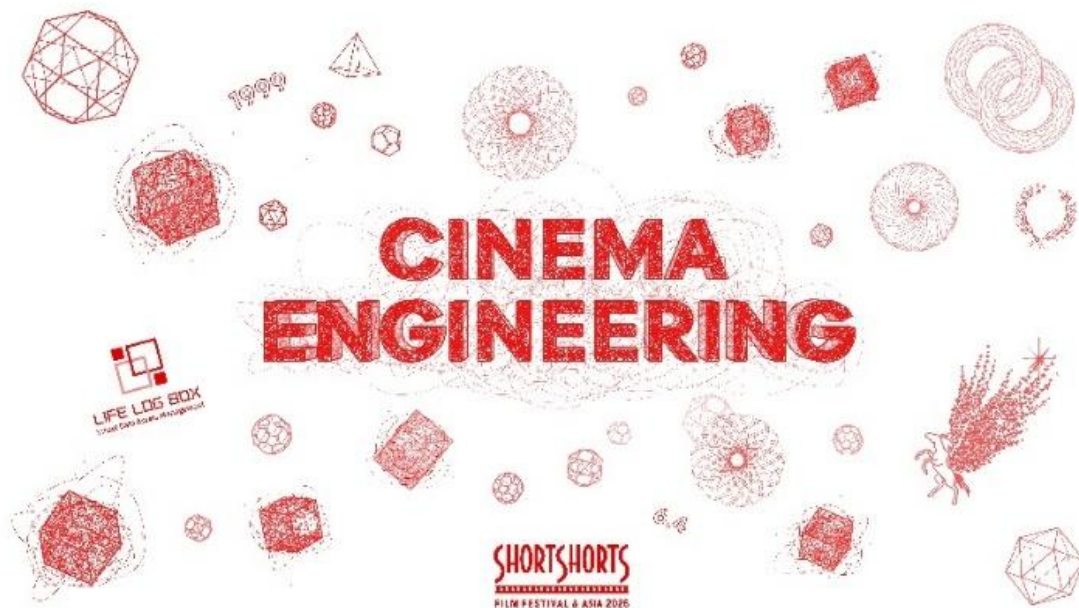


Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2026

One of Asia's Largest Academy Award® Accredited Festivals to
 Open May 25 in Tokyo and Online

**Theme "Cinema Engineering" Explores
 Future of Film with 5,000 Global Entries
 and New Sensory "Food" & "Art" Programs**



TOKYO — The Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA) 2026, an Academy Award® accredited international short film festival, will be held from May 25 (Mon) to June 10 (Wed), 2026, at multiple venues in Tokyo and via its global online platform (online through June 30). This 28th edition introduces the theme “Cinema Engineering”, focusing on the intentional design of cinematic experiences—merging AI, vertical video, and sensory storytelling to resonate with human perception. <https://www.shortshorts.org/2026/en/index.html>

2026 Festival Highlights

- **Massive Global Scale:** Approximately 5,000 short films were submitted from over 100 countries and regions.
- **Voices from Conflict Zones:** The lineup includes powerful narratives from countries facing the hardships of war, including Iran, Israel, Palestine, Yemen, Syria, and Ukraine.
- **Sensory "Food" & "Art" Programs:** The festival will feature special programs dedicated to "Food and Memory" and multidisciplinary "Art" (dance, music, animation), with some screenings held in unique settings like traditional tatami rooms .
- **Record AI Integration:** A historic high of 368 AI-integrated works were submitted, showcasing trends such as AI-generated music and a partnership with the WORLD AI FILM FESTIVAL.
- **New Landmark Venue:** The opening ceremony and red carpet will take place at "MoN Takanawa: The Museum of Narratives," a new experimental museum designed by architect Kengo Kuma.

Leadership Perspectives

"AI is no longer a magic trick; it is a 'brush of light' just like a camera or lighting," says Tetsuya Bessho, President of SSFF & ASIA . "We seek the true value of the movie experience by engineering both technology and analog sensibilities to project hope onto a confused society" .LiLiCo, SSFF & ASIA 2026 Ambassador, adds: "This is the most wonderful time of year where we meet the 'soul' of the works and the creators . It is the world's most welcoming and home-like film festival".

Comments from SSFF & ASIA 2026 Ambassador LiLiCo



The season is finally here!

This festival continues to grow larger every year, thanks to the trust and bonds that President Tetsuya Bessho and our entire staff have built with film lovers around the world over so many years.

Talking with creators from Japan and abroad, watching their films, sharing stories, cleaning the streets together, and raising a glass... there is a truly passionate chemistry that only happens because we all love the same thing. T

his is the most wonderful time of the year because we get to meet the people behind the films—the very 'soul' of the work.

From there, we deliver those stories to all of you. I truly believe this is the most welcoming, home-like film festival in the world. We welcome you all from the bottom of our hearts!

LiLiCo

Comments from SSFF & ASIA President Tetsuya Bessho



Photo: SSFF & ASIA 2025 Award Ceremony

Today, AI is no longer a special magic trick; it has become an integral part of filmmaking, serving as a 'brush of light' just like cameras or lighting.

We are witnessing a turning point in cinematic history, where co-creation between AI and humans—along with 'vertical video,' the new visual language born from smartphones—is being sublimated into art.

At the same time, the many works capturing the 'now' of our world, including the stories of 'Food' and 'Art' we are focusing on this year, are deeply imbued with unchanging human love and memory.

How can we 'engineer' technology and analog sensibilities to project hope onto our confused society? Through these exquisite short films gathered from around the globe, I want to explore with all of you the 'true value of the cinematic experience' in this modern age overflowing with video

Tetsuya Bessho

【Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2026 Overview】

■ Festival President : Tetsuya Bessho

■ Festival Period :

Monday, May 25th : Opening Ceremony

Tuesday, May 26th to Tuesday, June 9th : Screening at Tokyo

Wednesday, June 10th : Award Ceremony

※Online Venue: Monday, May 25th to Tuesday, June 30th

■ Screening Venues : MoN Takanawa: The Museum of Narratives
(Box1000、Tatami、Park Terrace)
Akasaka Intercity Conference、EuroLive、
WITH HARAJUKU

※Dates and programs vary by venue

■ Official Website:

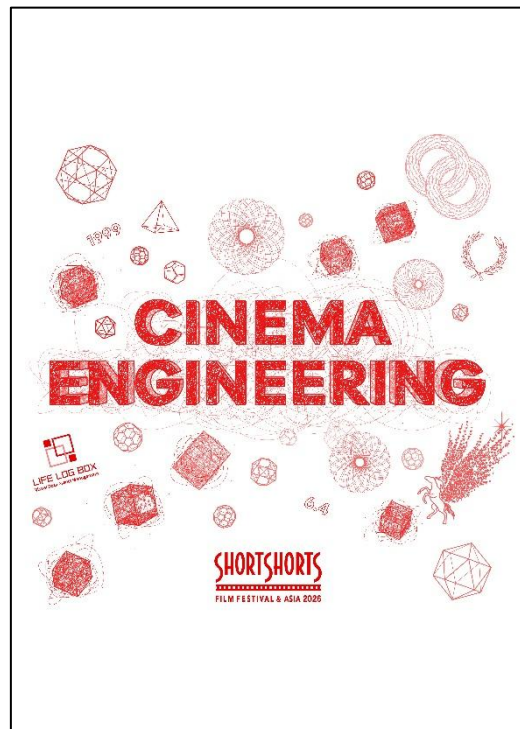
<https://www.shortshorts.org/2026/en/index.html>

※Full Lineup Announcement: Scheduled for April 23, 2026.

■ Ticket Sales: Starting April 23, 2026, at 14:00 JST.

■ General Inquiry : info@shortshorts.org

■ Host : Committee for Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia



【Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia】

SHORTSHORTS
FILM FESTIVAL & ASIA

In 1999, Tetsuya Bessho, an actor and member of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG), founded the American Short Shorts Film Festival. His mission was to introduce "short films"—a genre he first encountered in the United States—to audiences in Japan as a new form of visual entertainment. The festival was renamed Short Shorts Film Festival (SSFF) in 2001 and received official accreditation from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences® in 2004. In the same year, Short Shorts Film Festival Asia (SSFF ASIA) was established in co-organization with the Tokyo Metropolitan Government. Its goal was to promote new visual culture from Asia and nurture emerging young filmmakers. Today, these two festivals are collectively held under the name "SSFF & ASIA". To commemorate the festival's 20th anniversary in 2018, the Grand Prix was renamed the "George Lucas Award" in honor of director George Lucas. In January 2019, the festival marked this milestone with the "Short Shorts Film Festival in Hollywood". Furthermore, the festival's influence has expanded significantly: winners of the four categories in the Live Action Competition (International, Asia International, Japan) and the Non-Fiction Competition since 2019, as well as the Animation Competition since 2022, earn eligibility for nomination at the following year's Academy Awards®. SSFF & ASIA remains dedicated to supporting young creators through the power of short film.

【Official Website】 <https://www.shortshorts.org>

【Media Inquiry】

ショートショート実行委員会 担当 : 田中 TEL : 03-5474-8201 / E-mail : press@shortshorts.org

画像は下記よりダウンロードいただけます (期間 : 3月25日 ~ 6月30日)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Gplr2Yc5Sf1qFPzvbI4XiNV6qDFtSIkx?usp=sharing>