

**One of the biggest international short film festivals in Asia, accredited by the Academy Awards®
Announcing dates for the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2022!
This year's theme – "Meta Cinema: Transcend, Discover, Begin"
{Starts: 6/7 (Tue.) - 6/20 (Mon) / Online venues: Starts on 4/28 (Thu)}**

**5,720 Entries from 126 countries & regions around the world
The road to the Academy Awards
– The Official Competition supported by Sony explores
Diversity of expression now and into the future
Smartphone Film Competition has an entry from
the youngest filmmaker at just 13-years-old!**

SSFF & ASIA 2022, Asia's biggest international short film festival & accredited by the Academy Awards®, will be held from June 7th (Tues) through June 20th (Mon) at various venues in Tokyo & online. Special features and programs will begin on our online venues on April 28th (Thu)

***This year's festival theme is "Meta Cinema: Transcend, Discover, Begin"
Presents virtual theater experience, short films made with AI-generated scripts, and an analysis of films using brain waves.***

This, the first year of the "Metaverse," our film festival will transcend the cinema experience with the theme, "Meta Cinema: Transcend, Discover, and Begin".

We will present new visual expressions and new ways to enjoy films.

With COVID in 2020 and 2021 came advances in online systems & use. We would like to start a movement to create a platform where people can experience the future of visual filmmaking in a more three-dimensional way and find new styles of entertainment to create a visual culture together with the creators and the viewers.

Please look forward to a new era of the festival, including a "Virtual Theater" experience, a presentation of a short film "Boy Sprouted" created from a script using AI, a talk event exploring how neuroscience, which uses human brain waves to analyze films, can be used in the future of visual expression, and the hot topic NFT initiative.



OFFICIAL COMPETITION
supported by **SONY**

**Smartphone
Film Competition**
supported by Sony's Xperia

**The Official Competition supported by Sony
Diversity of expression from around the world, now and into the future.**

The "Official Competition supported by Sony" which can lead to a nomination for the Academy Awards, received 3263 submissions from 110 countries and regions. The films created in the midst of social instability include those that depict relationships with family and friends from various angles during the COVID pandemic, and those that satirize modern society by using fantasy, magic and dreams from the viewpoints of immigrants and refugees in an attempt to find hope out of the darkness occurring in the real world. You can feel the strength and diversity of visual expression of the filmmakers who create these stories.

**Smartphone Film Competition supported by Sony's Xperia
Including a short film by a 13-yr-old director, the youngest in the history of the competition.**

The Smartphone Film Competition supported by Sony's Xperia, now in its 2nd year, features a wide variety of films. From one-minute short films that sound a warning to mankind, to bona fide dramas of dreams and hopes, to expressive films that take place in a very personal space.

The films embody the breadth of the filmmakers' creativity and expands opportunities to try various styles of visual expression. Filming on smartphones broaden these possibilities and these films that are only made possible by smartphones offer new entertainment possibilities that bring the filmmaker's point of view much closer to the audience.

Official Competition Leading to the Academy Awards (International, Asia International, and Japan), continuously supported by Sony.

Sony Group Inc. and Sony Corporation (the two companies are collectively referred to as "Sony") are committed to providing a platform for creators to create a new visual culture and trends in the future. As an entry point to success, Sony has supported since 2020, the Official Competitions (International, Asia International, and Japan), which lead to consideration for nomination at the Academy Award® for Best Live Action Short Film. In addition, the "Smartphone Film Competition" is supported with the aim of further expanding the range of expression and opportunities for creators to take on challenges, and to create new visual styles unique to smart phones. **The Smartphone Film Competition will continue to be supported by Sony's Xperia in 2023.**

★There are more than 130 Academy Award® accredited film festivals around the world. A Grand Prix or nomination slot at an accredited festival qualifies a filmmaker for the Academy Award® for Best Live Action Short Film.

Structure of Official Competition



<Other Awards and Competitions>

The SSFF & ASIA Grand Prix will be selected from out of the Official Competitions (International, Asia International, Japan), Non-Fiction and Animation categories and the Grand Prix - George Lucas Award will be presented.

In addition, the Governor of Tokyo Award will be given as an additional prize to the winners of the Official Competitions in the Asia International and the Japan Competitions.

In addition to the non-fiction category, the Academy Award for Best Short Film in the Animation category will be nominated for the following year's Academy Award for Best Short Film, making us the only festival in Japan accredited by the Academy Awards®, bringing us shoulder to shoulder with the Sundance and Palm Springs Film Festivals.

In addition, the "Smartphone Film Competition supported by Sony's Xperia", the Cinematic Tokyo Competition, Branded Shorts, Musical Short Film Pitch Competition, the U-25 category, as well as the Shibuya Diversity Award, the Save the Earth!, The Minister of the Environment Award, J-WAVE Award, Biogen Award and other awards will be announced and presented at either the Opening Ceremony or Awards Ceremony of the Festival.

Tetsuya Bessho, President, SSFF & ASIA Thoughts on "Meta Cinema: Transcend, Discover, Begin"



The COVID pandemic, we learned and experienced so much. Humans are creatures of imagination. Imagination is what makes us human. We nurtured the forest of our creativity and gave birth to another world. That is the Metaverse. That is another world in which we now exist. 2022, our theme this year is "Meta Cinema." We will embark on an adventure, along with you, to explore and discover the past and future of cinema through short films. We hope to see you there! Come aboard!

Tetsuya Bessho

[Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2022]

- SSFF & ASIA President: Tetsuya Bessho
- Dates: Festival - Tuesday, June 7th to Monday, June 20th
- * Online venue: Thursday, April 28th - Thursday, June 30th
- Screening venues: Online venues and multiple venues in Tokyo
- * Screening period differs for each venue.
- Entry fee: Free of charge with the exception of special events
(Reservation bookings scheduled to begin April 28th)
- Enquiries: +81-3-5474-8844
- Homepage: <https://www.shortshorts.org/en>
- * 2022 website will be open on April 28th
- Organizer: Committee for Short Shorts /
Committee for Short Shorts Film Festival Asia
- * Program details are subject to change.
- * The times or content may be subject to change based on
the status of the spread of the new coronavirus infection.



<Festival Main Visual>

[SSFF & ASIA 2022 SDGs Initiatives]

SSFF & ASIA has digitalized distribution of printed materials since 2020. We will develop as a film festival by implementing SDGs step by step. We will also continue to develop programs with themes of "Diversity" and "War and the Power to Live," as well as "Save the Earth! The festival will encourage the awareness of filmmakers and participants about SDGs through our programs like the "Ladies for Cinema Project" and various awards for these SDG programs.

[Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia]

In 1999, actor Tetsuya Bessho, member of the Screen Actors Guild of America (SAG), has worked to introduce the then new genre, "short films," which he first encountered in the United States, to film fans in Japan as the American Short Shorts Film Festival.

In 2001, the festival was renamed the Short Shorts Film Festival.

In 2004, SSFF was recognized as an Academy Award® accredited film festival.

In the same year, SSFF was established with the aim of promoting new visual culture from Asia and nurturing up-and-coming young filmmakers. The Short Shorts Film Festival Asia (SSFF ASIA, co-sponsored by Tokyo Metropolitan Government) was established and the festival is now known collectively as SSFF & ASIA.

To commemorate the festival's 20th anniversary in 2018, the Grand Prix film was named the "George Lucas Award" in honor of director George Lucas.

In January 2019, the Short Shorts Film Festival in Hollywood was held to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the festival. In addition, beginning with the 2019 festival, in addition to the Official Competitions (International, Asia International, and Japan), the Non-Fiction Competition and this year, the Animation Competition Best Short winners have also become eligible for nomination at the Academy Awards the following year.

SSFF & ASIA will continue to support young creators through the festival.

[Official website] <https://www.shortshorts.org/index-en.php>

The SSFF & ASIA 2022 website is scheduled to open on Thursday, April 28, 2022.

[PRESS INQUIRY]

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Stills are Available here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Q52Bz1ymLwCT-gqatwEZRH6c7ZWorWUE?usp=sharing>