



## *Press Release Vol.01*

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### **Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia Presented by Committee for Short Shorts/ Committee for Short Shorts Asia Announces 2008 Outline**

**The 10th Annual Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia will take place  
June 6<sup>th</sup> – June 14<sup>th</sup> , 2008**

TOKYO, March 17, 2008 – Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF&ASIA), presented by the Committee for Short Shorts Film Festival/Committee for Short Shorts Asia, announced today the outline for the 10<sup>th</sup> annual festival to be held June 6 – June 14, 2008. The Opening Ceremony will be held on June 5 and the Award Ceremony on June 15.

Approximately 80 out of more than 3000 short films have been selected for the annual festival, and all the short films in the official competitions are Japan premiers.

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#### **TOPIC 1**

**Approx. 80 short films carefully selected from 3,000 entries worldwide.**

Of the nearly 3,000 entries sent in from around the world, the festival's Organizing Committee has selected around 80 films (from approx. 25 countries and regions) which will all be screened as competition entries. The grand prix winner is eligible to receive a nomination under the short film category in next year's (2009) Academy Awards.

#### **TOPIC 2**

**"Stop! The Global Warming Competition" category established! Over 300 entries worldwide.**

A new category, the "Stop! The Global Warming Competition" will be officially introduced at this year's festival. In collaboration with "Team -6%" – the national activity to stop global warming – short films that deal with "global warming" submitted from around the world will be showcased. J-WAVE, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary since commencing its broadcasts, has expressed its strong support on the purpose of establishing this new category. This category includes the "J-WAVE Award" which will be selected by J-WAVE listeners.

### TOPIC 3

#### **MSN Online Category established! – MSN Video Award –**

The special “MSN Video Award” website will not only be used for submissions, but it will also distribute past films from “Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia” as well as trailers of competition entries for 2008. It’s a place to understand and enjoy short films to the fullest. One Grand Prix film will be chosen among the Best Short Award Prize winners selected from the submissions as well as films from past festivals selected by user polls and three judges. The Grand Prix winner will receive a 600,000 yen cash prize, an Xbox 360, and Microsoft® Expression Studio. (MSN Video Award: <http://msnva.jp/>)

### TOPIC 4

#### **Tadanobu Asano and Shidou Nakamura as directors! The talked-about omnibus short film “R246 STORY” to be premiered!**

Nowadays, it seems to have become the trend for those outside the movie industry to produce short films. This time, six talented men have become directors. Tadanobu Asano, Shidou Nakamura, Genki Sudo, VERBAL (m-flo), ILMARI (RIP SLYME), and Yusuke Santamaria, who are all active in various fields, have taken part in directing short films. It’s called “R246 STORY” and consists of six omnibus short films that take place on “Route 246” and directed by six individuals transcending genres, who express themselves in their own ways. “Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2008” will screen all six films.

### TOPIC 5

#### **A special event to celebrate our 10th anniversary! The screening of premier short films directed by 10 big name directors including George Lucas.**

To commemorate the festival’s 10th anniversary, films directed by 10 big-name directors will be shown. They are directors and actors who have been at the forefront of the movie industry worldwide, including, Aki Kaurismäki (Finland), Wong Kar Wai (Hong Kong), Vincent Cassel (France), George Lucas (USA), Takashi Miike (Japan), Yu Ji-Thae (Korea), Robert Zemeckis (USA), etc. [In alphabetical order]. This festival is the only opportunity in Japan to see such rare films. Don’t miss them!11

### TOPIC 6

#### **Academy Program presents the Academy Awards® nominees and winners from the short film categories!**

As a qualified short film festival for the Annual Academy Awards®, we are proud to present Academy Award® nominated/winning short films including the Best Live Action nominee of the 78th annual Academy Awards®, “Duke of Groove” starring Uma Thurman, Tobey Maguire and Kiefer Sutherland.

## Festival Outline

### ■ 「Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2008」

<TOKYO>

Venue : Laforet Museum, Harajuku  
Laforet Harajuku 6<sup>th</sup> floor, 1-11-6 Jingumae Shibuya-ku, Tokyo  
Date : June 6<sup>th</sup>, Fri. – June 14<sup>th</sup>, Wed. 2008

<National Tour: Yokohama>

Venue : Brillia Short Shorts Theater  
2F Filmee, 5-3-1 Minatomirai, Nishi-ku, Yokohama-shi, Kanagawa 220-0012  
Date : June 6<sup>th</sup>, Fri. – June 14<sup>th</sup>, Wed. 2008

Organizer : Committee for Short Shorts/Committee for Short Shorts Asia

※Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2008 Homepage: <http://www.shortshorts.org/2008>

※Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2008 Official Website will be available on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

※Ticket sales will start on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

### ■ All-Night Screening \* Programs are to be announced.

Venue : TOHO CINEMAS Roppongi Hills  
Keyakizaka Complex, 6-10-2 Roppongi Minato-ku, Tokyo  
Date : June 29<sup>th</sup>, Fri. – June 30<sup>th</sup>, Sat. 2007

### ▼ National Tours

Yokohama(Kanagawa), Nasu(Tochigi), Nagoya(Aichi), Osaka

\*Detailed information: TBA

### ▼ International Tour

Mexico (Mexico City) Festival Date: September 4<sup>th</sup>, Th. – 10<sup>th</sup>, Wed. 2008

\* This year will be third time for SSFF&ASIA to be held in Mexico City.

### **Awards**

The following awards will be given to films submitted in the competitions.

\* Of the awards listed below, all awards except for the "Audience Award" will be **selected by jury members**. (Jury members to be announced). Winners in the competitions will be awarded accordingly at the Award Ceremony on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008.

#### **«Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2008»**

##### **Awards**

**Grand Prix:** 1 winner will be selected from the above 3 competitions.

##### **International Competition:**

- «Best Short Award» x 1
- «FC TOKYO Student July Award» x 1
- «Audience Award» x 1

##### **Asia International Competition:**

- «Best Short Award» x 1
- «Audience Award» x 1

##### **Japan Competition:**

- «Best Short Award» x 1
- «Audience Award» x 1

##### **STOP! Global Warming Competition:**

- «Ministry of Environment Award» x 1
- «J-WAVE Award» x 1

##### **Online Competition:**

- «MSN Video Award» x 1

##### **Dior CHRISTAL Program:**

\*Selected short films directed by female filmmakers from the official competitions will be presented in this program.

- «Dior CHRISTAL Award» x 1

- \* As an additional prize, the Governor of Tokyo Award will be given to Best Short Award winners in Asia International/Japan Competitions.
- \*Audience Award will be given to 1 film from each competition

**Note: The above is the tentative details.**

▼ **Official Competition**

Over 3,000 entries were sent in from around the world to this internationally known film festival (The total of "Short Shorts Film Festival 2008" and "Short Shorts Film Festival Asia 2008"). From this enormous amount of truly international films, the Organizing Committee carefully selected films for this competition. Films that are shown in the competition will automatically be judged for the awards.

● **International Competition**

This Program Introduces rare international films that have not been released in Japan.



Toyland (Germany)



EVERY MINUTE, EVERY SECOND (Spain)



In Vivid Detail (Canada)

● **Asia International Competition**

At "Short Shorts Film Festival Asia 2008", excellent short films gathered from all over Asia will be shown. All films will be screened for the first time in Japan.



The Flower (Kyrgyzstan)



The Mole (Singapore)



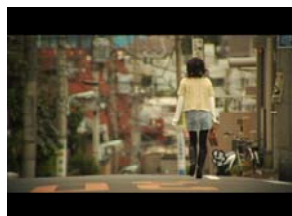
The Cabin Man (India)

● **Japan Competition - 3 Programs**

In recent years, short films have become widely known even in Japan. Don't miss the films of talented young Japanese creators.



Moroi



Your Sound



The Errand

▼ **Special Competition (Three official special judges [tentative])**

In collaboration with "Team -6%" – the national activity to stop global warming – a new category, "Stop! The Global Warming Competition" has been established. Short films carefully selected from the over 300 films submitted worldwide under the theme "global warming", will be screened throughout the official competition program. Due to the growing awareness of environmental issues, films with strong messages have been gathered. Films that are shown in the competition will automatically be judged for the awards.



**NEW!**

**STOP! Global Warming Competition**

The special screening of a film directed by Leonardo DiCaprio will take place in this competition.

● **Online Collaboration with MSN! Trailer Distribution & MSN Video Award**

The online service division of Microsoft Corporation (HQ: Shibuya-ku, Tokyo), operator of web platform Windows Live™ and Internet portal site MSN® is collaborating with the Film Festival. A special website, "MSN Video Award", will be launched (<http://msnva.jp/>). This special site will distribute nominated films for the official competition as well as trailers for nearly 100 films including nominated films in the "Stop! The Global Warming Competition".



24 classics from past festivals will be distributed in full length!! With lots of content, the website will introduce the fascination of short films.

★ Submission for MSN Video Awards and user polls for nominated films! ★  
The MSN Video website is accepting short film entries for the Internet. Of the best entries and past classics, one Grand Prix film will be selected through user polls and by three judges.

**[Call for Entry] March 17 – May 6, 2008**

\*Selected films from past festivals are available at <http://msnva.jp/>.

\*Trailers of Competition Entries for 2008 will be available at the same website from May 1

● **"R246 STORY" Special Premier Screening**

Nowadays, it seems to have become the trend for those outside the movie industry to produce short films. This time, six talented men have become directors. It's called the "R246 STORY" project. This project consists of six short films about human dramas that take place on "Route 246" and are produced based on each director's viewpoint. The premier screening of all six films will take place at this film festival! \*They will be screened throughout the Asia, International, and Japan Competition schedule.

**Participating Directors:**

**Tadanobu Asano, Shidou Nakamura, Genki Sudo, VERBAL (m-flo), ILMARI (RIP SLYME), Yusuke Santamaria.**



(c) 2008「R246 STORY」Film Partners

● **10 Maestros!**

In commemoration of our "10th" anniversary, we've collected short films directed by "10" big name directors. From directors that have released many hit films to directors that are also popular actors, their short films are so rare, this film festival is the only opportunity to see their films in Japan. Don't miss them!

**Aki Kaurismäki (Finland), Vincent Cassel (France), George Lucas (USA), Takashi Miike (Japan), Yu Ji-Thae (Korea), Wong Kar Wai (Hong Kong), and Robert Zemeckis (USA) etc.** [In alphabetical order].

● **Brazilian Program**

2008 is the 100th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Brazil. To commemorate this memorial year, the special screening of Brazilian films will take place. Films that were screened at the internationally-respected São Paulo International Short Film Festival and Rio de Janeiro International Film Festival will be shown. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Brazil, films made by Nikkei Brazilian directors who are active in Brazil will also be shown. This is the only opportunity to see these rare films in Japan. The films introduce the Nikkei society from various perspectives, including the agony of living in Brazil as immigrants as well as their lifestyle. Early films directed by one of the maestros, Walter Salles, will also be screened in this program.

● **China Program (Including Hong Kong)**

2008 is the year of the Beijing Olympics. "Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2008" will be screening films that feature China. Special screenings will take place not only for films produced by young Chinese creators that will lead the next generation (Not included in the competition), but also maestro director Wong Kar Wai's treasured films, and films directed by Fruit Chan.

## Supporting Letters

Each year, the festival receives supporting letters from famous filmmakers and actors including George Lucas, Martin Scorsese, Sophia Coppola, Johnny To, Jitae Yoo and many more.

### *George Lucas*



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Congratulations, you are now ten years old! It is hard to believe that ten years have passed since I attended the opening party of your first Festival at the U.S. Embassy back in June, 1999. It is encouraging to see that the Festival continues to grow and that Japan's appetite to support independent filmmaking and creators continues to move forward. That, of course, reflects the unique balance of innovative programs and strong films that Short Shorts has now become known for worldwide.

I know that 2008 also marks a second major Festival milestone with the opening of the Short Shorts Theater. Now audiences can enjoy this unique genre of film and special programs throughout the year. There are very few locales in the world with a theater dedicated to short films, and the Committee for Short Shorts should be proud of this new endeavor.

May this year's milestones prove successful, thought provoking, and fun.

George Lucas

### *Wong Kar Wai*

Congratulations to the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia,

I am pleased to be able to share my film, "There's Only One Sun" with the Japanese audience at Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia to commemorate its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

A short film is a challenge of precision and poetry. For the young filmmaker, it is also a wonderful platform to showcase their talents.

I believe that it is important to support and encourage those who are involved in this art form.

I wish Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia great success this year and for many more years to come.

Wong Kar Wai



### ■ For General Inquiries

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