

April 19, 2017

Director Toshimichi Saito's short film, '*Under the Black Dress*' to premiere at the Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2017!!

The film was produced by AOI Pro. as a part of "CINEMA FIGHTERS," a collaboration project between EXILE TRIBE and Short Shorts.



Produced by AOI Pro. and directed by our employee Toshimichi Saito, the short film '*Under the Black Dress*' starring Dream Ami will premiere on June 1 at the opening ceremony of Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2017 (SSFF & ASIA 2017), the largest international short film festival in Asia.

The short film was produced as a part of "CINEMA FIGHTERS," a collaboration project between "Short Shorts," a family brand of short films represented by Tetsuya Bessho, and EXILE TRIBE, a group of artists who are leading the entertainment industry of 21st century Japan, produced by EXILE HIRO. This project is dedicated to expressing EXILE TRIBE's music written by the lyricist Masato Odake, who has written songs for a number of major artists, in the form of short films. Six filmmakers who are currently in the spotlight will direct six short films, starring members of EXILE TRIBE and featuring music performed by the artists managed by LDH.

Toshimichi Saito of AOI Pro.'s Global Business department created, wrote, directed and edited the film '*Under the Black Dress*.' Three of his films have been showcased in SSFF & ASIA's official competition in the past, including '*A Warm Spell*' that won Best Actor Award in the Japan competition in 2015 and went on to gain recognition both domestically and internationally, winning numerous awards at film festivals. Inspired by Dream Ami's song '*Doresuwonuida Cinderella*,' the film '*Under the Black Dress*' is a 12-minute uplifting drama, starring Dream Ami and Takeshi Kaga.

Short film '*Under the Black Dress*' Story

Only black clothing and only black food... A girl, Yui (Dream Ami), runs a tiny tailor in a world which has lost color. Only black clothing is allowed but she secretly makes colorful clothes in her hidden workroom. She encounters a mysterious drifting painter (Takeshi Kaga) who encourages her to show her true colors.

◆ Official Trailer: <https://youtu.be/T3eN6bUsaGI>



(C) 2017 CINEMA FIGHTERS

Project Overview

Short Film *'Under the Black Dress'* (Japanese title: *'Iro no nai Yofukuten'*)

Story/Writer/Director/Editor	Toshimichi Saito (AOI Pro.)
Executive Producer	EXILE HIRO
Creative Producer	Tetsuya Bessho
Concept Producer	Masato Odake
Producers	Taichi Nara, Daisuke Yoshizawa (AOI Pro.)
Line Producer	You Minami
Production Assistant	Emi Ota (AOI Pro.)
Produced by	Pacific Voice, Short Shorts
Presented by	LDH JAPAN, LDH pictures
Production Company	AOI Pro.
Cast	Dream Ami, Takeshi Kaga
Artist/Music	Dream Ami / 'Doresuwonuida Cinderella'

Toshimichi Saito - Biography

Born in Osaka, Japan in 1985, Toshimichi Saito received a B.A. in Economics from Doshisha University and an M.F.A. in Filmmaking from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. His thesis short, 'A Warm Spell' ('14), won 15 awards worldwide, including the Grand Prix at Tehran International Short Film Festival, the Grand Prix at New Directors Film Festival in Tokyo, the Best Narrative Short at Queens World Film Festival in New York and the Best National Short Award at Sapporo International Short Film Festival, in addition to screening at 37 film festivals in 15 countries. After working for Spike Lee as his assistant editor, he returned to Japan to further hone his cinematic voice. He now directs in the Global Business department at AOI Pro., Japan's leading commercial/film production company. He has recently won the Client's Award at the 4th annual Brain Online Video Award (BOVA) for 'The 20th year of Kindness,' which he wrote and directed.

More about his works: <http://www.toshimichisaito.com/>



About Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia (SSFF & ASIA)



This Japan born, Academy Awards® accredited festival is one of the largest film festivals in Asia. The festival was started by actor Tetsuya Bessho, a native of Japan and SAG member, as he wanted to introduce Japanese audiences to short films, which were a format that many people in Japan were unfamiliar with.

In 2001 the festival became known officially as Short Shorts Film Festival (SSFF), and in 2004 was accredited as a qualifying festival for the Academy Awards®. This means that the winner of the festival Grand Prix is eligible to be nominated in one of the short film categories of the Academy Awards® the following year, offering a bridge between Japan and the Oscars so that young talents may realize their dreams.

Furthermore, Short Shorts Film Festival Asia (SSFF ASIA) was established with support from Tokyo Metropolitan Government in 2004, to introduce new Asian video culture and nurture young filmmaking talents from the region. To this day, the two festivals are held together as Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia. Aside from the 3 Official Competitions, there are categories and programs compiled around "music," "environment" and "CG animation" related shorts.

【SSFF & ASIA 2017 “CINEMA FIGHTERS” Screening Info】

Screening Schedule／ Venues／Fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, June 1 6-8:30pm CINEMA FIGHTERS World Premiere／ Shibuya Hilarie Hall A／2,500 yen (tax included) • Saturday, June 3 5:50-7:40pm ／Omotesando Hills Space O ／ Admission Free • Sunday, June 11 3:40-5:30pm ／Laforet Museum, Harajuku／ Admission Free • Friday, June 16 5:50-7:40pm ／Brillia Short Shorts Theater／ Admission Free • Saturday, June 17 11:20am-1:10pm／iTSCOM STUDIO&HALL Futakotamagawa Rise／Admission Free • Sunday, June 25 1:30-3:20pm／Brillia Short Shorts Theater／ Admission Free
Organizer	Committee for Short Shorts / Committee for Short Shorts Asia

Keep updated on the official website and on social media!

- ◆ Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2017 <http://www.shortshorts.org/2017/index-en.php>
- ◆ CINEMA FIGHTERS <http://shortshorts.org/2016/cinemafighters/index-en.html>
- ◆ Twitter https://twitter.com/ssff_en
- ◆ Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ShortShortsFilmFestivalandAsiaforWorldwide/>

Contacts

For inquiries about this matter and requests for media coverage	AOI Pro. Corporate Communications Team TEL: (+81) 3-5475-7145
For inquiries about SSFF & ASIA 2017	Committee for Short Shorts Attn: Takahashi TEL: (+81) 3-5474-8201