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# SHORTSHORTS



## FILM FESTIVAL & ASIA 2007

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### *Press Release Vol.02*

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### **Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia And the Committee for Short Shorts/ Committee for Short Shorts Asia Presents the 2007 Special Program Line-up**

TOKYO, May 8, 2007 – Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF&ASIA), presented by the Committee for Short Shorts Film Festival/Committee for Short Shorts Asia, today announced the Special Program Line-up for the 9<sup>th</sup> annual festival to be held on June 25 – July 1, 2007. The Opening Ceremony will be held on June 25 and the Award Ceremony on July 2.

Details on the “Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2007” are pouring in!

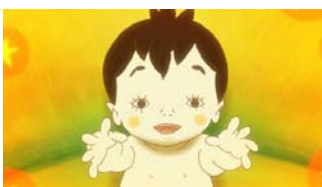
### **Special Programs**

#### **1. “Genius Party,” including the film costarring Yuya Yagira and Rinko Kikuchi as voice actors will open the festival!**

[Showtime: Wednesday, June 27. 11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. @ Laforet Museum Harajuku]



「BABY BLUE」 ©Genius Party



「HAPPY MACHINE」 ©Genius Party



「SHANGHAI DRAGON」  
©Genius Party

STUDIO4 is the creator of many high-profile films including “ANIMATRIX” and “TEKKON KINKREET.” Talented young creators leading today’s Japanimation industry have gathered at STUDIO4. “BABY BLUE,” directed by Shinichiro Watanabe, is gathering attention gaining momentum. It’s included in “Genius Party” and is set to be released this summer. Playing the voices are Yuya Yagira – winner of the Best Actor Award in the 57<sup>th</sup> Festival De Cannes in 2004 – and Rinko Kikuchi – actress who made quite a splash at this year’s Academy Awards. The two international actors are co-starring as voice actors in this film.

From “Genius Party,” “BABY BLUE,” director Masaaki Yuasa’s “HAPPY MACHINE,” and director Shoji Kawamori’s “SHANGHAI DRAGON” will be kicking off the “Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2007.”

**2. Starring Chiaki Kuriyama! The premiere screening of the newest film created by the award winning director from last year's SSFF.**

[Showtime: Wednesday, June 27. 7:45 p.m. – 9:15 p.m. @ Laforet Museum Harajuku]

[Showtime: Saturday, June 30. 12:00 a.m. – 1:40 a.m. @ TOHO Cinemas Roppongi Hills]

[Showtime: Sunday, July 1. 10:00 p.m. – 11:30 p.m. @ Cinema Vera Shibuya]

At SSFF 2006, director Hidetoshi Oneda won the best award, "Asahi Super Dry Award," in the Japanese competition (formerly called national competition) category with his film "La Belle Dame Sans Merci." With the 3 million yen cash prize given as part of a scholarship program, he is currently producing his latest film, "Tengu Gaiden" with the support of the Short Shorts Organizing Committee.



Appearing in the film are Chiaki Kuriyama and Mickey Curtis. Since the film is now in production, the story details are yet to be revealed. The premiere screening of the finished film will take place at this year's festival.



**3. Oscar-nominated Disney films to be screened in the Academy Program.**

[Showtime: Wednesday, June 27. 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. @ Laforet Museum Harajuku]

[Showtime: Thursday, June 28. 7:45 p.m. – 9:15 p.m. @ Laforet Museum Harajuku]

[Showtime: Saturday, June 30. 1:50 a.m. – 3:30 a.m. @ TOHO CINEMA Roppongi Hills]

Two Disney films nominated at the Academy Awards in 2004 and 2007 in the best animated short film category will be screened at the "Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2007." The two Disney films will be shown as part of the Academy Program, where past Oscar-winning and nominated films are introduced.



「Destino」

The first film is a rare screening of "Destino," nominated in 2004. Through the friendship between Walt Disney and Salvador Dali, the production began in 1946. Salvador Dali spent 8 months creating and painting the storyboards for the film and they made 15-seconds of footage but the project was halted due to the World War. But in 1999, Roy Disney, who finished creating "Fantasia," restarted the project. Then in 2003, "Destino" was finally completed more than 50 years after the production began. Salvador Dali and Disney, two world renowned artistic forces, have created a dreamy surrealist world and a timeless story about destined love.



Salvador Dali

The second film is “The Little Matchgirl,” nominated at this year’s Academy Awards. It was directed by Roger Allers, who debuted as a director with the Oscar-winning film “Lion King” (1994) and solidified his status as a director in the world of animation and film industry. He was story supervisor for “Beauty and the Beast,” and created the storyboard for “Little Mermaid,” “Aladdin,” and “Lilo & Stitch.” This year’s Oscar-nominated film, “The Little Matchgirl,” – created by a director who has taken part in various high-profile films – is a must-see.



「The Little Matchgirl」

**4. 650,000 views in 3 months! “893239,” the unbelievable record-holding film on YouTube to be screened!**

[Showtime: Friday, June 29. 12:00 a.m. – 1:40 a.m. @ TOHO Cinemas Roppongi Hills]

[Showtime: Saturday, June 30. 3:40 a.m. – 5:20 a.m. @ TOHO Cinemas Roppongi Hills]



During the “Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2007” held in Tokyo, aside from screenings held at Laforet Museum Harajuku and Cinema Vera Shibuya during regular hours, all-night screenings will take place on Friday June 29 and Saturday June 30 at TOHO Cinemas Roppongi Hills. “893239” will be screened along with other films during this all-night screening.

During its exceptional 3-month limited screening on YouTube, one film achieved an extraordinary view count of 650,000. That high-profile film is finally here! In this so-called “gathering project,” old and new creators have collaborated with a low budget of 100,000 yen under the keywords “yakuza” and “Tokyo 23 wards.” This project transcends borders and is gathering attention from movie industries around the world. A portion of this topical film will be screened for the first time in a theater. Make way for the attack of “893239,” the film that shook the short film industry!

**A film that pays homage to director, Wong Kar-Wai’s “As Tears Go By.”**

**5. The musical drama starring Eric from the top Korean idol group SHINHWA to be screened!**

[Showtime: Saturday, June 30. 1:20 p.m. – 3:10 p.m. @ Laforet Museum, Harajuku]

Every year, Korean music clips are well-received at SSFF. Unlike Japanese clips, Korean music clips are much more story-oriented. Starring popular movie actors, they are suitable to be categorized as short films.

Among the high quality clips this year, the most notable one is “Winter Story,” starring Eric, from Korea’s top idol group, SHINHWA. It’s a Korean-born musical drama that pays homage to director Wong Kar-Wai’s film, “As Tears Go By.”



**6. Gag-filled entertainment film by Takashi Shimizu, director of “Juon,” and Keisuke Toyoshima to be screened.**

[Showtime: Monday, June 25. 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. @ Laforet Museum, Harajuku]



「Rock Hunter IEMON」



「Ryakudatsu-ai(Plunder Love)」

The hit of “Juon” (2002) and “Juon 2” (2003) pushed director Takashi Shimizu into stardom. In 2004, Shimizu himself took part in the production of the Hollywood remake of “JU-ON:The Grudge.” This was the first time a Japanese director achieved the largest box-office profit in America with a live action film. Meanwhile, director Keisuke Toyoshima has a rich experience directing motion pictures such as “Tales of Terrors Nobuhiro-san” as well as many television dramas. Shimizu and Toyoshima’s insistence on short films, clash of talent, and battle have brought about a chemical reaction! In 2003, their films “YOU-REI TAI UCHU-JIN” series vol. 1 and 2 were shown at Cinema Shimokitazawa (now known as Cinema Artone Shimokitazawa).

Although they were shown as midnight showings for two weeks, audiences were standing on a daily basis, ending in a huge success. And in 2006, the long-awaited 3<sup>rd</sup> release, which some core fans have longed-for, was completed! The battle of Ghost VS. Alien, depicted in two different styles. In “Rock Hunter IEMON,” the famous Yotsuya Kaidan is depicted wildly in Shimizu’s style. Toyoshima directs “Ryakudatsu-ai(Plunder Love),” a melodrama that goes beyond human capability and full of that hard-boiled flavor.

Don’t miss these fun-filled entertaining pieces brought to you by these two great directors.

***HARTZ LINK CO., Ltd. PRESENTS A SPECIAL TALK EVENT!!***

**7. Master Film Director Irvin Kershner is coming to Japan!!**

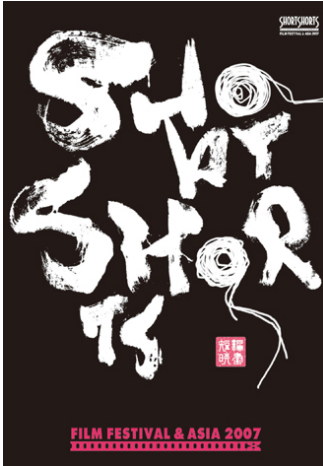
[Showtime: Saturday, June 30. 7:50 – 9:40 p.m. @ Laforet Museum Harajuku]

Irvin Kershner is the director of many films that were huge hits in Japan including “Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back” (1980), “Never Say Never Again” (1983) of the 007 series, and “RoboCop 2” (1990). Mr. Kershner will be coming to Japan for the “Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2007” to take part in a talk event held on Saturday night, June 30 (Hosted by Tetsuya Bessho, President of the Organizing Committee for Short Shorts). From inside stories of the filming of “Star Wars: Episode V – The Empire Strikes Back,” as well as the screening of some rare footage produced by Kershner in the past, this event is full of a variety of interesting topics. Come one come all!



Irvine Kershner

**8. The main visual of "Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2007" has been decided!**



2007 marks the 9<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this qualifying film festival for the Academy Awards. The words "SHORTSHORTS" is written very dynamically to express the festival's outpouring energy towards its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

As an international film festival born in Japan, this visual puts emphasis on the fact that as a member of the Asian region, the festival is conveying its originality and sensitivity to the world. It depicts the calligraphic world, the pop feeling and the modern art side. Among the calligraphically written SHORTSHORTS that rises up on the screen, the alphabet "O" depicts how the various films (individuality) gather at the festival and connect to each other. This is done by using playful string characters.

"Tradition is born from past innovations. As time goes by it is blunted and becomes an art form as well as an entertainment!" This concept was put instilled in this visual.

Lettering by calligrapher, Shishu

***Shishu's Profile:***

Began calligraphy at the age of 6. With the belief that the expressiveness of calligraphy is powerful enough to be world-class, Shishu aspired to do letterings for Hollywood films. Some of her major works include the lettering, scrolls, and characters for the NHK art program, "Bi no Tsubo" and "Iina," Asahi Shimbun's weekly calligraphy series (November 2004 – March 2007). Overseas, she has exhibited her works at the art exhibition of the 2005 "Biennale di Venezia."

***Message:***

"When you look at the letterings of international films, you notice a lot of font characters. I believe that Japan's traditional calligraphy is capable of depicting a film's symbolic scene in its lettering or expressing its strongest message in one single line. It is my desire that together with "SSFF" – which sends out messages from Japan to the world – I am able to be involved in international films through Japan's world-class tradition in the form of letterings. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for this wonderful opportunity."

**Tokyo: General Details**

**Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2007**

Under the above names SSFF and SSFF & Asia will be held simultaneously.

**Short Shorts Film Festival 2007**

Main Venue: Laforet Harajuku (Laforet Harajuku 6th floor, 1-11-6 Jingumae Shibuya-ku, Tokyo)

Dates: Monday, June 25, 2007 – Sunday, July 1

Second Venue: Cinema Vera Shibuya (Q-AX Building 4th floor, 1-5 Maruyama-cho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo)

Dates: Saturday, June 30, 2007 – Sunday, July 1

Films to be shown: (Film Programs)

6 programs (International)

Organizer: The Organizing Committee for Short Shorts

**Short Shorts Film Festival Asia 2007**

Main Venue: Laforet Harajuku (Laforet Harajuku 6th floor, 1-11-6 Jingumae Shibuya-ku, Tokyo)

Dates: Monday, June 25, 2007 – Sunday, July 1

Second Venue: Cinema Vera Shibuya (Q-AX Building 4th floor, 1-5 Maruyama-cho, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo)

Dates: Saturday, June 30, 2007 – Sunday, July 1

Films to be shown: (Film Programs)

4 programs (Asia, International)

3 programs (Japan)

Organizer: The Organizing Committee for Short Shorts

Co-organizer: The Tokyo Metropolitan Government

\*Short Shorts Lounge: <http://www.shortshorts.org>

\*Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2007 Official Website: To be launched June 1

\*Tickets scheduled to go on sale in early June.

**Roppongi Hills All-night Screening**

Date: Friday, June 29, 2007 and Saturday, June 30

Venue: TOHO CINEMAS Roppongi Hills (Keyaki-zaka Complex, 6-10-2 Roppongi Minato-ku, Tokyo)