

Announcing the Line Up for Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2016

**Short Films Culled From All over the World Screen in Tokyo for Free!
And Two Short Films Starring This Year's Academy Award® Winners for Best Actor and
Best Actress, Leonardo DiCaprio and Brie Larson, Screen for the First Time in Japan**

We hereby announce the line up for Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2016 (SSFF & ASIA 2016), the largest Academy Award® qualifying international short film festival in Asia. This year marks the 18th edition and we received approximately 6,000 submissions from more than 100 countries and selected approximately 200 films to screen in 7 categories and other special programs. The festival will take place from Thursday, June 2 through Sunday, June 26 at 6 venues including Tokyo and Yokohama. All screening programs are free admissions with the exception of a few events.

In the special program, two short films, starring this year's Academy Award® winners for Best Actor and Best Actress, Leonardo DiCaprio and Brie Larson, screen for the first time in Japan. *The Audition*, starring DiCaprio, is a comedy directed by Martin Scorsese, who also stars as a director auditioning Robert De Niro and Leonard DiCaprio for the lead role in his new project. Brad Pitt also joins the incredible cast. *Weighting* stars Brie Larson who also co-directed the film.

For the special events, Takumi Saitoh, an actor and short film director, will join us as a guest as well as Daisuke "Daice" Tsutsumi, a former Pixar animation artist who will present his short animation collaboration *Moom*, and Leslie Kee, a celebrated photographer who will present his first directorial effort on Yohji Yamamoto and more.

This year for the first time, the SSFF & ASIA has a theme song "World is Yours" performed by PKCZ feat. Crystal Kay and MIGHTY CROWN. The song is inspired by this year's festival theme "Cinema Carnival – Explore Your Emotions" and featured on our official website.

We hope you will take this opportunity to notify your readers. The opening event for the press media will be held on Thursday, June 2. Grand Prix and awards for all categories (with a few exceptions) will be announced at the award ceremony on Monday, June 13.



"The Audition"

Director : Martin Scorsese

Starring : Robert De Niro, Leonardo DiCaprio, Brad Pitt



"Weighting"

Starring & Co-directed by Brie Larson (Winner of Best Actress of the 88th Academy Awards® with *The Room*).

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SSFF & ASIA 2016 Theme/Official Theme Song

SSFF & ASIA 2016 Theme:

Cinema Carnival ~Explore Your Emotions ~

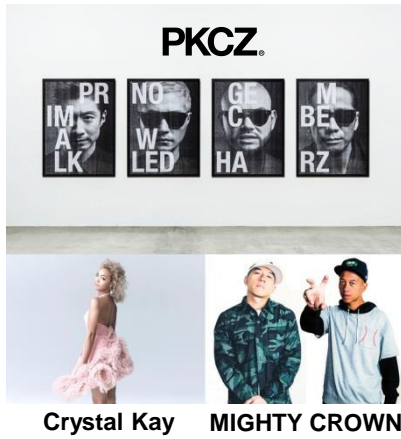
In 2020, four years from now, a vivacious image of Japan will emerge. Carefully selecting a wide variety of short films from around the world, SSFF & ASIA allows the vivid color of every film to speak for itself. This year, to encourage audiences to get more in touch with their emotions and really taste the richness of film, we are reasserting SSFF & ASIA as a hot-blooded "festival". We want audiences to deepen their movie-going experience, and enjoy film in a more exciting, nuanced and enjoyable way than usual.

Song Title: World is Yours

Artist: PKCZ feat. Crystal Kay, MIGHTY CROWN

This song is inspired by the theme of SSFF & ASIA 2016, which is "Cinema Carnival ~ Explore Your Emotions".

As the title suggests, it delivers a strong message about following your dreams and the success that comes with hard work and determination. The song is available on SSFF & ASIA's official website.



Crystal Kay MIGHTY CROWN

Special Screening

※The four short films below will be screened at International and Asia International & Japan programs as special screening.



"The Audition"

Martin Scorsese / USA / 16:14 / Comedy / 2015

Leonardo DiCaprio and Robert Deniro are called out to Macau for an audition for Scorsese's new film. Little do they know, they are reading for the same part.



"Weighting"

Starring : Brie Larson

Dustin Bowser & Brie Larson / USA / 4:07 / Comedy / 2011

She wants to go. He wants her to stay. Neither of them gets exactly what they want.



"Ellis"

Starring : Robert De Niro

JR / USA / 14:36 / Drama / 2015

Set in the abandoned Ellis Island Hospital complex and using JR's UNFRAMED art installations, ELLIS tells the forgotten story of the immigrants who built America. This journey eerily foreshadows the plight of those who currently seek the same opportunities and safety in this country and other parts of the world.



"THE TENANT"

Director : Mohsen Makhmalbaf ("The President", Venice International Film Festival 2014 Opening Film)

Iran, UK / 20:11 / Drama / 2015

A young Iranian boy moves to London to seek asylum, but the exorbitant rent of a metropolis is difficult to afford, much less for someone in his predicament. His landlady wants him out. He promises to get that money, but soon after he starts working, everything goes wrong.

*All events and films are subject to change.

Films to be enjoyed! Highlights of Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2016

【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.



“Stutterer”

Benjamin Cleary / UK / 13:04 / Romance / 2015

Winner of the 88th (2016) Academy Awards® Short Film Live Action

A lonely typographer has a speech impediment that keeps him isolated. An online relationship provides him with much-needed connection without revealing too much of him, but now he is faced with the possibility of revealing the truth about himself by meeting his online paramour in the flesh.

【Special Program from Cannes】

Make your heart tremble with the short film selection from Cannes Film Festival. Cannes Film Festival draws much attention both domestically and abroad. Even within the film industry, the market established alongside the festival is considered a key place for the creation of new business opportunities.



“Ave Maria”

Basil Khalil / France, Germany, Palestine / 15:00 / Drama / 2015

The silent routine of five Nuns living in the West Bank wilderness is disturbed when an Israeli settler family breaks down right outside the convent, just as the Sabbath comes into effect.

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

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?



“I Met the Walrus”

Jerry Letivan *Producer(Josh Raskin - Director)

Canada / 5:15 / Documentary / 2007

In 1969, 14-year-old Jerry Levitan snuck into John Lennon's Toronto hotel room and convinced him to do interview for his school paper. Using the original recording, Josh Raskin has woven a visual narrative which tenderly romances Lennon's every word in a cascading flood of multipronged animation.

【Focus on Belgium】

Special Short Film Program Celebrating 150 years of Friendship between Belgium and Japan



From the brilliant mind behind “Toto the Hero,” “The Eighth Day,” “Mr. Nobody,” and the upcoming “The Brand New Testament,” we bring to you Jaco Van Dormael’s classic short film

“E Pericoloso Sporgersi”

Jaco Van Dormael / Belgium / 13:44 / Drama / 1985

“È pericoloso sporgersi” tells the story of a child who has been thrust into a position where he must make an impossible decision. This short film went on to become the basis of the feature film “Mr. Nobody.”

【French Film Festival 2016 ~Short Film Selection】

SSFF & ASIA proudly presents "Short Film Selection" from French Film Festival 2016 (June 24 - 27). The lineup consists of various short films, ranging from animation to human drama, directed by upcoming French filmmakers.



“Mother(s) “

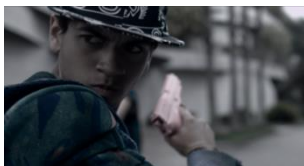
Maïmouna Doucouré / France / 21:03 / Drama / 2015

Maïmouna is a prize-winner of the scenario's competition “Hlm sur court.” She self-produced her first short film, “Hide and Seek.” “Mother(s)” is her first film created in cooperation with a production company.

Films to be enjoyed! Highlights of Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2016

【Music Short & Video Competition】

A selection of cinematic music videos and the unique stories they capture, by filmmakers, production companies, and music labels.



『Two of Five + Coccix Encia』 (Duas de Cinco + Coccix Encia)

Denis Kamioka / artist : Criolo/ Brazil / 9:34 / 2015

Brazil, 2044. After two generations, what changed are the clothes and gadgets, but the problems are the same. Three minors run off school to practice misdemeanors and they end up learning a lesson in the streets.

【Save the Earth! Competition】

This competition was launched with the Ministry of the Environment (Japan) 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.



“Plastic Bag”

Ramin Bahrani / USA / 18:32 / Drama / 2009

In the not too distant future, a Plastic Bag (voiced by Werner Herzog) goes on an epic existential journey in search of its Maker. To be with its own kind, Bag goes deep under the oceans into spinning garbage known as the North Pacific Trash Vortex. Music by Kjartan Sveinsson of the band Sigur Rós.

【CG Animation Competition】

The CG program, which began screening in 2011, offers the audience a chance to enjoy fully computer generated animation shorts. These top quality films are fun for adults as well as children!



“Daisy Chain”

Galvin Scott Davis / Australia / 5:42 / 2015

‘Daisy Chain’ follows a little girl named Buttercup Bree who spends her day plucking Daisies in the hope of thwarting the bullies that watch her every step. Narrated by Kate Winslet.

【Children Program】

A kids’ short film program that adults can also enjoy. Please be sure to bring your children and enjoy this lineup focused on non-dialogue animations.



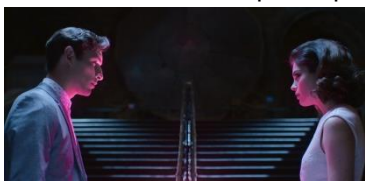
“Little Shimajiro”

Isamu Hirabayashi / Japan / 8:40 / Animation / 2015

In a small, quiet forest, an energetic boy named Shimajiro falls into a hole. The residents of the forest gather to help him, but young Shimajiro only ends up hurting them. Then, something happens--Shimajiro encounters great kindness, leading him to find kindness within himself.

【Fashion Shorts Program】

In recent years, fashion companies have produced short films as a tool to promote their brand. Since 2014, SSFF & ASIA has paid attention these unique collaborations between fashion brands and "short film." This year, we have decided to create a special program focusing on fashion shorts.



“World Never Cease”

Crowns & Owls / UK / 4:28 / 2015

A short film focusing on the rivalry of two characters in a game of archaeological one-upmanship. In a rush to deliver an increasingly eclectic selection of objects to the museum curator in a bid to grab headlines from one another. As their latest rarities are delivered an unexpected gateway to a new beginning is unlocked...

【Focus on Singapore】

Singapore’s seven most illustrious directors have gathered their creative storytelling and filmmaking talents in a one-of-a-kind project celebrating Singapore’s 50th year. 7 Letters represents seven heartfelt ‘love letters’ to Singapore, capturing each of the directors’ personal and poignant connection with the place they call home. The seven stories tell of our heartland and its people through tales of lost love, identity, inter-generational familial bonds and tensions, unlikely neighbors, and even references to traditional folklore.



“Seven Letters” 116min / 2015

Boo Junfeng, Eric Khoo, K Rajagopal, Jack Neo, Tan Pin Pin, Royston Tan, and Kelvin Tong, all award-winning filmmakers and familiar names in Singapore’s film industry, present an emotive anthology showcasing the lives and stories of Singaporeans.

*All events and films are subject to change.

Event (Toll)

【I'm LESLIE KEE - we are the world.】

The premiere event of fashion designer Yohji Yamamoto's short film, followed by a discussion with its director, photographer Leslie Kee. We will be screening "THE INDEPENDENTS," Beauty Prize Award Winner of the 8th ASVOFF's 2015 hosted at the Paris Pompidou Center, and will be premiering "PHANTOM," featuring Yohji Yamamoto's 2016 Spring/Summer Collection.

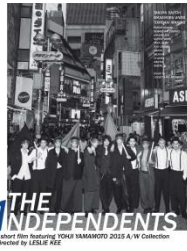
Guest: LESLIE KEE

Time and Date : June 4 Sat 13 : 30~15 : 10 Venue: Omotesando Hills Space O

Ticket price: Advanced ¥1,500 At Door : ¥ 1800 (tax included)



LESLIE KEE



PHANTOM

【The Impact of Virtual Reality on the Film Industry】

From "the Matrix" to "Tron," numerous films have taken on virtual reality over the years. 2016 is said to be the year of virtual reality, with films fully engaging in the immersive technology, as well as real-life virtual reality audio devices making their market debut. In this event, we will be inviting the foremost leaders of this field to discuss what kind of innovation virtual reality will bring to the film industry.

Guest : Nobumichi Asai (WOW) , Fumio Kurokawa (GEMINI ENTERTAINMENT, inc.) , Yusuke Tominaga (dot by dot inc. CEO)

Time and Date : June 4 Sat 17 : 30~19 : 10 Venue: Omotesando Hills Space O

Ticket price: Advanced ¥ 2,000 At Door ¥ 2,300 (tax included)



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【Screening of "MOOM" and Talk Session by Daisuke "Dice" Tsutsumi】

Animation Director Daisuke "Dice" Tsutsumi's directorial debut "Dam Keeper", co-directed by Robert Condo, impressively received a nomination for Best Animated Short Film in the 87th Academy Awards®. In this session, he will discuss his experience at the Pixar Animation Studio, where he worked as a Lightning Art Director for the films "Toy Story 3" & "Monster's University". He also co-founded his animation studio TONKOHOUSE and recently completed his brand new animation "MOOM", which he directed alongside a Japanese animation team.

Guest : Daisuke "Dice" Tsutsumi

Time and Date : June 5, Sun 17 : 30~19 : 10

Venue: Omotesando Hills Space O

Ticket price: Advanced ¥ 2,000 At Door ¥ 2,300 (tax included)



【Masterclass Naomi Kawase ~Dangle Your Feet and Connect with the World~】

Naomi Kawase is an internationally recognized Japanese director and this year's President of Short Films Jury for the Cannes Film Festival. Why did she decide to pursue filmmaking, and how did her films come to be recognized on an international scale? How has she nurtured her craft and talent over the years? We will look at Kawase's incredible career, explore her films from when she was a student to her more recent projects, and hear about her experience at Cannes.

Guest : Naomi Kawase

Time and Date : June 10, Fri 17 : 30~19 : 10 Venue: Laforet Museum, Harajuku

Ticket price: Advanced ¥ 1,000 At Door ¥ 1,500 (tax included)



Naomi Kawase

(Photographed by LESLIE KEE)

Event (Toll)

【Takumi Saitoh on the Future of Short Films】

Takumi Saitoh is an active member of the Japanese filmmaking community, known best as an actor and director. He frequently collaborates with world renowned director Naomi Kawase, the first Japanese director to serve as a jurist at the Cannes Film Festival. In this event, we will be screening his slate of short films, and proceed to have a discussion about his films, career, and creative inspirations.

Guest : Takumi Saitoh

Time and Date : June 23 Fri 19 : 30~21 : 10 会場 : iTSCOM STUDIO & HALL

Ticket price : Advanced 2,000yen At Door 2,300yen (tax included)



撮影 : 大川晋児

Event (FREE)

【Creative Seminar on Drones ~Drones and the Future of the Creative Media Landscape~】

The arrival of drones marks a major evolutionary moment in the creative media industry. Filmmakers now potentially have access to film locations otherwise impossible to reach, the flexibility to shoot at unlimited angles, and so much more. DJI is the world's leading drone manufacturer, and their developments are actively shaping the future of the creative media landscape. In this seminar, we'll be exploring the best ways to utilize drone technology, accompanied by an extraordinary demonstration that highlights the kind of creativity enabled thus far. This is a must-attend event for aspiring creative professionals.

Guest : Allen Wu (DJI Japan General Manager), Yohiharu Nakamura (DJI Japan Pilot)

LiLiCo (Festival Ambassador) , Tetsuya Bessho (SSFF & ASIA President)

Time and Date : June 5 Sun 13 : 30~15 : 10 Venue: Omotesando Hills Space O

Ticket Price : FREE Co-Organizer: Tokyo Metropolitan Government



【Screening and Award Presentation of 'Ibaraki' Short Film Award】

SSFF & ASIA will join the "Ibaraki Short Film Awards," sponsored by the province of Ibaraki, to host its awards ceremony and screening of nominated films. This award was established to celebrate and spread through film the charms of Ibaraki, with its scenery, culture, and cuisine, and to promote screen tourism. Since this past August when we opened our general submissions call, we have received 71 films. In addition to the festival, there will be special facilities like libraries with information on other locales. We are also planning the delivery and screening of the Ibaraki TV.

Guest : Akira Hashimoto (Ibaraki Prefectural Governor),

Tetsuya Bessho (SSFF & ASIA President) and others

Time and Date : June 12 Sun 15 : 30~17 : 10 Venue: Laforet Museum Harajuku

Ticket Price : FREE



茨城県マスコット
キャラクターハッスル賞門



茨城県

【Local Tourism Promotional Video – Seminar】

With so much tourism content out there, what are the qualities that set apart those special videos that have the ability to move and inspire people? We've invited a visionary filmmaker to share some key points for producing the best tourism video, as well as secrets that are sure to boost your video views.

Guest: Kazuhito Ochi (The Dentsu Group, Creative Director/Communication Planner)

Kazutoshi Hisatomi (Nishiko Creative Director/Copy Writer/CM Planner)

Yoko Aoki (Oita Prefecture, Public Relations)

Yoshiro Oosaka (Director), Kurita (Producer)

Time and Date: June 18 Sat 13:30 ~ 15:00

Location: Shidax Culture Village 6F Institute Hall

Ticket Price : FREE



“Ndamoshitan Kobayashi”

【Screening and Award Presentation of 'FutureCity Yokohama Award' nominated films】

To promote "FutureCity Yokohama," the City of Yokohama and SSFF & ASIA established the "FutureCity Yokohama Award," featuring short films that best depict environmentally conscious, future lifestyles that make use of technological advancements. The 2015 Award winner was Oh Seo-Roi's "Artist 110." Once again, we'll be presenting the 2016 Award to the film that best embodies the Future City and Yokohama themes. Join us in exploring the potential of the future and possible lifestyles, through short films.

Date and Time : June 18 Sat 13:30-15:10

Location: Brillia Short Shorts Theater

Ticket Price : FREE



【Visual Tourism Awards Screening】

From an astounding 612 submissions, the most we've had yet, we will be screening the 5th Tourism Award's winning films, including Kentaro Sakaguchi's "Daisukinahitoni, ainiiku," "2 Nights, 3 Days: Matsuko-roid's Osaka Trip," and more! There will be special guest appearances by local mascots, like Ibaraki's own Nebaru-kun!

Guest: Nebaru-kun (Ibaraki), SAGEMON Girls (Fukuoka), Cosmo (Miyazaki), Tsubo-Samurai (Saga), Seki*hamomin (Gifu), Buta-Don Man (Hokkaido, Tokachi), Moja (Tabi moja), and more

Date and Time : June 26 Sun 15:30-17:10

Location: iTSCOM Studio & Hall

Ticket Price : FREE



"Daisukinahitoni ainiiku"

【SSFF & ASIA 2016 Closing Ceremony】

For the Closing Ceremony of SSFF & ASIA 2016, we will have a special screening of "Beautiful People," directed by Isao Yukisada, with appearance of guests.

Guest: Isao Yukisada (Film Director), Tetsuya Bessho (SSFF & ASIA President)

Date and Time : June 26 Sun 18:30-20:30

Location: iTSCOM Studio & Hall

Ticket Price: FREE

Awards Overview/Competitions

There are seven competitions in total; in addition to the Official Competition (International, Asia International, Japan), other categories cover music, environmental concerns and computer generated animation. There are also special programs presented.



【Official Competitions】

International Competition

Submitted: 4,314films (119countries) / Nominated:35 (19countries)

Asia International Competition

Submitted: 807films (37countries) / Nominated:19films (11countries)

Japan Competition

Submitted: 344films / Nominated:17films

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
- Audience Award Prize: ¥200,000
- Actor/Actress Award

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
- Audience Award Prize: ¥200,000

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
- Audience Award Prize: ¥200,000

An official competition that looks at short films from Japan.

* Governor of Tokyo Award

This award will be given to the films awarded Best Short in both the Asia International and Japan Competitions.

■ 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

Original music videos by filmmakers with inspiration from artists' songs.

Best Creative Award Prize: ¥300,000

■ Music Video Competition

This award will be given to the most cinematic music videos from those which produced as official PV.

Cinematic Award Prize: ¥300,000

■ Visual Tourism Award Commissioner's Award, the Japan Tourism Agency

An award given to the film that best promotes tourism through visual creativity, topicality, and potentiality.

Other Awards

■ Hikari TV Award

This award will be presented to a director from the Japan Competition. The winner will be chosen based on who they consider has the best ability to deliver the allure of 4K. The chosen winner will be given the chance to direct a 4K original short film with NTT Plala.

■ Brillia New Luxury Award

This award will be given to a film which Confort/Open/Story/Experience/With, five elements are effectively appeared, under the concept of *New Luxury*, of Brillia brand of Tokyo Tememono

■ Ibaraki Short Film Award

This award was established to promote films that capture the attractive elements of Ibaraki - scenic locations, culture, food – and introduce them to Japan and the rest of the world.

Prize: 1,000,000 yen

■ FutureCity Yokohama Award

This award is given to the film that best depicts a future lifestyle that is environmentally friendly and makes use of technological advancements, as chosen by City of Yokohama and Committee for Short Shorts.

■ Fashion Short of the Year

This award will be given to the most cinematic short film produced by a fashion brand.

■ Spotlight Award

This award is given to the creator or artist of a short film that inspires a broad audience and receives widespread public attention, as chosen by the Committee for Short Shorts.

■ Special Mention Award

This award is given to the creator or artist of a short film that inspires a broad audience and receives widespread public attention from abroad, as chosen by the Committee for Short Shorts.

A qualifying film festival for the annual Academy Awards® Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2016

■ **Schedule / Venue** ※Opening Ceremony and Awards Ceremony are not open for general admission.

		Omotesando Hills Space O	Omotesando Hills Space O	SHIDAX CULTURE HALL	Andaz Tokyo Andaz Studio	iTSCOM STUDIO & HALL	Brillia Short Shorts Theater
6/2	Thu	Opening Ceremony					
6/3	Fri	●					●
6/4	Sat	●					●
6/5	Sun	●					●
6/6	Mon				●		
6/7	Tue				●		●
6/8	Wed				●		●
6/9	Thu		●		●		●
6/10	Fri		●		●		●
6/11	Sat		●				●
6/12	Sun		●				●
6/13	Mon						
6/14	Tue						●
6/15	Wed						●
6/16	Thu			●			●
6/17	Fri			●			●
6/18	Sat			●			●
6/19	Sun			●			●
6/20	Mon						
6/21	Tue						●
6/22	Wed						●
6/23	Thu			●		●	●
6/24	Fri			●		●	●
6/25	Sat			●		●	●
6/26	Sun			●		●	●

	Venue	Schedule
TOKYO	Omotesando Hills Space O	6/2 (Thu) ~5 (Sun)
	Laforet Museum, Harajuku	6/9 (Thu) ~12 (Sun)
	SHIDAX CULTURE HALL	6/16 (Thu) ~19 (Sun) , 23 (Thu) ~26 (Sun)
	Andaz Tokyo Andaz Studio	6/6 (Mon) ~10 (Fri)
	iTSCOM STUDIO & HALL	6/23 (Thu) ~26 (Sun)
YOKOHAMA	Brillia Short Shorts Theater	6/3 (Fri) ~5 (Sun) , 7 (Tue) ~12 (Sun) , 14 (Tue) ~19 (Sun) , 21 (Tue) ~26 (Sun)

■ **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 15:30 on 19 April (Tue). ※ 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. 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.

*All events, films and other details are subject to change.

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA)

This Japan born, Academy Awards® accredited festival is one of the largest film festivals in Asia. The festival was started by actor Tetsuya Bessho, a native of Japan and SAG member, as he wanted to introduce Japanese audiences to short film - a format that many people in Japan were unfamiliar with. The first ever festival was held in the Harajuku neighborhood of Tokyo in 1999. Six short made back when George Lucas – the director best known for the “Star Wars” series - was still a student were screened. Since then we have received an annual letter of support from the Mr. Lucas.

In 2001 the festival became known officially as Short Shorts Film Festival (SSFF), and in 2004 was accredited as a qualifying festival for the Academy Awards®. This means that the winner of the festival Grand Prix is eligible to be nominated in one of the short film categories of the Academy Awards® held the following year. This opportunity offers a bridge between Japan and the Oscars, so that young talents may realize their dreams.

Furthermore, Short Shorts Film Festival Asia (SSFF ASIA) was established with support from Tokyo Metropolitan Government in 2004. The new festival was a way to introduce new Asian film culture and nurture young filmmaking talents from the region. To this day, the two festivals are held together as Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia. Aside from the three Official Competitions, there are categories and programs compiled around “music,” “environment” and “CG animation” related shorts.

The short film specialist theater Brillia Short Shorts Theater was established in the Minatomirai area of Yokohama in 2008. Whilst providing one of the festival’s annual venues, the theater has welcomed over 320,000 audience members to date. As the festival expands its activities in Japan, spreading the word of short film, it will also continue to support young creators and provide a springboard into the film industry.



(From Left to Right)
1999: SSFF & ASIA Festival President meets Director George Lucas at a party held at the Embassy of the United States.
2015: AWARD Ceremony.