

**Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2025, the largest international short film festival
in Asia accredited by the U.S. Academy Awards**

**On Environment Day, Think of the Future of the Earth in Short Films
Save the Earth! The Minister of the Environment Award
goes to “Damji” from Iran!
The film depicts climate change in a 2 minutes drama
Available online from June 12 (THU)**

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA) 2025, one of Asia's largest international short film festivals accredited by the U.S. Academy Awards®, announced on Thursday June 5th, the Save the Earth! the Minister of the Environment Award, given to the film that best conveys a message on environmental issues among all the films selected for the competition. The award will be presented on June 5, Environment Day.

The SSFF & ASIA 2025 Environment Minister's Award goes to Iranian film, “Damji” by Director: Nazanin Chitsaz, which focuses on global warming and depicts a child collecting drops of wastewater and carrying them to a distant location.

<https://www.shortshorts.org/2025/program/very-short/damji/>

SSFF & ASIA is participating in the “Deco-Katsu Supporters,” a government-led initiative that promotes and encourages the practice of a new, enriched lifestyle that contributes to decarbonization, in collaboration with companies and organizations.

The film is available at the festival's online venue from Thursday, June 12.

SSFF & ASIA established the “Stop Global Warming Competition” in 2008 in collaboration with the national campaign “Challenge 25 Campaign” to prevent global warming. “Global Warming Competition” was established in 2008 in conjunction with the ‘Challenge 25 Campaign,’ a national campaign to prevent global warming, and in 2013 it was reborn as “Save the Planet!” Since 2020, the festival has expanded the “Save the Planet!” awards to include more diverse global issues, with the aim of communicating the diversity of environmental issues to the entire planet.

We hope that this work will help people to rethink environmental issues and create a desire for the future. We would be grateful if you could introduce this film to the public and cover the event.

SSFF & ASIA 2025 Save the Earth! The Minister of the Environment Award



『Damji』 Director : Nazanin Chitsaz/0:01:45/Iran/Dramay/2024

Unbeknownst to the others, a child collects drops of wastewater and carries them to a distant location...

Why the award went to this film:

In the drought-stricken lands of Iran, children naturally adopt water-saving habits in their daily lives, and their actions gradually spread to others. This beautifully illustrates the concept of the “butterfly effect,” where small individual efforts lead to significant change and hope. The film effectively conveys environmental awareness through the genuine behavior of the children, all within just two minutes — a point that is highly commendable.

Comment from the Minister of the Environment:

“This film appears to depict a world of water depletion and the disappearance of a lake in connection with global warming. It strongly conveys the magnitude of the impact caused by climate change and prompts us to reconsider the value of water that is often wasted in our daily lives without much thought. The way individual actions gradually spread aligns with the Ministry of the Environment's nationwide campaign for a decarbonized lifestyle, known as “Deco-Katsu.” The Ministry views climate change as a critical challenge that must be addressed through international cooperation, and it hopes that each viewer who receives the message through this film will be inspired to take action on the issue of climate change.”



『Damji』 Director : Nazanin Chitsaz

Nazanin Chitsaz was born on 1993 in Isfahan, MA in dramatic literature from Tehran Azad University, Tehran Center (Faculty of Art and Architecture)/Director of 5 short fiction films from 2016 to now.

【Comments after winning the award】

I'm Nazanin Chitsaz the director of short film “damji” from Iran.

I'm deeply honored to receive the Save the Earth! Minister's Award from Japan's Ministry of the Environment at the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia.

Damji tells the story of a critical environmental issue—the drying of lakes, including Lake Urmia in Iran—through the eyes of children. These children, as symbols of hope for a better future, remind us that even the smallest actions can lead to meaningful change. We all have a role to play in protecting the Earth.

This special award means a great deal to me. It encourages me to continue telling important stories and to use cinema as a powerful tool to raise awareness about the environment.

I sincerely hope that one day we can all live on a green, safe, and peaceful Earth.

Thank you to the festival and Japan's Ministry of the Environment for giving this short film a voice and honoring it in such a meaningful way.

【Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2025 Outline】

■Festival President : Tetsuya Bessho

■Schedule :

April 24 – June 30 Online Grand Theater

*Streaming programs vary depending on the period.

May 28, Opening Ceremony @ TAKANAWA GATEWAY CITY

May 29 – June 1 TAKANAWA GATEWAY CITY

June 3, 4 Akasaka Intercity Conference

June 6 – 10 WITH HARAJUKU

June 6 - 8 LIFORK HARAJUKU

June 11 Award Ceremony LINE CUBE SHIBUYA

■Ticket :

<Online Grand Theater Passport >

¥2,500 (JPY) for Japan residents only /

\$15 (USD) for international users, 500JPY (Japan)

<https://app.lifelogbox.com/shortshortsonlinegrandtheater>

<Tokyo Venues>

• 1 Program (advance sale)

General 1,500JPY

Students, Seniors, Disability Discount 1,200JPY

Children under elementary school age Free

• 1 Program (same-day ticket)

General 1,800JPY

Students, Seniors, Disability Discount 1,500JPY

Children under elementary school age Free

• Passport : Omotesando Hills Space O, WITH HARAJUKU

General 7,000JPY

Students, Seniors, Disability Discount 5,500JPY

URL <https://ssff2025passport.peatix.com>

■General Inquiry : info@shortshorts.org

■Official Site : <https://www.shortshorts.org/2025>

■Host : Committee for Short Shorts / Committee for Short Shorts Asia



【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, 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. 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 Award 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.

<https://shortshorts.org/index-en.php>

SHORTSHORTS
FILM FESTIVAL & ASIA

【Press Inquiry】

Committee for Short Shorts PR: Fuyumi Tanaka E-mail press@shortshorts.org

【Still images are available here】

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FsiYuXZRyYzO0Memoxl5Wg6JtvoOCPm3?usp=sharing>