receives "Breast Enlargement Medicine" as a present from her friends. When she wakes up the next morning her chest is... <http://bookshorts.jp/20140105h/>

The Book Shorts Award solicits short stories based on pre-existing texts, such as folk tales, fairytales, folk lore and novels. From the entries received, a winner has been selected and will be turned into a short film and/or radio serial. Over the submission period, from August 2014 to March 2015, 2,330 entries were received. They reference a variety of texts, including folk tales such as Momotaro and Cinderella, masterpieces written by authors including Osamu Dazai and Ryunosuke Akutagawa, and traditional Japanese storytelling and comic performance texts. 179 works made it through the primary selection, and 12 were chosen in the final selection.

The 179 works from the primary selection can be read online in full via the official Book Shorts Website!

*Only available in Japanese.



BOOK SHORTS

The Call for Entry for the 2nd Book Shorts Award will open on July 1!

■ **Save the Earth! Competition**

A competition screening films of the theme of environmental issues. With stories covering anything from individual eco-friendly gestures to global efforts to prevent global warming, these works aim to use the power of images to make us think about the world our children will inherit.

Total Submissions: 144 (from 35 countries and regions) Works Screening: 11 (from 7 countries and regions)

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

J-WAVE Award Prize Money: ¥ 500,000 (selected by the J-me Cinema Circle Jury)

Best Short Award (Minister's Award, the Ministry of Environment)



『 **Once Upon a Tree** 』

Marleen van der Werf / Netherlands / 14:40 / Documentary / 2014

Sitting in her favorite oak tree, 11-year-old Filine encounters little wonders in the natural world around her. She observes the beauty and dramas of life in and around a tree most people are not even aware of. As trees fall down in the forest, Filine starts to fear that one day she will lose her special oak tree.

Director: Marleen van der Werf

After finishing her MSc in Biology and MA in Philosophy at the University of Amsterdam, Marleen van der Werf graduated in the UK with an MA in (wildlife) documentary filmmaking with the film 'Wadland'. In 'Once Upon a Tree' Marleen again combines her love for both nature and philosophy.

J-WAVE Award



『 **BRILLIANT DARKNESS: HOTARU IN THE NIGHT** 』

Emily Driscoll / USA / 12:03 / Documentary / 2015

'Brilliant Darkness: Hotaru in the Night' explores the importance of darkness, and the erosion of it, through the study and preservation of firefly habitats in Japan and the US. The film, presented by the Zoological Lighting Institute, features artists and scientists working to understand firefly flash patterns and live among wildlife in urban settings.

Director: Emily Driscoll

Emily Driscoll is a director/producer and the founder of BonSci Films, a production company specializing in science and art documentaries. Her films have appeared on PBS stations and screened internationally at museums, universities and film festivals. She also produces short videos for NPR's Science Friday and teaches production at New York University.

■ UULA × ShortShorts Music Shorts Competition Collaboration Project

The lyrics and music of May J.'s latest track "Love is tough" have inspired a short film!

Available exclusively via UULA as of today, June 4 (Thu)!

UULA **SHORTSHORTS**



The UULA and ShortShorts collaboration project was established at SSFF & ASIA 2013, with the aim of enlivening the music and film industries and discovering up-and-coming talents. Working together with creators active both in Japan and abroad, the project has supported the production of original short films that fuse music and film.

"Don't give us bouquet" by Hidenobu Abera, winner of the 2nd UULA Award at SSFF & ASIA 2014, is a work inspired by "Love is tough," the latest song from talented singer May J. This is the singer whose rendition of the song "Let It Go" was a massive hit as the theme song for the Japanese version of the Disney film "Frozen." This brand new short film is a music video come movie come drama based around the concept of "happy love," depicting friendship between women and the many forms that love can take. It stars this year's fresh young talent Rika Adachi. The result of this unique coming together of music and short film will be screened as part of the Music Shorts Competition, and will also be made available via the UULA application as of today, June 4 (Thu).



『 Don't give us bouquet! 』

Hidenobu Abera / Japan / 20:00 / Music Short / 2015

♪ May J. 「Love is tough」

Four girls, close friends from university, reunite at a classmate's wedding. After the bouquet has been thrown and they are suitably tipsy, the girls decide to confess their true feelings to their respective partners. This should seal the fate of each of their loves, but what is it that lies in wait for them?

Starring:

Rika Adachi, Arisa Nakamura, Sae Niwa, Miyu Yagyu, Ryunosuke Matsumura, Takayuki Kinoshita

Director: Hidenobu Abera

Abera is a film director born in New York, USA. His works include the film "NAKEDNESS WHICH WANTS TO DIE TOO MUCH," which he both directed and starred in. It screened at Fantasia International Film Festival in Montreal, Canada, and was awarded the Grand Prix at Fukui Film Festival. He also directed and starred in "Yokkyu Fuman Onsen," which won the Grand Prix at Ikebukuro Film Festival. He has acted in films such as "Dai Dotei no Dai Boken," for which was given the TAMA NEW WAVE Best Actor Award, and "Ano Musume wa Sabukarucha ga Suki."

■ UULA details

UULA Co. Ltd. (a joint venture between Avex Digital and SoftBank) has created an entertainment application for SoftBank mobile smart phones. The varied content ranges from music videos and footage of live concerts to films, dramas and animations. Furthermore, there is also original content available based on the unique union of film and music. With more than 100,000 videos to choose from, the service is provided on an all-you-can-watch basis. If you sign up now, the first 31 days will be totally free, allowing you to enjoy unlimited videos right away.

【How to View】 Register via your SoftBank dealer or the UULA website ▶ Download the Application

【Compatibility】 SoftBank smart phone (X series, 204SH, Android™4.0 and up, excludes "2 simple" smart phones)
iPhone/iPad (iOS 5.0 and up)/Android tablet ※you cannot use it on iPad Wi-Fi models.

【Cost of Use】 ¥467 per month (tax excluded)

【Official Website】 <http://uula.jp>

Delivering all the latest hot content! Check for current updates right away!

【Official Blog】 <http://blog.uula.jp> 【Official Facebook】 <https://facebook.com/UULA.official>

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