

ENGLISH

SKIP CITY
IDCF
INTERNATIONAL
DIGITAL
CINEMA
FESTIVAL



SKIP CITY
INTERNATIONAL
D-Cinema FESTIVAL
2005

SKIPシティ
国際Dシネマ映画祭2005
2005.7.16 (SAT) ~24 (SUN) SKIP CITY
PRESS BOOK

www.skipcity-dcf.jp

As of May 25, 2005

FOREWARD

Thank you for coming to the **SKP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL 2005** press conference. We are committed to discovering new talent and supporting the development of digital cinema. Our second annual festival will take place from Saturday July 16th through Sunday July 24th.

Because of recent increases in digital film production, our festival aims to showcase international films shot exclusively in the digital format. Digital technology has radically transformed both the film world and audio-visual industry. Our festival strives to integrate new technology and build a platform that will nurture emerging creative talent. This year, we received 458 submissions from 25 countries worldwide. Of these 458, the selection committee chose ten features and ten shorts for competition.

Advancements in digital technology have made filmmaking more accessible. We seek to showcase emerging talent by presenting new digital work in a similarly accessible environment. We hope that not only film fans, but also the general public will visit Skip City and enjoy digital cinema from all over the world.

In addition to the feature and short competitions, we will host various digital cinema events, such as the D-Contents Market, a symposium, and a special screening.

We hope you enjoy the **SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL 2005**, the first competitive film festival to exclusively feature international digital cinema.

SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL 2005

Director

Yuji Takizawa

OUTLINE

SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL 2005

Date: Saturday, July 16th Sunday, July 24th, 2005

Venues: Skip City Audio Visual Hall / Convention Hall

Contents: Competition
Feature Competition (International) 10 nominees
Short Competition (Domestic) 10 nominees
Special Screening
Spot Light on Nordic Shorts
D-Contents Market
Symposium
Forum

Sponsored by : Saitama Prefecture, Kawaguchi City, Skip City International D-Cinema Festival Committee, NPO Saitama Audio-Visual Volunteers

Cosponsored by : Sony Corporation, Sony Marketing (Japan) Inc., Sony PCL, Japan Airlines Co., Ltd., NTT Communications Corporation, FUJINON Corporation, Shimizu Corporation, Takenaka Corporation, SHIMIZU BLC Co., Ltd., Asahi Facilities Inc., The Citizens Circle to Support SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL

Supported by : Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communication, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, Agency for Cultural Affairs, Motion Picture Producers Association of Japan, Federation of Japanese Film Industry, Inc., UniJapan Film, Foreign Film Importer-Distributor Association of Japan, Japan Association of Audiovisual Producers, Inc., Motion Picture and Television Engineering Society of Japan, Inc., All Nippon Producers Association, Directors Guild of Japan, Japanese Society of Cinematographers, Japan Film Makers Association, Digital Content Association of Japan, Digital Cinema Technology Forum, NPO Digital Cinema Consortium of Japan, JAL Foundation, NHK, Television Saitama, FM NACK5
Embassy of Iceland, Embassy of Sweden, Embassy of The People's Republic of China, Royal Danish Embassy, Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany, Tokyo American Center, Royal Norwegian Embassy, Embassy of Finland

Assisted by : Japan Motorcycle Racing Organization

Screening Schedule

DATE	HALL	OPEN START	PROGRAM	OPEN START	PROGRAM	OPEN START	PROGRAM
7/16 (sat.)	Audio Visual Hall			13:40 14:00	Opening Ceremony Summer Time Machine Blues 100min / SS		
	Convention Hall						
7/17 (sun.)	Audio Visual Hall	10:40 11:00	Nordic Shorts 1 95min / SN	13:40 14:00	Last Minute 82min / FC / Q&A	16:40 17:00	Angel 117min / FC / Q&A
	Convention Hall			14:10 14:30	Short Competition 1 93min / SC / Q&A	17:10 17:30	Red Cockroaches 82min / FC / Q&A
7/18 (mon.)	Audio Visual Hall	10:40 11:00	Short Competition 2 91min / SC / Q&A	13:40 14:00	Brothers 110min / FC / Q&A		
	Convention Hall	11:10 11:30	Me and You and Everyone We Know 90min / FC / Q&A	14:10 14:30	The World 139min / FC / Q&A		
7/19 (tue.)	Audio Visual Hall	12:40 13:00	Moonlanding 90min / FC / Q&A			17:40 18:00	Short Competition 1 93min / SC / Q&A
	Convention Hall			15:10 15:30	Music from the Inside Out 90min / FC / Q&A	18:10 18:30	Able Edwards 85min / FC / Q&A
7/20 (wed.)	Audio Visual Hall	12:40 13:00	Angel 117min / FC / Q&A			17:40 18:00	Nordic Shorts 2 102min / SN
	Convention Hall			15:10 15:30	Short Competition 3 112min / SC / Q&A	18:10 18:30	Me and You and Everyone We Know 90min / FC / Q&A
7/21 (thu.)	Audio Visual Hall	12:40 13:00	Silver Ornaments 115min / FC / Q&A			17:40 18:00	Red Cockroaches 82min / FC / Q&A
	Convention Hall			15:10 15:30	Nordic Shorts 1 95min / SN	18:10 18:30	Brothers 110min / FC / Q&A
7/22 (fri.)	Audio Visual Hall	12:40 13:00	Symposium			17:40 18:00	The World 139min / FC / Q&A
	Convention Hall			15:10 15:30	Short Competition 2 91min / SC / Q&A	18:10 18:30	Last Minute 82min / FC / Q&A
7/23 (sat.)	Audio Visual Hall	10:40 11:00	Music from the Inside Out 90min / FC / Q&A	13:40 14:00	Able Edwards 85min / FC / Q&A	16:40 17:00	Short Competition 3 112min / SC / Q&A
	Convention Hall	11:10 11:30	Nordic Shorts 2 102min / SN	14:10 14:30	Moonlanding 90min / FC / Q&A	17:10 17:30	Silver Ornaments 115min / FC / Q&A
7/24 (sun.)	Audio Visual Hall			13:40 14:00	Closing Ceremony Grand prize winner		

★Short Competition Program

- ◆Short Competition 1 (93 min) [Thinking about You] (19 min) / [Life in Additional Time] (10 min) / [Secchan] (34 min) / [Coffee & Milk] (30 min)
- ◆Short Competition 2 (91 min) [Scarlet Road] (14 min) / [Turn Left on the Next Traffic Light] (59 min) / [Your Secret & My Heart] (18 min)
- ◆Short Competition 3 (112 min) [Why the Red Road] (27 min) / [Fly Bubble Fly] (40 min) / [Nacchan in Summer] (45 min)

★Nordic Shorts Program

- ◆Nordic Shorts 1 (95 min) [Broadband] (29 min) / [Stressless] (15 min) / [Universal Kjell] (29 min) / [The Last Words of Hreggvidur] (22 min)
- ◆Nordic Shorts 2 (102 min) [Max by Chance] (29 min) / [Money] (6 min) / [The Bewitched Child] (47 min) / [Soldier 7] (20 min)

FC : Feature Competition SC : Short Competition SS : Special Screening SN : Spot Light on Nordic Shorts

All films are subtitled with English and Japanese (all films in English are subtitled in Japanese only / all films in Japanese are subtitled in English only)
Q&A with the filmmakers will follow after the screenings where noted
Please be advised that the schedule may change due to unforeseeable circumstances

INTERNATIONAL FEATURE COMPETITION

This year, we are pleased to present ten feature films from around the world, shot in the digital format and produced for theatrical distribution. Ten nominees were selected from 194 submissions. International jury members will present five awards at the closing ceremony.

Awards Details:

Grand Prize / Sony D-Cinema Award

Certificate and trophy are given by the festival organizers.

Trophy and cash reward of 10,000,000 Yen is given by Sony Corp. and Sony Marketing Inc.

Best Picture / Sony D-Cinema Award

Certificate and trophy are given by the festival organizers.

Trophy and cash reward of 1,000,000 Yen is given by Sony Corp. and Sony Marketing Inc.

Best New Director / Sony D-Cinema Award

Certificate and trophy are given by the festival organizers.

Trophy and cash reward of 2,000,000 Yen are given by Sony Corp. and Sony Marketing Inc.

(*Limited to the directors whose credits do not exceed three feature films)

Best Technology / Sony D-Cinema Award

Achievement in use of digital technology

Certificate and trophy are given by the festival organizers.

Trophy and cash reward of 1,000,000 Yen are given by Sony Corp. and Sony Marketing Inc.

Special Jury Prize / Sony D-Cinema Award

Certificate and trophy are given by the festival organizers.

Trophy and cash reward of 1,000,000 Yen is given by Sony Corp. and Sony Marketing Inc.

International Feature Competition Jury

Jury President

CHARLES S. SWARTZ - CEO, Entertainment Technology Center at USC (USA)

Swartz is Executive Director and CEO of the Entertainment Technology Center, an organized research unit founded in 1993 at the University of Southern California (USC) within the School of Cinema-Television. He has more than 25 years experience in the entertainment industry. After attending USC's graduate School of Cinema-Television, Swartz served as a Story Executive and Associate Producer at Warner Bros. Television, as Head of Production at New World Pictures, and as Executive Vice President at Dimension Pictures. He has produced eight feature films and shares screenwriting credits for six of them. His numerous contributions to the entertainment management and digital media field at UCLA Extension earned him a slot on the *Los Angeles Business Journal's* list of the top 100 technology leaders. He is a frequent speaker at international symposiums on digital media and global cinema and television, most notably the NAB (The National Association Of Broadcasters) Digital Cinema Summit.

PITOF – Director (France)

Born in 1957 in France, Pitof began his career in 1975 as an assistant editor at a commercial company and later worked as an assistant director for corporate films and commercials. In 1986, he founded a visual effects company that has since served the music video and commercial industries. As visual effect supervisor, Pitof worked on such films as Marc Caro and Jean-Pierre Jeunet's *Delicatessen*, the box office smash *Les Visiteurs*, and *Grosse Fatigue*, which won him a Technical Grand Prize at Cannes Film Festival. His other credits as visual effect supervisor include *Casque Bleu*, *The City of Lost Children*, *Didier*, *Alien Resurrection*, and *The Messenger*. He went on to direct the first feature film shot in digital: *Vidocq* and *Cat Woman*.

JIANQI HUO - Director (China)

Born in 1958, Huo burst onto the international film scene in 1999 with *Postmen in the Mountain*. The film won Golden Rooster Awards for Best Picture and Best Actress, as well as the People's Choice Award at the Montreal Film Festival. Huo belongs to the Beijing Film Academy's fifth generation of film directors, along with such greats as Chen Kaige and Zhang Yimou, and has won numerous international awards. His filmography includes *Life Snow*, winner of the Shanghai Film Festival's Best Film, Best Actress, and Best Cinematography awards, and *Nuan*, which won the Grand Prix and Best Actor awards at the 2003 Tokyo International Film Festival. Huo's latest film, *Qing Ren Jie*, stars Vicky Zhao from *So Close* and premiered at the 2005 Hong Kong Film Festival.

SHOJI MASUI – Producer (Japan)

Masui produced Masayuki Sudo's *Fancy Dance* and *Sumo Do Sumo Don't*. In 1993, he founded Altamira Pictures and produced the box office sensation *Shall We Dance* (the Hollywood remake is currently in theaters in Japan), *Waterboys*, *Give It All*, and *Swing Girls*. Masui is committed to discovering new talent and has consequently produced many first features with up-and-coming directors.

D-Cinema Feature Competition Line Up

*All films are subtitled in English and Japanese unless otherwise noted

Nominees for Best New Director

Last Minute



2003 / Germany / 82 min. / German with subtitles
/ Digital Betacam / Fiction Japan Premiere

Director : Marina Caba Rall

Cast : Petra Kleinert, Ercan Durmaz,

Katharina Schmalenberg

Synopsis: Two airport cleaning ladies find a foreign man in handcuffs in their cubbyhole. Is he really threatened by unjustified deportation? Or is he nothing but a criminal, attempting to escape the police? The two women must decide whether to believe the fugitive.

Director's Biography: Born in 1964, Rall grew up in Spain and Germany. On graduating from Berlin University, she taught philosophy before enrolling at HFF film school in Germany. *Last Minute* is her thesis film for HFF.

Angel 天使 Tenshi



©Erika Sakurazawa / Syodensya

2005 / Japan / 117 min. / Japanese with English
subtitles / HDCAM / Fiction World Premiere

Director: Mayumi Miyasaka

Cast: (By Shochiku's request, cast members will
be announced at a later date)

Synopsis: Kato is an ordinary man working at a supermarket. But one day, an angel materializes before his eyes. While the angel seems like an average girl with a passion for gin and lime, she sports a pair of big white wings. But only lonely-hearted people, such as a suicidal junior high student, a single father struggling to raise his daughter, and two sisters obsessed with dieting, can see the angel. The angel may seem ordinary, but she touches hearts and transforms lives.

Director's Biography: Miyasaka has been directing music videos since 1995 and has worked with Hikaru Utada and Gommatou. In 2002, he directed a TV drama entitled *Yukaza Cinema*. *Angel* is Miyasaka's first feature film.

Red Cockroaches



2004 / USA / 82 min. / English with Japanese subtitles / DV / Fiction Japan Premiere

Director: Miguel Coyula

Cast: Adam Plotch, Talia Rubel, Jeff Pucillo

Synopsis: New York's not-so-distant future: the city is ravaged with acid rain and controlled by the DNA 21 Corporation. A young man meets a mysterious woman who disrupts the banality of daily life. Together, they embark on a destructive journey revealing dark family secrets and forbidden desires.

Director's Biography: Coyula was born in Havana, Cuba in 1977. He graduated from the International School of Film and TV (EICTV) of San Antonio de los Baños, Cuba in 1999. He has written, photographed, edited, produced and directed over a dozen short films in Cuba and has won over 30 prizes at various film festivals.

Me and You and Everyone We Know



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2005 / USA / 90 min. / English with Japanese subtitles / HDCAM / Fiction Japan Premiere

Director: Miranda July

Cast: John Hawkes, Miranda July

Synopsis: Christine is an aspiring artist who works as an elder cab driver. Richard, a divorced shoe salesman, struggles to raise two sons, while yearning for a better life. After meeting the captivating Christine, however, Richard panics. Life is not so oblique for Richard's sons. Seven-year-old Robby engages in a risky Internet romance, while his fourteen-year-old brother, Peter, gleefully helps neighborhood girls rehearse their future marriages.

Director's Biography: July's short films (*Haysha Royko*, *The Amateurist*, *Nest of Tens*, *Getting Stronger Every Day*) have screened at the Museum of Modern Art and the Guggenheim Museum. *Nest of Tens* and *The Drifters*, a sound installation, *learning to love you more.com* were presented at the Whitney Biennial. July's multimedia performances have delighted audiences at London's Institute of Contemporary Art and New York's The Kitchen.

Brothers Brødre



2004 / Denmark / 110 min. / Danish with subtitles
/ HDCAM / Fiction Japan Premiere

Director: Susanne Bier

Cast: Ulrich Thomsen, Connie Nielsen,
Nikolaj Lie Kaas

Synopsis: Michael is a family man with a successful military career. His younger brother Jannik is an ex-convict who can't hold down a job. When Michael is deployed to Afghanistan on a U.N. mission, his helicopter goes down. With Michael presumed dead, Jannik rises to the occasion and begins looking after his sister-in-law and niece. One day, Jannik learns his brother survived the accident.

Director's Biography: Born in 1960, Susanne Bier has directed several award-winning features including *Freud Leaving Home*, *Family Matters*, *Like It Never Was Before*, *Credo*, and *The One and Only*, which won a host of Danish Film Academy and film critics' awards and became one of the five most popular Danish feature films of all time. In 2000, Bier directed *Once in a Lifetime*, followed in 2002 by the highly acclaimed Dogme success, *Open Hearts*. The latter film won five Danish film awards, including Best Film, and screened at the San Sebastian, Sundance, and Toronto film festivals.

The World 世界 Shi Je



2004 / China, Japan, France / 139 min. / Chinese
with subtitles / HDCAM / Fiction Japan Premiere

Director: Zhang-Ke Jia

Cast: Tao Zhao, Tai-Sheng Chen, Jue Jing,
Wang Hong-Wei

Synopsis: At the World Park in Beijing, visitors can see famous international monuments from around the world. Tao, a performer in one of the park's lavish shows, and her boyfriend, Taisheng, a park security guard, moved to Beijing from the provinces a few years ago. Now their relationship has reached a crossroad.

Director's Biography: Born in 1970, Jia is a graduate of the Beijing Film Academy. He founded the Youth Experimental Film Group, the first independent production entity of its kind in China and has directed two award-winning videos. His first feature, *Xiao Wu* premiered at the Berlin Film Festival. Jia's subsequent films *Platform* and *Unknown Pleasures* screened at international film festivals, including Cannes and Venice.

Moonlanding Mondlandung



©FILMVERLAG DER AUTOREN

2003 / Germany / 90 min. / Russian and German
with subtitles / DV / Fiction Japan Premiere

Director: Till Endemann

Cast: Andrej Dronov, Anton Levit,

Annika Blendl

Synopsis: Two brothers from a third-generation German family in Kazakhstan return to Germany. Disconnected from their heritage, the brothers struggle to rediscover their cultural identity in a homeland as foreign as the moon.

Director's Biography: Born in 1976, Endemann has directed various short films and documentaries including *Salzfische*, which won awards at the Münster Filmfestival in 2001 and also the Best Short Film Award at the Filmfestival "EnreVues" in France in 2002. He recently completed his second feature, *Smile of Monsterfish*.

Music From the Inside Out



©ANKER PRODUCTIONS, INC.

2004 / USA / 90 min. / English with Japanese
subtitles / Digital Betacam / Documentary

Japan Premiere

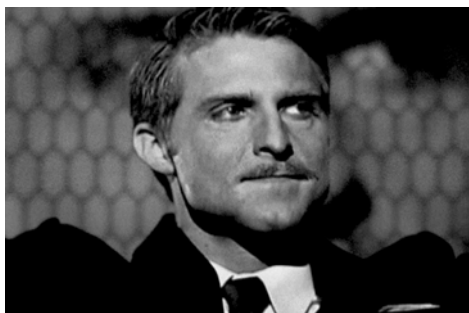
Director: Daniel Anker

Cast: Members of the Philadelphia Orchestra

Synopsis: A kaleidoscopic look at the Philadelphia Orchestra. When the city's finest musicians come together, the result is magical, touching members of the audience and orchestra alike.

Director's Biography: An Emmy winner and Academy Award Nominee for the documentary *Scottsboro: An American Tragedy*, Anker has directed numerous films and television programs including *Imaginary Witness: Hollywood and Holocaust* which screened at more than 40 festivals worldwide. A graduate of Harvard University's music department, Anker has produced a variety of award winning programs about music.

Able Edwards



2004 / USA / 85 min. / English with Japanese subtitles / DV / Fiction Japan Premiere

Director: Graham Robertson

Cast: Scott Galbreath, Keri Bruno, David Ury

Synopsis: The Edwards Corporation, a leading manufacturer of androids, attempts to reverse stagnant market performance by genetically replicating the company's late genius founder, Able Edwards, who was a legendary figure in the 1960's entertainment world. Edwards' clone leads the company to financial success but begins questioning his own identity. Is the clone a reincarnation of the media tycoon whose life experiences he has been conditioned to repeat, or is he a wholly different individual robbed of his freedom by a greedy corporate machine?

Director's Biography: Born in 1973, Robertson studied film in Santa Fe, New Mexico. For the past eight years, he has worked in Los Angeles as a set dresser and graphic designer on numerous motion pictures and television shows including *Swordfish*, *Punch Drunk Love*, *The Majestic*, and *Confidence*. *Able Edwards* is his directorial debut.

Silver Ornaments 銀飾 Yin Shi



2004 / China / 115 min. / Chinese with subtitles / HDCAM / Fiction World Premiere

Director: Jian-Zhong Huang

Cast: Rao Meng, Yang Gu, Tong-Hui Wang

Synopsis: The District Magistrate Jingren's son, Daojing, is a homosexual jewelry collector. When Daojing's wife, Bilan, commits adultery with a young silversmith, Jingren plots to poison his daughter-in-law's lover. But the slain man's grief-stricken father mistakenly blames Bilan for his son's death and murders the woman. Ultimately, Daojing discovers his father's role in the tragedy. Daojing then adorns himself with women's clothing and silver jewelry before committing suicide at his wife's tomb.

Director's Biography: Born 1941 in Indonesia, Huang joined Beijing Film Studios in 1960, where he worked as assistant director. In 1991, he won the Special Jury Prize at the Tokyo International Film Festival for his film *The Spring Festival*. Huang's feature credits include *My 1919* and *God of the Mountains*.

DOMESTIC SHORT COMPETITION

This year, we are pleased to present ten Japanese short films shot and exhibited in digital format. The ten nominees were selected from 264 submissions. Jury President Masanobu Takashima and the members of the Citizens' Circle to Support SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL will present three awards at the closing ceremony.

Awards Details:

Best Picture – Kawaguchi Citizens' Award

Certificate and trophy are given by the festival organizers.

Trophy and cash reward of 1,000,000 Yen are given by the Citizens' Circle to Support SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL.

Honorable Mention – Kawaguchi Citizens' Award (two films)

Certificate and trophy are given by the festival organizers.

Trophy and cash reward of 500,000 Yen are given by the Citizens' Circle to Support SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL.

Domestic Short Competition Jury

Jury President

MASANOBU TAKASHIMA – Actor

Born in 1966, Takashima made his debut with the NHK Television drama, *Jun-chan no Ouenka*. He has since starred in a variety of films, commercials, musicals, and plays. His screen credits include *Gojira Vs Biorante*, *Extreme Crisis*, and *Godzilla: Final Wars*.

Jury Members

The jury consists of seven members of the Citizens' Circle to Support SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL.

D-Cinema Domestic Short Competition Line Up

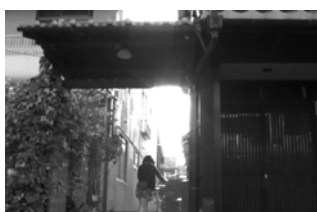
*All films are subtitled in English unless otherwise noted

Thinking About You (Haru wo Omou)

2004 / 19 min. / DV / Fiction

Director: Yuya Kasai

Cast: Itsuki Fujii, Megumi Take, Seiichi Tanaka



Synopsis: Megumi harbors feelings for her schoolmate Kaneko, who has decided to leave their hometown for Tokyo. But when the two meet before the young man's departure, Kaneko fails to notice Megumi's feelings. Desperate for his attention, Megumi begins to tell a mysterious story.

Director's Biography: Born in 1981, Kasai started making short films after entering Kyoto University of Foreign Studies.

Life in Additional Time (Losu Taimu Laifu)

2003 / 10 min. / DV / Fiction

Director: Masaya Kakehi

Cast: Mitsuki Koga, Mami Nakamura, Shinichiro Okano



Synopsis: After deciding to abandon the world of underground crime, Shuichi commits to one last job. But things don't go smoothly, and his partner points a gun at him. As the shot rings out, Shuichi sees everything in slow motion and is given a chance to change his destiny.

Director's Biography: Born in 1977, Kakehi's short films have won various awards including the Off Theater Grand Prix at Yubari International Fantastic Film Festival. His last short film *Canned Beauties* opened theatrically in 2004.

Secchan (Secchan)

2003 / 34 min. / DVCAM / Fiction

Director: Masatoshi Takeuchi

Cast: Yoshimasa Kondo, Hanae Endo, Haruna Auchi



Synopsis: Kanako likes to talk about her classmate "Secchan," a target of ridicule at her school. The girl's parents are indifferent to these tales, until the day of the tournament, when the family discovers Secchan's true identity.

Director's Biography: Born in 1966, Takeuchi graduated from Waseda University in 1989. His award-winning short film *Assassin* screened at the Manchester Fantastic Film Festival, the Salerno Film Festival, and the International Film Festival Mannheim-Heidelberg.

Coffee & Milk (Kohi to Miruku)

2004 / 30 min. / DV / Fiction

Director: Izuru Kumasaka

Cast: Kai Ogaki, Mikako Omae, Mitsutaka Matsuzawa



Synopsis: Milk is a sixth-grader who wants to become a photographer like Araki. He decides to photograph sound to show his deaf friend, Coffee, a young woman working in a café. Milk tries to imagine what it is like to be deaf and finally presents his work to Coffee.

Director's Biography: Born in 1975, Kumasaka has directed various music videos and TV spots. He is credited as a co-writer for the upcoming theatrical release, *School Daze*.

Scarlet Road (Aka no Michi)

2002 / 14 min. / No dialogues / DV / Animation

Director: Tomoyasu Murata



Synopsis: A heartbroken pianist must free himself from past trauma in order to play the piano again. The fourth installment of Murata's *Road* quadrilogy.

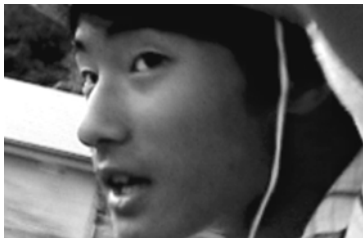
Director's Biography: Born in 1974, Murata's thesis film *Suiren No Hito* won several awards including Best Film at Bunkacho Media Arts Awards. His acclaimed short, *Scarlet Road* screened at a variety of foreign film festivals and won the Grand Prix at Hiroshima International Animation Festival.

Turn Left on the Next Traffic Light (Tsugi no Shingo wo Hidarini)

2004 / 59 min. / DV / Fiction

Director: Takeshi Shimojo

Cast: Kohei Miyagawa, Takeshi Shimojo



Synopsis: Two fifteen-year-old boys plan a big trip during their first summer vacation as high school students. To make their plan reality, each boy has to confront and overcome his own fears. The two begin their journey and look to the open future.

Director's Biography: Born in 1987, Shimojo started making films when he was in junior high school. *Turn Left on the Next Traffic Light* is his second short film.

Your Secret & My Heart (Kimi no Himitsu Boku no Kokoro)

2004 / 18 min. / HDCAM / Fiction

Director: Takashi Kubota

Cast: Shugo Oshinari, Akane Osawa



Synopsis: In the driver's seat at an auto race championship, Shunsuke's remembers Sayuri, a pianist who encouraged him to become a racer. By fulfilling his promise to win the race, Shunsuke hopes to inspire Sayuri to pursue her dreams once again.

Director's Biography: Born in 1977, Kubota has directed several short films, including *MemoiR* and *Yume wo Mite Mite*. He founded the film production company, PIPPIN in 2003. He is currently working on a feature project entitled *Wish on the Polestar*.

Why the Red Road (Nazeka Akai Michi)

2004 / 27 min. / DV / Fiction

Director: Takashi Komatsu

Cast: Naoya Watanabe, Yuka Shibahara



Synopsis: The lonely protagonist of *Why the Red Road* pretends to be suicidal in order to attract attention. His friends have deserted him and no one takes him seriously. One night, he finds a trail of blood on the concrete. A mystery unfolds as he follows the trail.

Director's Biography: Born in 1981, Komatsu is currently enrolled at Waseda University. His short film *Why the Red Road* has won awards from such festivals as Waseda Film Festival and Tokyo Student Film Festival.

Fly Bubble Fly (Shabondama Tonda)

2004 / 40 min. / DV / Fiction

Director: Katsunori Sato

Cast: Emi Chikuno, Mina Sugino, Yumio Kawashimada



Synopsis: Anyone who hums the tune “Fly Bubble Fly” is cursed. Two sisters are caught up in a mysterious urban legend and discover the secret of “Fly Bubble Fly.”

Director's Biography: Born in 1978, Sato studied editing at Nikkatsu Art School. Since graduation, he has been working as a freelance designer and editor.

Natchan in Summer (Natchan No Natsu)

2005 / 45 min. / DV / Fiction

Director: Kotaro Sengoku

Cast: Natsuki, Kotaro, Kazuki Sakuma, Takako Noda



Synopsis: One summer day, unemployed Takashi finds two-year-old Natsuko on his doorstep. Soon after, Takashi receives an email from his ex-girlfriend Miki. Miki asks him to care for Natsuko, claiming the girl is his daughter. Natsuko and Takashi then embark on a new life together.

Director's Biography: Sengoku studied literature at Waseda University. Since graduation, he has worked on music videos and film productions.

SPOTLIGHT ON NORDIC SHORTS

Filmkontakt Nord (FkN) is a non profit organization based in Copenhagen, Denmark established in 1991 by the independent Nordic short and documentary filmmakers. Funded by the Film Institutes and the Agency for Cultural Affairs in Nordic countries, FkN serves as a common platform for a stronger production and distribution network within the Nordic countries and a united exposure internationally.

Nordisk Panorama Event is Filmkontakt Nord's main annual event of Nordic short films and documentaries, comprising Nordisk Panorama – 5 Cities Film Festival, Nordisk Panorama Market and Nordisk Forum for Co-financing of Documentaries. Nordisk Panorama 2004 in Reykjavik attracted more than 500 professionals from 24 countries, 306 short films and documentaries were screened at the Festival and Market and 25 new documentary projects pitched at Nordisk Forum.

Digital production and distribution technologies are penetrating all genres of Nordic filmmaking and offering new horizons for filmmakers, some of which we are proud to present in Spotlight on Nordic Shorts.

Karolina Lidin
Director
Filmkontakt Nord

***All films are subtitled in English and Japanese unless otherwise noted**

DENMARK

Max By Chance (Rejsen på ophavet)

2004 / 29 min. / Danish with subtitles / Digital Betacam

Director: Max Kestner

Synopsis: Playfully animated, Max's story traces several generations of sailors, industrialists and hippies - all depicted with love and irony.

Director's Biography: Born in 1969, Kestner graduated from the National Film School of Denmark. Since graduation, he has worked for DRTV and directed a BBC documentary entitled *Eurotopia*. *Max by Chance* was chosen for the First Appearance at IDF and received a GulDok for Best Short and screened at Cannes Film Festival.

Stressless (Stressless)

2003 / 15 min. / Danish with subtitles / Digital Betacam

Director: Jessica Nilsson

Synopsis: Are you a young, divorced, dog-owner? Lifestyle guru "Lulu" will help you tackle the post-divorce blues.

Director's Biography: Born in 1965, Nilsson studied at the Royal Academy of Art. *Stressless*, her seventh short film, screened at the Clermont-Ferrand Short Film Festival and the Hong Kong International Film Festival.

SWEDEN

Soldier 7 (Solider 7)

2005 / 20 min. / No dialogue / HDCAM

Director: Matthew Allen

Synopsis: In a battlefield of an unspecified war, a well equipped army fights an endless battle against guerrillas. An entire platoon is ambushed and destroyed, save one female medic. Confronted by a guerilla soldier, will the medic pull the trigger, thus winning the battle for survival?

Director's Biography: Born 1958 in San Francisco, Allen studied at The Neighborhood Playhouse in New York. Since graduation, he has worked extensively in theatre, television, and film as an actor and director. Allen has resided in Sweden for the past fourteen years. In 2001, he began working with Sonet Film as a creative consultant, screenwriter, and director.

Broadband (Bredband)

2004 / 29 min. / Swedish with subtitles / Digital Betacam

Director: Ulf Hansson

Synopsis: The new television cable system, Broadband, purports to make people happier. And, it does bring most people joy, with one exception: Rune, an ordinary man living in a small Swedish town.

Director's Biography: Hansson started his career directing documentaries for Swedish Television. He also directed TV drama and taught filmmaking at schools in Sweden. *Broadband* screened at Swedish and Finnish Television as well as Tapere International Short Film Festival.

NORWAY

Universal Kjell (Kjell Universell)

2003 / 29 min. / Norwegian with subtitles / Digital Betacam

Director: Erik Richter Strand

Synopsis: Kjell is forty and obsessed with what other people think about him. He's a supervisor with a small telemarketing firm, and suspects that the employees are talking about him behind his back. To find out for sure, he invents an alter ego: Reidar, the outrageous secret agent.

Director's Biography: Born in 1974, Strand studied direction at the Norwegian National Film School in Lillehammer. His short films have won awards at several international festivals. In 2002, his film *Vanished* won the Director's Award for Best Short at the San Jose International Film Festival. He is currently developing his first feature project at the Norwegian production company Tordenfilm, which he co-owns.

FINLAND

The Bewitched Child (L'Enfant et Les Sortileges)

2004 / 47 min. / French with subtitles / Digital Betacam

Director: Marikki Hakola

Synopsis: This fairy tale, inspired by Maurice Ravel's opera, depicts a child's journey in understanding the consequences of his actions. It is the first Finnish production to create set designs via digital technology.

Director's Biography: Hakola studied painting at the Academy of Fine Arts in Helsinki. Hakola's work includes video art, installation, multimedia, performances, collaborative audiovisual projects, and Internet projects. Hakola also serves as executive producer and CEO of Kroma Productions Ltd., an independent production company for audiovisual and multimedia arts located in Magnusborg Studios, Finland.

ICELAND

Money (Peningar)

2004 / 6 min. / Icelandic with subtitles / DV

Director: Savar Sigurdsson

Synopsis: John is an ordinary guy with a good heart. When he discovers a stranger's wallet, this nice guy turns criminal – but only for a moment.

Director's Biography: Born in 1982, Sigurdsson has been directing films since he was thirteen. His first short *Have No Idea* was nominated for Best Cinematography and Best Editing at The Light Film Festival. All three of his subsequent films screened and won awards at various film festivals. *Money* was shown at Palm Spring International Film Festival, Flanders International Film Festival and Best European Film Festival.

The Last Words of Hreggvidur (Sídustu ord Hreggvids)

2004 / 22 min. / Icelandic with subtitles / DV

Director: Grimur Hakonarson

Synopsis: Hreggvidur, a right wing journalist dies and comes back life to haunt an editor of a conservative news paper to print his final article on a new government policy.

Director's Biography: Hakonarson directed several short films while studying filmmaking at Prague's Film Academy. His thesis film, *Slavek the Shit*, was selected for the Cinefoundation program at the Cannes Film Festival in 2005. *The Last words of Hreggvidur* won the Canal+ Prize at the Nordisk Panorama in 2004 and competed at Clermont-Ferrand Film Festival in 2005.

SPECIAL SCREENING (Opening Film)

Summer Time Machine Blues (Sama Taimu Mashin Bulus)

2005 / Japan / 100 min. / Japanese with English subtitles / HDCAM World Premiere

Director / Producer: Katsuyuki Motohiro Cast: Eita, Juri Ueno, Kuranosuke Sasaki



©ROBOT/Toshiba Entertainment/Hakuhodo DY Media Partners /IMAGICA

Seven college students in the Sci-Fi Club spend their summer days in a steamy clubroom with a broken air conditioning remote control. One day, a time machine magically appears in the corner of the room. The students test the machine by traveling a few days back in time to retrieve the working remote. But one mishap leads to another, and an unexpected adventure unfolds.

From director/producer Katsuyuki Motohiro, whose *Bayside Shakedown 2* became a mega box office hit in Japan, comes *Summer Time Machine Blues*. The film stars Juri Ueno, the hot young star from *Swing Girls*, and Eita, star of the popular television adaptation of theatrical hit *Waterboys*. An adaptation of the stage play by theatre trope Studio Europe, *Summer Time Machine Blues* was Motohiro's dream project.

Director's Biography: Born in 1965, Motohiro has directed commercials and television dramas. He made his theatrical debut with 1996's *Seventh of July, Sunny Day*. He directed the television drama, *Bayside Shakedown*, which was later made into a theatrical feature and was followed by a successful sequel. Both films became box office hits in Japan. Motohiro's other film credits include *Space Travelers* and *Negotiator Mashita Masayoshi*.

SPECIAL OPENING EVENT

High Definition Digital Cinema Live Transmission

We are proud to present this year's special screening of *Summer Time Machine Blues* via long distance HD digital cinema transmission. Utilizing the latest digital technology, HD digital cinema transmission will shape new business models for the broadband, distribution, and exhibition markets.

In recent years, digital cinema projection has become increasingly popular. Still, image resolution has remained a concern for distributors and audiences alike. With digital transmission, higher bit rates yield better quality projected images. *Summer Time Machine Blues* will be projected with a high bit rate to ensure superior big screen projection.

In preparation for the screening, Skip City in Kawaguchi, Saitama, and the Intercross Creative Center (ICC) in Sapporo, Hokkaido have been connected via Gigastream Type F, a fiber optic cable provided by NTT Communications. Several opening events will be transmitted in High Definition (1920X1080 pixels) at a bit rate of at least 40Mbps with MPEG-2 or Motion JPEG2000.

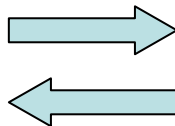
The SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL 2005 Opening Ceremony will be transmitted live from Skip City to ICC. A message from ICC as well as short films by the directors at ICC will be transmitted live from ICC to Skip City. In addition, *Summer Time Machine Blues* (Distributed by Toshiba Entertainment) directed by Katsuyuki Motohiro, acclaimed director of *Bayside Shakedown*, will be transmitted via HD digital cinema live transmission from ICC. This will be Japan's first digital cinema live streaming transmission with either a Motion JPEG2000 or MPEG-2 decoder.

Date: Saturday, July 16th

Location: Skip City (Kawaguchi) Intercross Creative Center (Sapporo)



Skip City (Kawaguchi)



ICC (Sapporo)

HD Live Video Streaming
MPEG-2 / 40 Mbps or more
HD Digital Cinema Live Streaming
Motion JPEG2000 / 100Mbps
MPEG-2 / 40 Mbps or more

About Inter-cross Creative Center (ICC)

ICC was established in 2001, with the aim of developing higher-performance infrastructures and advancing Sapporo's digital content business. ICC offers comfortable office spaces for reasonable rental fees and organizes seminars and workshops, thus supporting technological advancement, cooperation, and education among creators.

SPECIAL EVENTS

D-Contents Market

CREATOR'S STUDIO 2005

The second annual D-Contents Market will provide Japanese filmmakers with an opportunity to present their projects to film producers, distribution companies, and potential financiers.

Dates: Thursday, July 21st - Saturday, July 23rd 3:00PM – 6:00PM (Scheduled)
Location: Visual Plaza 1st floor HD Studio
Topics: Presentation of projects
Meeting Lounge

SYMPOSIUM

With Digital Cinema Initiatives (USA) setting the industry standard and overall system requirements for digital cinema, the exploration of new business models has become necessary to revitalize the film industry. We are proud to provide opportunities for such exploration through our 2005 Symposium.

Date: Friday, July 22nd 1:30PM – 4:30PM (Door opens at 12:40PM)
Location: Skip City Audio Visual Hall
Fee: Free Admission (Pre-registration required, tickets available on a first come, first served basis)
Topics: The current state and future of Digital Cinema
Moderator: Charles S. Swartz, CEO / Executive Director,
Entertainment Technology Center at USC
Other guests to be announced at a later date

Simultaneous translation (English - Japanese)

FORUM

French filmmaker, Pitof, a member of the festival's International Competition Jury, will be joined by a Japanese filmmaker to be announced at a later date. The two will discuss the use of visual effects and digital technology and the contrast between French and Japanese filmmaking.

Date: Wednesday, July 20th 2:00PM - 5:00PM (Door opens at 1:30PM)

Location: Visual Plaza 1st floor HD Studio

Fee: 2000 Yen (pre-registration required, first come first served basis)

Topics: Latest news on VFX in Japan and France

Guests: Pitof, Filmmaker (France)

Other guests to be announced at a later date

Simultaneous translation (English - Japanese)

TICKETING INFORMATION

Advance Tickets (On sale Wednesday, May 25th until Friday, July 15th)

		P Code
Single Ticket	500 Yen	474-561
(Valid for all screenings except special screening and closing screenings)		
Opening Screening : Summer Time Machine Blues	500 Yen	551-317
(Opening ceremony will be held before the screening / Approx. 90 min.)		
Closing Ceremony : Grand Prize winner	500 Yen	551-317
(Closing ceremony will be held before the screening / Approx. 40 min.)		
Triple Ticket	1,200 Yen	474-561
(Valid for three screenings except special and closing screenings)		

Same Day Ticket

(Same day tickets are purchasable based on availability at corresponding screening beginning 20 minutes prior to the show time)

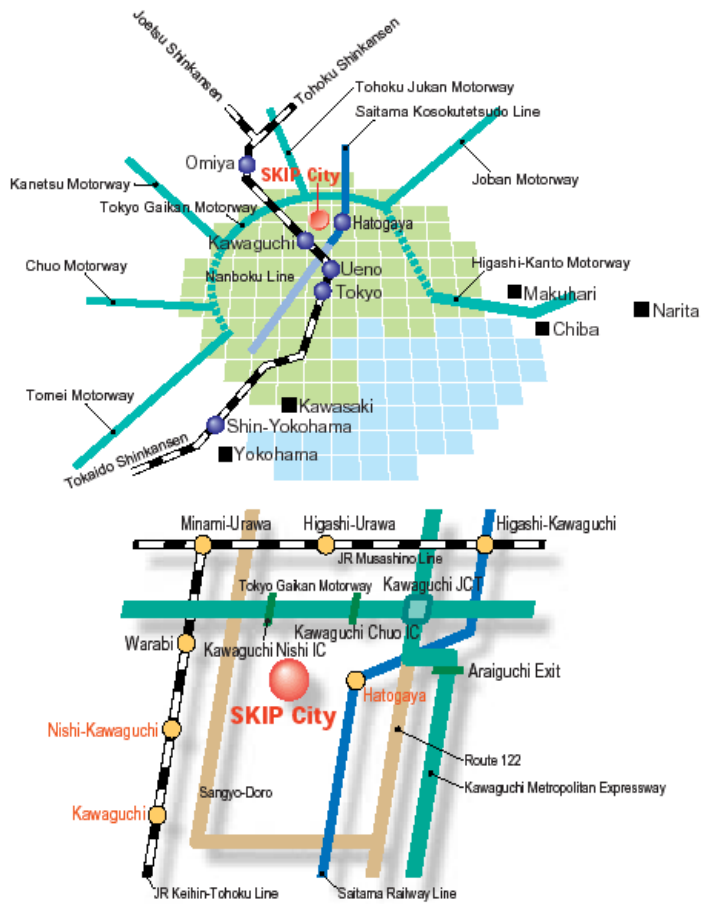
Single Ticket	600 Yen
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All seats are unreserved seating / One screening only per one ticket / Admission is not guaranteed for sold out shows

Tickets Available at:

Ticket PIA, FamilyMart, Seven-Eleven, Sunkus (P-code required), JR East Ticket Office, Shosen Bookdome (Kawaguchi), Diamond City Carat (Kawaguchi), Skip City Visual Plaza 4F Local Communication Plaza

ACCESS



From Kawaguchi station

(JR KEIHIN-TOHOKU Line)

about 14 minutes

Take a bus at bus stop #7 in front of SOGO department store, and get off at "SKIP CITY"

Take a bus at bus stop #8, 9 in front of SOGO department store, and get off at "SOUGO KOKO"

From Nishi Kawaguchi station

(JR KEIHIN - TOHOKU Line)

about 12 minutes

Take a bus at bus stop #5, and get off at "SKIP CITY" or "SOUGO KOKO"

From Hatogaya station

(Saitama Kosoku Tetsudo Nanboku Line) about 10 minutes

Take a bus at bus stop #3, and get off at "SKIP CITY" or "SKIP CITY West"

Take a bus at bus stop #3, and get off at "KAMIAOKI SHOGAKKO"

Free Shuttle Bus Schedule Kawaguchi Station Skip City

Leave From	Kawaguchi Station	Skip City
10	00, 30	30
11	00, 30	00, 30
12	00, 30	00, 30
13	00, 30	00, 30
14	00, 30	00, 30
15	00, 30	00, 30
16	00, 30	00, 30
17	00, 30	00, 30
18	00, 30	00, 30
19	00, 30	00, 30
20	00, 30	00, 30
21	00	00, 30

Free shuttle bus (festival visitors only) will run between JR Kawaguchi Station (East exit in front of Casty) and Skip City during the festival (7/16 – 7/24).

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Stills and press book can be downloaded from

http://www.skipcity-dcf.jp/press_dl/

*For press purpose only

* Please follow the copyright information on the press book for the use of stills

General contact information :

SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL Office

<http://www.skipcity-dcf.jp>

TEL: 0 4 8 - 2 6 3 - 0 8 1 8

FAX: 0 4 8 - 2 6 2 - 5 6 3 5