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## The very first Japanese female director won the Grand Prix. The Grand Prix short film is eligible for nomination at next year's Academy Awards®.

The Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA) 2012, an Academy Awards® accredited festival is also one of the biggest international short film festivals in Asia. This year, a Japanese female director won the Grand Prix for the first time in the festival history.

The Award Ceremony took place in June 24, and the Grand Prix and the Best Short Awards of the various competitions have been selected by the official juries. The Grand Prix winning film is eligible for the nomination of the short film categories at the 85<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards in 2013.

### <Official Competitions>

In the competitions, 5 jury members selected the Best Short from the 3 main categories; the International competition, the Asia International competition, & the Japan competition. In addition, 1 Grand Prix is selected from the 3 Best Short films. The Grand Prix selection is eligible for nomination at the following year's Academy Awards®. The official jury was made up of: Kazuki Kitamura (Actor), Masahiro Kobayashi (Film Director), Mitsuyoshi Takasu (Broadcast Writer/Scriptwriter), Ludmila Cvikova (Head of International Programming, Doha Film Institute), and Hisako Manda (Actress).

### Grand Prix & Best Short Award in the Japan Competition

**"Mō ikkai"**

**(Japan/Singapore / 14:30 / Drama / 2011)**

#### Synopsis:

After fifteen years abroad, a son returns to his childhood home in Tokyo, where he finds his mother's lifeless body. Lost in a landscape of memories, he is approached by his mother, who he spends the day with one last time.

**Director : Atsuko Hirayanagi**

Atsuko was born in Nagano. She majored in Theatre at San Francisco State University, later studying filmmaking at New York University Tisch School of the Arts Asia. Her graduation film "Oh Luck!" was winner of the school screen writing contest, and she was awarded a filmmaking grant. She currently lives in Singapore.



### Best Short Award in the International Competition

**"Edmond was a Donkey"**

**(France/Canada / 15:00 / Animation / 2011)**

#### Synopsis:

A small, quiet man, Edmond has a wife who loves him and a job he does extraordinarily well. But he's aware he's different. When co-workers tease him, crowning him with donkey ears, he discovers his true nature. Though he enjoys this new identity, an ever-widening chasm opens.



**Director : Franck Dion**

Born in Versailles in 1970, Frank made his first animated short "L'inventaire fantôme" in 2003. In 2006, he founded Papy 3D with a few friends, which produced his award-winning "Monsieur Cok", selected for Sundance Film Festival. His third short is the first film Papy 3D has co-produced with the National Film Board of Canada.

## **Best Short Award in the Asia International Competition**



**"Thief"**  
(Taiwan/25:00/Drama/2011)  
**Synopsis:**

Jenny receives a new cellphone from her boyfriend, but as they stroll through the streets of Taipei he's called back to work. Whilst waiting for him in a nearby night market, she is unknowingly followed by a young woman, who steals her phone and breaks into it.

### **Director : Jay Chern**

Jay grew up in Texas, graduating from the University of Texas at Arlington in 2006, his thesis short winning Best Film at the University's film festival. In 2007, he returned to Taipei and was accepted to the directing program at Taipei National University of the Arts' Graduate School of Filmmaking, his thesis film winning Best Short Film at the Golden Horse Film Festival.

**Best Short Award:** From each of the official competitions a Best Short Award is selected. From the Committee of Short Shorts and the Committee of Short Shorts Asia, a prize of ¥600,000 and a digital single-lens reflex camera, the EOS 5D Mark III from Canon Marketing Japan is awarded.

**Tokyo Governor's Award:** Is also awarded to the Best Short Award selected film in the Asia International Competition and Japan Competition.

## **<STOP! Global Warming Competition>**

"STOP! Global Warming Competition" was held again at this year's festival for the fifth time. In collaboration with "Challenge 25 Campaign, Ministry of the Environment", the national activity to stop global warming, short films that deal with "global warming" have submitted from around the world were showcased. The official jury this year was made up of Seita Emori (Climate Scientist), Fumiko Okuno (Sports Commentator), Masatoshi Nakamura (Actor). Radio station "J-WAVE" has continuously expressed its strong support of this category. The category includes the "J-WAVE Award" which will be selected by 5 J-WAVE radio listeners.

## **Best Short Award**

**"The Environmentalist"**  
(Canada/7:12/Comedy/2011)  
**Synopsis:**

The Environmentalist A darkly comic tale about a man who is desperately trying to save the world from environmental devastation before it is too late.

### **Director : Jacob Bond**

Jacob is a Canadian writer and director who was raised in the oil rich province of Alberta and now resides in the naturally beautiful city of Vancouver, British Columbia. Jacob has been working in the film industry since age 19 and "The Environmentalist" is his greatest production to date.

**Minister's Award, the Ministry of Environment:** Is also awarded to the Best Short Award selected film in the STOP! Global Warming Competition.



## **STOP! Global Warming Competition J-WAVE Award**

**"Cherish"**  
(Taiwan/25:00/Documentary/2010)  
**Synopsis:**

Wei recycles for others and feeds stray dogs. His love for the land also drives him to recycle broken glass in artistic yet useful ways. Conveying his philosophy of cherishing the earth and championing resource redistribution, this documentary shows Wei is the best kind of never retired laborer.

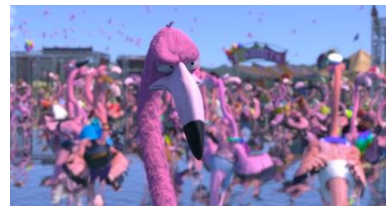
### **Director : Cheng-Yang Wang**

Cheng-Yang directed the shorts "SUMMER MAGIC" and "IF YOU LOVE ME MORE", both nominated for the Golden Horse Awards' Best Short Film. Other works include "BIRTHDAY", which was awarded the Grand Prix at the 16th International Film and Television Schools' Festival MEDIASCHOOL in 2009, and the documentary "4EVER KIDS", Public Television's award-winning



## <CG Competition supported by Digital Hollywood Best Short Award>

This competition was supported by Digital Hollywood and special jury, Sori Fumihiko (Director), LiLiCo (Movie Commentator) and Tomoyuki Sugiyama (President, Digital Hollywood University) made a selection of the Best Short. A ¥600,000 prize was given to the winner.



**"Flamingo Pride"**  
(Germany / 6:02 / Animation / 2011)

**Synopsis:**

Frustrated being the only straight flamingo in a gay flock, the hero falls in love with a lady stork that flies by. Unable to convince her of his intentions, he isolates himself and goes through an identity crisis. An intensive encounter inspires a bold move.

**Director : Tomer Eshed**

Tomer was born in 1977 in Tel Aviv, graduating from the "School of Arts", Jerusalem, in 1995. From 2000 to 2001 he worked on different projects in New York, later returning to study at the University of Film and Television "Konrad Wolf". He worked as Director/Animator at the "Talking Animals" Animation Studio Berlin from 2010 to 2011.

## <Music Shorts Competition>

There are 2 awards, Best Cinematic Award and Best Creative Award for this category. A ¥300,000 prize was awarded to each award.

### Best Cinematic Award



**"GOOD COMING -Toru and Neco, Sometimes Cat-"**  
(Japan / 43:39 / Music Short / 2012)

**Synopsis:**

Toru, an Italian chef apprentice who has been washing dishes for an eternity, returns home with a "cat" one night. When he wakes up the next morning, there is a "woman" in its place. Before he knows it, he is helped by the "cat", and becomes a fully-fledged chef.

**Artist : Good Coming**

Good Coming is trio from Fukuoka. They debuted with the single "Nakama". They are active on live stages, mainly in Tokyo.

**Director : Sho Tsukikawa**

Sho was chosen by a panel of judges as the Grand Prix winner for the LOUIS VUITTON Journeys Awards 2009. He currently creates short movies, music videos and CMs.

**Best Cinematic Award:** This award will be given to the most cinematic music video.

### Best Creative Award

**"Bubble"**  
(Japan / 6:18 / Music Short / 2011)

**Synopsis:**

Yuri and Ryo, who have just begun living together, are happy. Ryo recommends the novel that Yuri has been writing as a hobby for a contest, and it wins the big prize. Yuri's debut as an author is decided, but...

**Artist : clammbon**

clammbon was formed in 1995. They made their major debut with the single "Hanare Banare" in 1999. Since then, they have appeared at many outdoor festivals and received high acclaim as a live band.

**Director : Yusaku Okamoto**

Yusaku, who was born in Niigata prefecture in 1980, currently resides in Tokyo. He is a freelance video director and web designer. He makes movies, music videos, web dramas and making-of films. He is the president of ASTROSANDWICH.



**Best Creative Award:** This award will be given to the most creative film submitted by filmmakers inspired by artists' music.



## **MOËT STAR AWARD**

**Director : Chris Foggin**

After graduating with a degree in Media Production, Chris quickly established himself as an assistant director in film. Recent titles include Madonna's W.E', "The Iron Lady" and "My Week with Marilyn".

**"Friend Request Pending"**

**(UK, England/11:58/Romance/2011)**

**Synopsis:**

Mary (Judi Dench) and Linda (Penny Ryder) spend an afternoon discussing the pleasures, pitfalls and problems with using social networking to try and woo the local choirmaster Trevor (Philip Jackson).



**MOËT STAR AWARD** has been jointly established by the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia and champagne maker Moët & Chandon. The award is given to the director that best embodies a pioneering attitude, a global perspective, sophisticated value creation, self-fulfilling strength, and a sharing spirit. Both the film festival and Moët & Chandon feel that any director winning this award best exemplifies these ideals and will be a shining star that will help lead the way for the future of the film industry. A total of seven individuals were nominated for this award, with the brightest star of all receiving the top prize.

In addition to the Yasumichi Morita designed award trophy, the recipient will also receive a trip to the Moët & Chandon Maison in France.

## **Nestlé Award**

**"The Bake Shop Ghost"**

**(Loretta Bayle/USA/16:59/Drama/2009)**

**Synopsis:**

In a haunted bake shop, a determined young woman struggles to find the perfect recipe to satisfy a hungry spirit. Based on a best-selling children's book, this film provides enchantment for all ages.

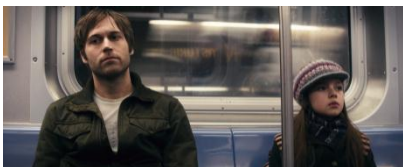


**Nestlé Award**

Collaborating with Nestlé through the company's online entertainment portal Nestlé Amuse, SSFF & ASIA has brought short films to the homes of Japanese audiences. Stemming from this partnership, Nestlé and SSFF & ASIA organized the Nestlé Amuse Film Festival where audiences can view a variety of short films from around the world for free. Viewers would then be able to vote for their favorite film, with the winner being awarded the Nestlé Award and a prize of JPY400,000. In just around 2 months, 25,501 votes were submitted in total, with the film The Bake Shop Ghost winning the top prize out of the 40 films available for viewing.

## **Audience Award**

From each of the 3 main official competitions, the STOP! Global Warming, and the Let's Travel! Project; an Audience Award is determined by ballots cast by the audience. A ¥200,000 prize was given to the winners.



**International Competition**

**"Curfew"**

**(USA/19:42/2011)**

**Synopsis:**

In the midst of attempting suicide, Richie gets a call from his estranged sister asking him to look after his niece. Richie cancels his plans, and spends the evening with her. But she has preconceived notions of who Richie is and he must overcome these.

**Director : Shawn Christensen**

Shawn graduated from Pratt Institute with a degree in illustration and graphic design. He then formed indie rock band Stellastarr\* and wrote and sold screenplays to productions, while on tour. His second short film, Brink, was screened at Tribeca Film Festival 2011.

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### **Asia International Competition**

#### **"Mom came over the Sea"**

**(South Korea/22:33/2011)**

#### **Synopsis:**

A boy is reluctant to go home as his mother, who has gone to Japan to make a living, is not there. By chance, he meets a Korean-Chinese woman who left her child behind in China to come to Korea to make money, much like his own mother.

#### **Director : Yeon-kyung Jung**

Yeon-Kyung was born in South Korea in 1977. She graduated from Japan Institute of the Moving Image, a major of Media and Directing. She worked on the Japanese feature "Lamang" in 2004, and has worked on a number of films as a scriptwriter.



### **Japan Competition**

#### **"Mō ikkai"**

**(Japan/Singapore/14:30/2011)**

#### **Synopsis:**

After fifteen years abroad, a son returns to his childhood home in Tokyo, where he finds his mother's lifeless body. Lost in a landscape of memories, he is approached by his mother, who he spends the day with one last time.

#### **Director : Atsuko Hirayanagi**

Atsuko was born in Nagano. She majored in Theatre at San Francisco State University, later studying filmmaking at New York University Tisch School of the Arts Asia. Her graduation film "Oh Lucy!" was winner of the school screen writing contest, and she was awarded a filmmaking grant. She currently lives in Singapore.



### **Let's Travel! Project**

#### **"Erayaccha-Yoi!"**

**(Japan/15:40/2006/Tokushima)**

#### **Synopsis:**

It's fireworks night and nineteen year old Ayumi has been dumped. She's alone in a big city with no dreams. As she thinks "Enough already...", the crying Ayumi hears the nostalgic tune of the Awa dance flute...and her feet take her to Tokushima. But what is it she was waiting for?

#### **Director: Misako Unakami**

Misako was born in Chiba, and graduated from the Musashino Art University, Oil Painting Department. She has experience set designing and planning on filming locations, and is currently working as a director of promotional videos and other works. Her most recent project was "Goodbye Mother" for Net Cinema, episode 5 of the second season of Detective Agency 5.



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

#### **"Cherish"**

**(Taiwan/25:00/2010)**

#### **Synopsis:**

Wei recycles for others and feeds stray dogs. His love for the land also drives him to recycle broken glass in artistic yet useful ways. Conveying his philosophy of cherishing the earth and championing resource redistribution, this documentary shows Wei is the best kind of never retired laborer.

#### **Director: Cheng-Yang Wang**

Cheng-Yang directed the shorts "SUMMER MAGIC" and "IF YOU LOVE ME MORE", both nominated for the Golden Horse Awards' Best Short Film. Other works include "BIRTHDAY", which was awarded the Grand Prix at the 16th International Film and Television Schools' Festival MEDIASCHOOL in 2009, and the documentary "4EVER KIDS", Public Television's award-winning short film.



The Best Actor / Actress Award winner will be selected from the three official competitions (International, Asia International & Japan Competition).

## **Best Actor Award**



**International Competition**  
**Nick Cook in "The Stranger"**  
**(Australia / 10:20 / 2011)**  
**Synopsis:**

A brazen young man cruises the streets, searching for connection.

**Director: Rodd Rathjen**

Rodd recently completed a bachelor of Film and Television with Honors at the Victorian College of the Arts. His graduating film 'Thirst' won best direction at the VCA in 2009 and also earned him the prestigious Grace Marion Wilson Writers scholarship. His first feature "The Golden Age" is currently in development.



**Asia International Competition**  
**Won-jin Ham in "Mom came over the Sea"**  
**(South Korea / 22:33 / 2011)**  
**Synopsis:**

A boy is reluctant to go home as his mother, who has gone to Japan to make a living, is not there. By chance, he meets a Korean-Chinese woman who left her child behind in China to come to Korea to make money, much like his own mother.

**Director: Yeon-kyung Jung**

Yeon-Kyung was born in South Korea in 1977. She graduated from Japan Institute of the Moving Image, a major of Media and Directing. She worked on the Japanese feature "Lamang" in 2004, and has worked on a number of films as a scriptwriter.



**Japan Competition**  
**Tomoki Kimura in "Stick(Trubou)"**  
**(Japan / 19:00 / 2012)**  
**Synopsis:**

An unemployed young man finds a mysterious part-time job. He is taken along by his employer, who feigns innocence, and the site they arrive at is an idyllic mountain. But what is the spectacle that the young man sees there..?

**Director: Shohei Tada**

Shohei has been a nominee in the SSFF & ASIA Japan Competition for two consecutive years. "bonz", the first film he directed, was selected for Nippon Connection (Germany) and Rotterdam International Film Festival (Netherlands).

## **Best Actress Award**



**International Competition**  
**Anoush NeVart in "High Card Trumps"**  
**(USA / 5:56 / 2011)**  
**Synopsis:**

Lois, a headstrong woman and soon-to-be champion grandmother, is anxious to share her good news with the volunteers of her monthly Support-Our-Troops bake sale. But when an Arab mother joins them, Lois's pride and definition of patriotism are challenged.

**Director: Geoffrey Quan**

Geoffrey is an award-winning independent director and producer. His films have shown at 50+ festivals, including Sundance, and have received two Student Academy Awards nominations. Geoff is a graduate of Columbia University's MFA film program and UC Berkeley. He lives in LA.

## **Best Actress Award**



**Asia International Competition**  
**Heng-yin Chuo in "Thief"**  
**(South Korea/22:33/2011)**

**Synopsis:**

Jenny receives a new cellphone from her boyfriend, but as they stroll through the streets of Taipei he's called back to work. Whilst waiting for him in a nearby night market, she is unknowingly followed by a young woman, who steals her phone and breaks into it.

**Director: Jay Chern**

Jay grew up in Texas, graduating from the University of Texas at Arlington in 2006, his thesis short winning Best Film at the University's film festival. In 2007, he returned to Taipei and was accepted to the directing program at Taipei National University of the Arts' Graduate School of Filmmaking, his thesis film winning Best Short Film at the Golden Horse Film Festival.



**Japan Competition**  
**Ayumi Nigo in "Famiry"**  
**(Japan/19:58/2012)**

**Synopsis:**

Children are ignorant of their parents, however, the opposite is also true. These are pretty wise sayings from the past.

**Director: Taishi Taishi**

Taishi was born in Hyogo on April 7, 1980. Taishi belongs to the film production company Grand Master Company, where he is making films. He plans to complete a feature film by the end of the year, which is currently being written.

\* Award winning shorts are now being shown at Brilli Short Shorts Theater ([www.Brillia-SST.jp](http://www.Brillia-SST.jp)) in Minatomira, Yokohama from July 1 till August 31, 2012.

\* Call for entry period for 2013 will start from August 1, 2012 and details will also be up on the Short Shorts website at [www.shortshorts.org](http://www.shortshorts.org) from August 1, 2012.

## **Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia ([www.shortshorts.org](http://www.shortshorts.org))**

The Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA) is one of the Asia's biggest short film festivals and a qualifying film festival for the annual Academy Awards®. The festival was started by Japanese actor Tetsuya Bessho, and was initially called the American Short Shorts Film Festival.

The first festival in 1999 screened a variety of short films, including six from director George Lucas, whose support of the festival continues to this day. In 2001, the festival underwent a name change to become the Short Shorts Film Festival (SSFF), becoming a qualifying festival for the Academy Awards® just a few years later in 2004. This designation allowed the winner of the festival's Grand Prix to become eligible for nomination in the short film categories at the Academy Awards®. This also meant that the Short Shorts Film Festival became a gateway to an Oscar for young Japanese filmmakers.

The same year, the festival became a qualifying film festival for the Academy Award®, Governor of Tokyo, Shintaro Ishihara requested the festival to further showcase up and coming Asian filmmakers and their short films, leading to the formation of the Short Shorts Film Festival Asia. Organized in conjunction with the original Short Shorts Film Festival the combined festivals now form the annual Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, introducing short films from all over the world.