

## About SSF

[About Festival](#)
[SSF Committee](#)
[Market](#)


### "So much like a film!"

This is what we often hear from the viewers who have just seen the short film for the first time.

Apparently, they are yet to know what to see in the short film, and their comments, however, assure us of a great opportunity for us to help people find the real values of short films which are intriguing, funny and moving, with the stories depicting the essence of love and life.

The Sapporo Short Fest was launched with a clear vision to present the public with quality films and to share the values created in the films that are made with crafts of screenplay, cinematography and editing for the defined genre of the "short film", not a shortened form of a feature film.

We are celebrating the fifth anniversary this year, and its steady growth is seen in that over 12,000 films from 120 countries and regions have fascinated a total of 40,000 viewers since the first SSF in 2006.

### "Filmmakers and the audience feel connected to one another"

Visiting filmmakers and international jury, and the audience like the air they feel at SSF.

The audience gives a fair, positive feedback to many film artists and they share the conversations after screening at the friendly setting of SSF.

The Festival is truly a venue to promote inter-cultural understanding and friendships. A large number of supportive fans with an eye to see the values of the films and the cultural climate that so warmly receives the young, multi-talented filmmakers are the engines to let this film festival continue to grow.

"Sapporo is a wonderful city, and I will never forget these experiences"- With this, filmmakers leave Sapporo and many of them submit their subsequent films to SSF.

Education for the future filmmakers is another pillar of our mission, through the programs of digital filmmaking workshops for children and "Iron Filmmakers Contest" in which participants make one-minute films for competition within 24 hours. The Film Festival enriches the culture, vitalizes the city and helps people grow – This is the goal for us to ultimately attain through the Sapporo Short Fest.

### "We want more opportunities to see short films."

Viewers who are mesmerized by the short films always come up with this request.

Digital contents, today are increasingly applicable in the backdrop of the expanding use of cellular phones, PCs and a game device, diverse forms of media and the explosion of a video site.

Amid the changes as these, highly entertaining short films with the time length suitable to fit into these media best responds to a growing demand in the market place.

The Sapporo Short Fest serves as a vehicle for developing short film industry through the proposals for new and innovative use of short films and the promotion of sales transactions of the copy right for digital contents.

We are gearing up our efforts to find and develop enormous potentials in the short film in Sapporo, a place that attracts quality films from around the world and excellent viewers, and helps develop many filmmakers of the next generation.

Together with participants and supporters, we keep this young film festival evolving into the international film festival with its basis on the original ideas from Sapporo. The 2010 Sapporo Short Fest shows films of brilliant quality for you to enjoy to the fullest.

*From All of Us with the Executive Committee of SAPPORO Short Fest*

PAGE TOP



## Market

[About Festival](#)

[SSF Committee](#)

[Market](#)



### The Biggest Film Market for Shorts in Japan

The SSF Market consists of the video library, viewing booths, a filmmakers database, the business space including a meeting area, projector and screen, sound system, wireless internet, a press corner for interviews, and a cafe serving complimentary drinks. The market also has bilingual staff and volunteers on-hand to help with communication and interpretation. In 2009 we launched new content market system called Spotrights. The system is dedicated to create business matching opportunities for filmmakers, distributors and content buyers in the Japanese market.

### Professional Pass (Spotrights Account Holder)

"VIP ticket" + Official Guide Book + Official T-Shirt + Invitations to Official Parties.

Both Official Selections and regular entries can be found in the library at the market.

The festival committee also makes programmes as recommendations for Professional Pass holders.

[More Information](#)

**Spotrights.jp**

PAGE TOP ↑

## FESTIVAL UPDATE

映画祭アップデート情報

2014.01.18

[パーマリンク](#) | [RSS](#)

### SSF2014 open call



**SAPPORO  
SHORT FEST  
2014** 9th Sapporo International Short Film Festival and Market

## International competition OPEN CALL

**One Title Section:** a short film less than 30min  
**Filmmakers' Section:** a set of short films less than 60min

**Submit your short film  
from [Spotrights.jp](http://Spotrights.jp) by March 31**

**SAPPORO  
INTERNATIONAL  
SHORT FILM FESTIVAL  
AND  
MARKET**

We just started taking new entries from our [Spotrights.jp](http://Spotrights.jp) please submit a short film.

#### Requirements:

- 1) Films completed after: March 1, 2013
- 2) Maximum duration: "One Title Section"-30 min, "Filmmakers' Section"-40 min
- 3) Country of production: All countries
- 4) Screening format: AppleProRes422 HQ/LT, NTSC HDCAM
- 5) Accepted genres: All genres, including music video
- 6) Music rights: cleared
- 7) Dialogues: If the dialogue language is not English, preview copy and screening film must be subtitled in English

**Submission Deadline: March 31, 2014**



[SSF2014 Regulations.pdf](#) Please read it carefully.

#### INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION: ONE TITLE SECTION

International competition with Grand Prix and category awards, including "Best Asian Short Award", "Best Children Short Award" and "Sapporo Peace Award".

#### - BEST ASIAN SHORT AWARD

Nominated film will be chosen from submissions of "One Title Section" and invited films.

Eligible Asian countries are

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (Rep. of China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan), East Timor, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, North Korea, Pakistan, Philippine, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam.

[SSF NEWS](#)

[SSF STAFF BLOG](#)

[FESTIVAL UPDATE](#)

[RECENT POSTS](#)

[SSF2014 open call](#)

[2014年の作品募集](#)

[SSF2014 open call at  
shortfilmdepot.com](#)

[【訂正】プログラムガイドの訂正に  
ついて](#)

[SSF2013 Venues](#)

[CATEGORY](#)

[English](#)

[Japanese](#)

[Press Release](#)

[BACK NUMBERS](#)

[選択してください](#)

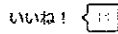
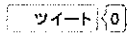


**- BEST CHILDREN SHORT AWARD**

Nominated film will be chosen from submissions of "One Title Section". The films should be produced for child audience under 12 years old. Children juries who are under 12 years old will choose the award.

If you have an account at [shortfilmdepot.com](http://shortfilmdepot.com) you can also submit a film, but submission Deadline is February 28, 2014.

PAGE TOP



Sapporo International Short Film Festival and Market  
SAPPORO Short Fest 2014, October 8th-16th

## ONLINE OPEN CALL REGULATIONS

For

**Spotrights.jp**

### INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

**Submission deadline from Spotrights.jp:** March 31st.

**Deadline for Preview file DVD:** One title Section / Filmmakers' Section: April 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Submission fee:** No fee

**Competitive sections:**

→ **One Title Section** (One Title Entry):

A short film less than 30 min, completed after March 1, 2013 and before February 28, 2014.

→ **Filmmakers' Section** (Program Entry) a short film less than 40 min.

For the Filmmakers' Section make your own program with more than 2 films less than 60min in total.

Accept all the production year.

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All the submissions to SAPPORO Short Fest (SSF) will be processed with SSF's Submission Management Server "Spotrights.jp". Please create your account and register your film to submit to the SAPPORO Short Fest 2014 One Title Section or Filmmakers' Section.

SAPPORO Short Fest <http://sapporoshortfest.jp/>

Spotrights <http://www.spotrights.jp/>

## Spotrights.jp

### HOW TO SUBMIT

- 1) Create an account on Spotrights.jp
- 2) Register your film information.
- 3) Choose One Title section or Filmmakers' section to submit.
- 4) Select a film to submit. Select more than one film to submit Filmmakers' section.
- 5) Print out an entry form PDF then, sign the form and post with preview file DVD.

## 1. About the festival

9th Sapporo International Short Film Festival and Market (a.k.a. SAPPORO Short Fest 2014) will take place from October 8th to 13th 2014.

The festival consists of screenings of selected short films, a short film market, workshops, seminars and also other promotional, educational events, national and international tours.

The short film market has a library and video booths. Only registered attendants can watch films, and the filmmakers can promote their films to the industry professionals. (For more information about the market, please read the market section below)

When an applicant submits a film, filmmaker or producer can either:

1) Send a new film (completed after March 1, 2013 and before February 28, 2014) to "One Title Section" (One Title Entry).

OR

2) Send a programme of filmmaker's works to the "Filmmakers' section" (Program Entry).

(Please refer to "Notes and requirements for the entry" below and films are only submitted through "Spotrights.jp".)

The executive committee and its festival members are in charge of managing the event and implementing all required works.

### The goals of the festival:

- To create a market for short films
- Fostering of young short film makers
- International exchanges through cultural activities
- To promote film education.

## 2. Notes and requirements

- Filmmakers of all nationalities are welcome to submit.
- All films submitting One Title section must be less than 30 minutes (including credit rolls and others) .
- For submitting Filmmakers' section all the films must be less than 40 minutes.
- All films must have English title. The Festival only uses and announces English title.
- All films submitted to the "One Title section" must be completed after March 1, 2013 and before February 28, 2014.
- For the "Filmmakers' section," older films (finished before March 2013) can be included.
- Films submitted online will be given original ID and Password from SAPPORO Shot Fest's Entry Management Server "Spotrights.jp".

For managing and modifying your entry information, please login to the "Spotrights".

<http://www.spotrights.jp/>

- Fill in all required fields of spotrights.jp the entry form using English.
- For the entry, please send evaluation preview copy of your film (or films for program entry) in a format shown below.
- For producing Japanese subtitles please send also English dialogue list on DVD along with entry form and preview file DVD or upload it on Spotrights.jp



## 2-1.

### Guidelines for specification of preview file DVD.

1. One film per one DVD.

2. Please send preview video file on DVD.

Resolution: 1280x720 (16:9)

File format: .mp4 (Mpeg-4 AVC / H.264) or .mov

Frame rate: 24 fps

Bit rate and file size: less than 4000 kbps and less than 800 MB

File name: Please use last 5 numbers of your submission entry number that indicate upper left on the entry form PDF. The submission entry number will start with 14... and 10 digits.

**Ex, 12345\_YourFilmTitle.mp4/.mov**

4. Please write your submission entry number and film title on DVD.

5. Please do not use self adhesive Label on DVD. Use marker for print film title or any information

6. Preview file DVD will not be returned.

7. School submissions need to separate video file and DVD for each submission. Each submission needs a set of entry form and DVD.

## 2-2.

As for the subtitles, all films that use languages other than English need to have ENGLISH subtitles. If the main language of the dialogue is English, there is no need for subtitles. English subtitles are necessary for foreign attendees at the screenings and market. For preview selection the film should be superimposed with English subtitle for non-English dialogue.

For producing Japanese subtitles, please send also an English dialogue list on DVD along with entry form and preview file DVD or upload it on [Spotrights.jp](http://Spotrights.jp)

## 2-3.

Submitted films don't need to be a premiere, so if the film has been screened at another film festivals or has been screened/is screening in any form, clearly state it in the entry form.

Make sure you have the rights for all materials (videos, music, etc.) used in your film.

## 2-4.

**"Filmmakers' Section"** (Program Entry) make your own program with a set of your films. Please follow the requirements below.

The program should include more than 2 films, but less than 60min in total.

Accept all the production year.

If you want to submit 2 films on your program please send 2 DVD disks.

Each DVD contains only one film.

Please write the entry number, film title and director name on the disk.

Please use only a marker or print.



Please also refer "2-1." preview file DVD specifications.

**Selected filmmakers are invited to the festival in October. The festival supports air tickets with specified amount and hotel accommodations during the festival.**

## **2-5.**

The deadline for the online entry from Spotrights.jp is March 31st, 2014.

The deadline of your evaluation preview file DVD (must arrive festival office by date below)

One title Section / Filmmakers' Section: Monday April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Please send preview DVD with signed Entry Form and English dialogue list as well on DVD.

SAPPORO Short Fest, Festival Office  
Inter x cross Creative Center 1F A  
1-1, 5-1 Higashi-Sapporo Shiroishi-ku,  
Sapporo 003-0005 Japan

For international submission, please write

"No commercial value, Non-pornographic, for cultural Purposes only" on the envelope.

For customs purposes please write the value as 10 US dollars, 10 Euro or the equivalent.

The Sapporo Short Fest will not pay excessive customs tariffs for entries. Applicants pay the postage for sending these items to the office.

The festival is not responsible for any damage or loss of submitted items in the mail.

**The festival reserves the right to use trailers, clips, posters, information on the film and filmmakers, and all materials, in any form, for the promotion of the festival and it's related events.**

## **3. Selected films**

If a film passes the preview selection, it will be included in the official programmes of the SAPPORO Short Fest 2014. The festival office will announce the result of the preview selection on the website (<http://sapporoshortfest.jp>) by late June, and will send an e-mail to each applicant of the selected films.

Please be prepared to send the items listed below. Deadline of the screening materials could be change depending on the announcement of the official selections. The SSF try to reserve respectable days for preparations. Please prepare sending screening tape, especially any films contains non-English dialogue films that are **required English subtitle**.

### **3-1.**

Screening Film Format:

#1. AppleProRes422 HQ/LT (with ENGLISH subtitles if necessary) and HDCAM

We do not accept HDCAM SR.





**Required Film Information: most of the information can be uploaded on Spotrights.jp**

# 1. A set of photos (Minimum width 1200 pixels at 72 dpi).

Press photos of the film

Hi-Rez poster image (We print a poster image to promote your film) Director's photo

Music Composer's photo (if available)

# 2. Precise script and dialogue list (with time code if possible).

For adding Japanese subtitles, Microsoft Word document or Text editor document file preferred.

# 3. Short Synopsis (20 words) and long Synopsis. We use short synopsis for print materials.

# 4. Director's brief biography, filmography and a list of awards.

# 5. Credit list

(Music Composer, Screenplay, Cinematography, Editor, Actors, Actresses, Art Director.)

It is necessary for the respective awards.

# 6. An additional information anything support your film; e.g., production note.

If possible, please send about 200 postcards and 3 posters for the market and festival venues.

# 7. Sales or contact name and email address. It will be on the festival guidebook.

For a festival publication section #3, #4, #5, #6, #7 will be asked again after announcing official selections.

### **3-2.**

The festival office is responsible to keep the copies of the submitted films safe, and manage them in an appropriate way. The applicants should inform the festival office if there is any change in the address written on the entry form. If the office does not receive the screening copy by the deadline, the screening will be invalidated.

### **3-3.**

You can send promotional press kit, poster and post card (up to 200) to the festival office.

## **4. About the screening**

The festival's main screening venue will be SAPPORO PLAZA 2.5 (Minami-2 Nishi-5 Chuo-ku, Sapporo). The screening event includes promotional preview events. And it could be festival's CAV/TV special preview program as well.

All the programmed official selection films are may be circulated national and international festival's tour for continuing promotion of the films.



## 5. Awards

The jury will choose the grand-prix winner and other awards from the official selection films. The festival office will appoint 5 jury members.

Awarded films and festival's official selection films may be television broadcasted in one of regional station for announcing the awarded films in the festival's special program. The CAV/TV program of the award announcement is part of our promotional scheme.

### 5-1. Award list

We have 2 competitive sections.

**One Title Section:** The Grand Prix Film

**Filmmakers' Section:** The Grand Prix Filmmaker

**One Title Section** awards category

Best Director / \*Best Asian Short / Best National Short / Best Hokkaido Short /

Best Contemporary & Experimental Short / Best Animation / Best Student Director /

Best Original Score / \*Best Children Short

\*Optional Awards: depending on official selection

Best Documentary / Best Screenplay / Best Editing / Best Cinematography / Best Mini Short (Under 5 min) / Best Non-Dialogue Short / Best Actor, Actress / Best Child Actor, Actress

**Best Asian Short Award:** The award film will be chosen from submitted film and invited films.

Nominated Asian countries are

Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, China (Rep. of China, Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan), East Timor, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, North Korea, Pakistan, Philippine, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam.

**Best Children Short Award:** Children juries who are under 12 years old will choose the award.

Nominated films are chosen from One Title Section submissions, which are produced for young audiences under 12 years old.

**Sapporo Peace Award:** Nominated films are chosen from One Title Section submissions.

In light of the purpose of the Sapporo Peace Declaration, the Peace Award will be given to the film, which provides the audience with an opportunity to think about peace and their roles toward creating a peaceful world as well as contributing to peace education for children.



## **6. Market**

The festival includes the Short Film Market, where registered professionals can watch films, and buy and sell films. It will be open 4 days in the festival period. The market consists of video viewing booths and a business space and presentation space.

Market attendants can access information of all the registered films and watch films in one of the viewing booths using "Spotrights.jp" system.

### **6-1. Spotrights ID and Market Status**

Films submitted to the festival will be registered to the market video library.

Films submitted through SHORTFILMDEPOT will be automatically be entered our short film market. If you do not want to participate the film market, please change film participation status with user ID and Password for the "Spotrights.jp". All the submitted films will be provided Spotrights.jp ID and PW.

### **6-2.**

The festival manages filmmakers' and market participants' personal information and has rights to provide required information as long as it is for the benefit of filmmakers and their works.

The Sapporo Short Fest Market will aid in the following:

1. Help business between filmmakers and other attendants by connecting them.
2. Supply available press kits to industry, media and festival attendants.
3. Make a list of industry, media and festival attendants' information available for attending filmmakers.

## **7. Archive and use of the films**

All submitted copies of the films will be automatically registered to the festival archive and the festival will keep them for at least 3 years. After 3 years, the submitted copies would be continuously archived as long as committee's request. The festival office is responsible for managing these copies and has the right to show them to a third party only for its promotional purpose. All submitted films are kept in festival's registered archive and could be screened and programmed only for cultural, educational and promotional purpose. If the festival likes a particular film, we will ask to buy the rights, offering payment and a proper contract to be signed between the right holder and the festival.

## **8. Other notes**

The festival committee will consider any other issues, not included in this document.

The festival information stated here is subject to change. In the case of litigation, only the courts of the city of Sapporo, Japan shall have jurisdiction. The Sapporo Short Fest committee or it's representative reserves the right to cancel any submission or take any suitable measure in the event of a breach of regulations or in response to any behavior deemed by the committee to be disturbing to the course of the festival.

All applicants must carefully read, understand, and agree with what is written in this document. The signature of the applicant implies full understanding of and consents to the rules listed above.



SAPPORO INTERNATIONAL  
SHORT FILM FESTIVAL AND MARKET

SAPPORO Short Fest, Festival Office  
Inter x cross Creative Center 1F A  
1-1, 5-1 Higashi-Sapporo Shiroishi-ku,  
Sapporo 003-0005 Japan

Phone: +81-(0)11-817-8924

Fax: +81-(0)11-812-6550

<http://sapporoshortfest.jp/>

**Spotrights.jp**

<http://www.spotrights.jp/>