

Winners of SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL 2016 announced!

Walking Distance for Grand Prize in the Feature Length Competition

Eriko, Pretended by Akiyo Fujimura received the SKIP CITY AWARD

Lies for Best Picture in the Short Length Competition

Complex × *COMPLEX* for Best Picture in the Animation Competition

Launched in 2004 as one of the world's first film festivals to focus solely on films shot on digital in order to discover and nurture emerging talent, the 13th edition of SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL has been held from Saturday, July 16 to Sunday, and wrapped at the Closing Ceremony today, Sunday, July 24. We announced all award winners from the three competition sections at the Ceremony. Award winners are as follows.

Following last year's *Behavior* by Ernest Daranas Serrano (Cuba) receiving the Grand Prize, another Latin American film *Walking Distance* by Alejandro Guzmán Alvarez (Mexico) won the top prize, proof of the high quality of Latin American films. Meanwhile *Eriko, Pretended* by Akiyo Fujimura received the SKIP CITY AWARD, which is for a Japanese feature film. We hope the award winners will spread their wings around the world. Please kindly introduce the award winners to your audiences and readers.



Feature Length Competition Winners

Grand Prize

Certificate and trophy are given by the festival organizers. Memorial plaque and cash reward of 1,000,000 yen are given by Sony Business Solutions and Sony PCL.



Walking Distance

2015 / Mexico / 104 min.

Director: Alejandro Guzmán Alvarez

©2015 Pluto Films

Best Director

Certificate and trophy are given by the festival organizers. Memorial plaque and cash reward of 500,000 yen are given by Sony Business Solutions and Sony PCL.



Tanna

2015 / Australia, Vanuatu / 104 min.

Director: Bentley Dean, Martin Butler

©2015 Contact Films

Best Screenplay

Certificate and trophy are given by the festival organizers. Memorial plaque and cash reward of 500,000 yen are given by Sony Business Solutions and Sony PCL.



Birds of Passage

2015 / Belgium / 84 min.

Director: Olivier Ringer

©Ring Prod

SKIP CITY AWARD

This award is given to a Japanese filmmaker providing access to SKIP City facilities for their next project. Trophy is given by festival organizers and the recipient is given free access to SKIP City's digital post-production facilities for a limited time.



Eriko, Pretended

2016 / Japan / 93 min.

Director: Akiyo Fujimura

©Akiyo Fujimura

Short Length Competition Winners

Best Picture

Certificate and trophy are given by the festival organizers.

Cash prize of 500,000 yen, trophy, and memorial plaque are given by the Citizens' Circle to Support SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL.

*SKIP CITY AWARD is also given by the festival organizers.

*SKIP CITY AWARD provides the winner with access to equipment at SKIP City for a limited time.



Lies

2015 / Japan / 25 min.

Director: Yuji Mitsuhashi

©YUJI MITSUHASHI

Honorable Mention

Certificate and trophy are given by the festival organizers.

Cash prize of 300,000 yen, trophy, and memorial plaque are given by the Citizens' Circle to Support SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL.



Take 8

2015 / Japan / 19 min.

Director: Shinichiro Ueda

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Hypnotism for Love

2016 / Japan / 25 min.

Director: Hiroki Inoue

©inoue hiroki

Animation Competition Winners

Best Picture

Certificate and trophy are given by the festival organizers.

Cash prize of 100,000 yen, trophy, and memorial plaque are given by Shimamura Co., Ltd.

*SKIP CITY AWARD is also given by the festival organizers.

*SKIP CITY AWARD provides the winner with access to SKIP City facilities for a limited time.



complex x COMPLEX

2015 / Japan / 24 min.

Director: Miyuki Fukuda

©PANPOKOPINA

Honorable Mention

Certificate and trophy are given by the festival organizers.

Cash prize of 50,000 yen, trophy, and memorial plaque are given by Shimamura Co., Ltd.



To Heel

2016 / Japan / 10 min.

Director: Madoka

©2016 MADOKA/Graduate School of Film and New Media, TOKYO university of the ARTs



Look at Me Only

2016 / Japan / 7 min.

Director: Tomoki Misato

©2016 Tomoki Misato

<COMMENTS>

●Alejandro Guzmán Alvarez, *Walking Distance*, the Grand Prize winner of the Feature Length Competition

I'm very stunned to receive the Grand Prize because I hadn't expected to win. I think filmmaking is truly hard everywhere as well as in Mexico. I think this prize will give me a boost for my future filmmaking.

●Yuji Mitsuhashi, *Lies*, the Best Picture winner of the Short Length Competition

I thank my crew, cast members, and especially my screenwriter Yoko Yonaiyama as I think this film would not have been born without her. I also think the magnificence of my three actresses Chikako Tanaka, Takako Nakamura, and Kyoko Takahashi is everything for this film. Thank you very much.

●Miyuki Fukuda, *complex × COMPLEX*, the Best Picture winner of Animation Competition

I'm just so happy. This film is visually quite simple to enhance the story and actors' performances. I had been concerned about executing this film on screen as an animation, but I am really grateful for receiving such a great award.

●Yutaka Okada, President of the Jury of the Feature Length Competition, President of ARGO PICTURES / Film producer

Film is an art with a "scent" of the time because films cannot be made by directors alone but are always created by many people. Watching films at international film festivals is always fun as we can understand how people around the world live and know how the "scent" is. I am very impressed with the high quality of the films. As someone involved in filmmaking in Japan, I was a bit disappointed with the Japanese films, however, because the films depicted only the world within arm's reach. I hope new Japanese filmmakers will find fresh themes and receive the Grand Prize at the next, or future edition of the festival.

●Shoji Masui, President of the Jury of the Short Length Competition, President of Altamira Pictures / Film producer

Decisions at the judgment meeting depend on lots of uncertain elements. I think the filmmakers who couldn't win a prize this year should be proud that their films were selected in the 12 nominations out of over 140 films. I truly hope the 12 nominated filmmakers will keep deepening their pursuit. If they do, I am sure they will get their chance next time.

●Ryusuke Hikawa, President of the Jury of the Animation Competition, Animation and special effect specialist / Guest professor of Meiji Gakuin University Graduate School

It was very tough for us to choose three films from so many different styles, such as hand-drawn, stop-motion and CG works. We chose *complex × COMPLEX* as the Best Picture because the film has a unique approach which we had never seen before. I would like the nominated filmmakers to evolve animation by trying new styles.

●Kiyoshi Ueda, Chairperson of SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL Committee, Governor of Saitama Prefecture

All of the nominated films were superb at depicting "the present" of each country. I believe the audience could feel the young and talented filmmakers' passion. Saitama Prefecture has lots of programs for not only discovering the talents but also nurturing them for their step-up. I hope that a superstar who conquers the film industry will come out of SKIP CITY.

●Nobuo Okunoki, Vice Chairperson of SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL Committee, Mayor of Kawaguchi City

I think that the audience could enjoy the charm of digital cinema through the nominated films, created by combining the filmmakers' passion and the newest digital technology. I would be happier than anything if any filmmaker from this year's festival goes on to shine internationally. If so, I would like to screen their films in our festival like this year's opening film *Good Bye, Talking Dog* by Madoka Kumagai.

●Tsutomu Tsuchikawa, Director of SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL Committee

As the President of the Jury of each category already mentioned, the judgments were very tough because the level of films were truly competitive and of a high standard. That's why I congratulate all the award-winning filmmakers from my heart. I hope the rest of the filmmakers will make great achievements in the future. Here, I thank all the staff who devoted themselves to the festival and all the audiences. I hope to see you all next year again.

SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL 2016

- Date: Saturday, July 16 – Sunday, July 24, 2016
- Venue: SKIP City (Audio Visual Hall, Convention Hall) and others
- Organizers: Saitama Prefecture, Kawaguchi City, SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL Committee,
Saitama Audio-Visual Volunteers
- Website: www.skipcity-dcf.jp

【Contact】

SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL Office

TEL : +81 48 263 0818 FAX : +81 48 262 5635 E-Mail: press@skipcity-dcf.jp