

For Press

Audience Awards of SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL 2017 announced!!

Feature Length Competition: “3ft Ball & Souls”

Short Film Competition: “born bone boon”

Animation Competition: “Momo and Her Cat”

The number of admission of 2017 9,228 (Increase of 2% over last year)

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 14th edition of SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL has been held from Saturday, July 15 to Sunday, July 23 for 9 days and wrapped at the Closing Ceremony, Sunday July 23.

The Audience Award for the three competition sections wasn’t announced at the Closing Ceremony, and it is now revealed. This award was decided by not Juries but by the votes from the audience, and so the award winner is the most popular film from the audience.

The audience award winner for the Feature Length Competition is “3ft Ball & Souls” directed by Yoshio Kato. At the Closing Ceremony of July 23, it already received the SKIP CITY AWARD which is awarded to the most promising talent among the Japanese nominees for Feature Length Competition. It is only the film which won two awards at this year’s festival.

Award winners are as follows. Please kindly introduce the award winners to your readers.



Audience Award for Feature Length Competition



3ft Ball & Souls

<2017/Japan/93 min.>

Director: Yoshio Kato

Cast: Honoka Murakami, Minehiro Kinomoto, Shinobu Tsuji, Kanji

★SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL 2017

SKIP CITY AWARD

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<STORY>

A group of four decides to commit suicide using gigantic fireworks. But every time the fireworks explode, they find themselves back in time before they carried out the plan. They suspect the cause to be the young age of one of the members and try to convince the high school girl to quit.

Comment from Director Yoshio Kato

We always think what our films are for. If films are just enjoyable and fun, I think that’s creators’ ego. I and all crew members made “3ft Ball & Souls” with thinking about someone who needs this film. With receiving the audience award, I feel our wish reached the audience. Thank you very much.

Audience Award for Short Length Competition

born bone boon

<2016/Japan/20 min.>

Director : Gori

Cast: Gori, Hitomi Sato, Tomoji Yamashiro, Misako Koja, Azusa Gushiken, Masami Iha, Kanako Fukuda, Kenta-kun

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<STORY>

Hitoshi has returned to his hometown of Agunijima to introduce his wife, Yuko, to the family. But Yuko is furious when she's told the reason for the trip home is a "senkotsu" ceremony - Agunijima's continuing custom of cleansing the bones of the dead.

Comment from Director Gori

I think the Aguni Island's custom endorsed me this award. I even didn't know about "senkotsu" before I made this film. It's a very mysterious custom that the people send their ancestors off with lots of love. The stories about "senkotsu" told by the grannies in the Island made the script lush and the volunteer support from the youth in the Island cheered the production team. The shooting schedule was really tight and I sometimes felt pressure. However, the crew members made the shooting pleasant and relieved my tense and the cast members really enjoyed the shooting, and so the shooting wrapped with great feeling. I'm very happy with receiving this award because the audience enjoyed my film with the team's passion and the history of the Aguni Island.

Audience Award for Animation Competition

Momo and Her Cat

<2016/Japan/10min.>

Director: Yuka Imabayashi

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<STORY>

Momo and Myu the cat are old friends and irreplaceable family members. But Myu ages much faster than Momo. This heartwarming short animation with gentle sensibility depicts a girl whose encounter with a cat thrusts her into adulthood.

Comment from Director Yuka Imabayashi

I'm very happy to receiving the Audience Award. I am really pleased that lots of kinds came to the screening, because "Momo and Her Cat". As we hoped that children and their parents could talk about "life" after watching this film, it was truly grateful for us that the film was screened at SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL which attracts many kids. I was impressed with other nominations and will use this experience and make my next work. Lastly I would like to thank the producer, Mr. Toru Kikuchi and Ms. Kotomi Wada who created this story.

Audience Award is determined by the votes received during the festival.

Certificate is given by the festival organizers.

Saitama specialties are given as extra prize.



Admission number of SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL 2017

SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL 2017, which is the 14th edition, was held from Saturday, July 15 to Sunday, July 23 for 9 days. The total admission number of this year was 9,228. Meanwhile that of 2016 was 9,050. The number is the third highest after 10,043 of 2013 and 9,375 of 2015. Also, average number per day is 1,025 and is the second biggest next to that of 2015 (because the festival was held for 10 days in 2013).

We suppose the increase of the number happened because the festival itself is more widely recognized and attracted not only Saitama residents but also the audience who live outside Saitama, particularly Tokyo residents. We consider it is another reason that the quality of competitions is getting higher.

SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL 2017 Admission number: 9,228

***1,025 admission per day *Year-to-year comparison: 102%**

<Reference> SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL Admission chart (2004~2017)

	Term	Days	Admission	Average per day
1st	March 20, 2004 - March 28, 2004	9 days	5,084	564
2nd	July 16, 2005 - July 24, 2005	9 days	5,630	625
3rd	July 15, 2006 - July 23, 2006	9 days	5,143	571
4th	July 14, 2007 - July 22, 2007	9 days	6,548	717
5th	July 19, 2008 - July 27, 2008	9 days	5,912	656
6th	July 10, 2009 - July 20, 2009	11 days	7,538	685
7th	July 23, 2010 - August 1, 2010	10 days	8,161	816
8th	October 8, 2011 - October 16, 2011	9 days	6,690	743
9th	July 14, 2012 - July 22, 2012	9 days	8,077	897
10th	July 12, 2013 - July 21, 2013	10 days	10,043	1,004
11th	July 19, 2014 - July 27, 2014	9 days	9,104	1,011
12th	July 18, 2015 - July 26, 2015	9 days	9,375	1,041
13th	July 16, 2016 - July 24, 2016	9 days	9,050	1,005
14th	July 15, 2017 - July 23, 2017	9 days	9,228	1,025

SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL 2017 Outline

- **Date:** Saturday, July 15 - Sunday, July 23, 2017 (9 days)
- **Venue:** SKIP City (Audio Visual Hall / Convention Hall) (3-12-63, Kamiaoki, Kawaguchi City)
Sainokuni Saitama Arts Theater (3-15-1, Kamimine, Saitama City) (July 16 & 17 only)
Kounosu Cinema (Elmi Kounosu Annex 3F, 1-2-1, Honcho, Kounosu City) (July 16 & 17 only)
- **Organizers:** Saitama Prefecture, Kawaguchi City, SKIP CITY INTERNATIONAL D-Cinema FESTIVAL Committee, Saitama Audio-Visual Volunteers
- **Website:** www.skipcity-dcf.jp

*You can retrieve all kinds of press materials including film information and images from [Image.net]
URL: www.image.net