

## PFF2019 FILMS in the AWARD COMPETITION

### Program A

#### “Bath House of Whales” by Mizuki Kiyama (7min.)



This short animation is brightly colored and depicting the childhood experience of going to a public bath with her mother. When you open the door, there is a strange and unusual world beyond the steam. Public baths in your neighborhood may have seemed like this when you were a kid.

**Director's profile:** Born in 1992, Osaka. In a film festival, she had been struck by short animations, made by directors who were in her generation. And then she started making her own films. This film was made as the graduation project at the Graduate School of Film and New Media, Tokyo University of the Arts.

#### “The Hardness of Avocado” by Masaya Jo (96min.)



Maehara was suddenly dumped by his girlfriend who had been together for 5 years but he wants to repair their relationship. What will become of his plan for getting back together which doesn't seem working well? Each of his behavior is realistic and the main actor gives an outstanding performance.

**Director's profile:** Born in 1993, Tokyo. Entering in Waseda University, he started making a film with his friends. "Sayonara, Gokuro-san" (2017), which he made during the film making class was selected in PFF Award 2018. He works in TV production now.

## Program B

### “A Spa Tour” by Sota Sato (24min.)



A diary film of a honeymoon shot by the director himself. It shows the route they drove to, the dishes they ate in the hotel and the sightseeing place they visited, with simple images and monologues. You will be deeply moved by his love for his wife and his passed grandmother.

**Director's profile:** Born in 1991, Niigata. Entering into the Tokyo Zokei University, he got into film making. For this film which recorded his honeymoon, he did shooting, editing and directing by himself. He works in a company which rents broadcast equipment now.

### “Super Mikincorinista” by Naoya Kusaba (101min.)



Mikincorinista is an actress wannabe but an extra for now. She has a huge passion for acting, but her future is uncertain. She seems an ordinary person but has something unique.

**Director's profile:** Born in 1991, Nagasaki. While at the university, he visited Oita Cinema5 frequently and was obsessed with movies. After participating in Yufu-in film festival as a staff, he entered in the Film School of Tokyo. He made this film beside working as an assistant director for TV series and Commercial films.

## Program C

### “Keep Forgetting” by Takahiro Shibata (10min.)



A teddy bear lives in a wood with his emotionally unstable mother. Even though she hurts him, he comes back into her arms and eats a meal together again. This animation shows his daily life fragmentary and poetry, so we can imagine a lot of his feelings like both happiness and pain.

**Director's profile:** Born in 1992, Aichi. He originally had studied the illustration, but started film making on the advice of his teacher at university. This film was made as the graduation project at the Graduate School of Film and New Media, Tokyo University of the Arts.

### “Beautiful Goodbye” by Ei-ichi Imamura (113min.)



A man who stabbed a guy and a woman who was brought back to life by her lover. They ran away together and gradually reach an understanding of each other. But there must be the end of their journey... This film shows precious and unforgettable moments with beautiful images.

**Director's profile:** Born in 1987, Aichi. Upon graduating from university, he entered in Nikkatsu Visual Arts Academy and started film making. After working as assistant director, he now works on video production.

## Program D

### “Sanpo suru Shokubutsu (working title)” by Yurina Kaneko (30min.)



Soko, who wants to be a plant, has met Ko in a botanical garden. Gradually Ko started growing his root... their curious friendship becomes something more than the human relationship which is based on language.

**Director's profile:** Born in 1995, Tokyo. Entering Ritsumeikan University, she joined in the film club and started film making. She participated as one of the directors of the omnibus movie, “21st Century Girl” presented in festivals in the world.

### “OBAKE” by Hiromichi NAKAO (64min)



A lonely filmmaker who keeps making films by himself, and remote stars which watch over him. His small filmmaking dream that nobody knows eventually leads to a vast universe.

**Director's profile:** Hiromichi Nakao started filmmaking after working on his friend's film. He is a DIY-style director who make films all by himself. This is his third film to be selected for PFF after 2 short films “The Ship” (2015) and “The Balloon” (2017).

## Program E

### “To Be Muddy” by Saki Kato (25min.)



When the older sister came back home, there was a young couple who the young sister has taken home. The young sister is too softhearted to kick them out, but gradually the situation escalates and develops in unexpected direction. The director who is usually do acting herself too, brought out the actors' potential. It's tragicomedy which makes people feel uncomfortable.

**Director's profile:** Born in 1989, Aichi. Graduated from the acting course of the Film School of Tokyo in 2018. Besides working as a choreographer and actress, She formed a team for film making, named “Tent”.

### “Lost Three Make One Found” by Atsushi Kuwayama (26min.)



To heal from his lost love, he went on a journey to find the legendary Fountain in Portugal. On the way, he met a lot of people and found stories about their loves, lives and films. This film is the road movie the director went outside of his world while he reflected on himself.

**Director's profile:** Born in 1986, Fukuoka. While working as a masseuse and translator, now he has plans to make a short animation and a documentary film. Every summer he and his friends from the graduate school DOC nomads organize the mobile theater “Cinecaravan” in Europe.

**“Kiete Tamaruka (working title)” by Keigo Shimizu (29min.)**



A girl happened to find a handmade CD, and there is an unknown story about guys who made it. The fun of making music with close friends and the desire for recognition. What do you make music for? This is a youth film with full of delight of creating.

**Director’s profile:** Born in 1995, Shimane. While studying IT At Osaka University , he started making film. He also appeared as main character in “Don’t be silly” directed by Masaaki Tamura presented in PFF2019.

**Program F**

**“The Fall / Cycle” by Shinpei Tsuji (34min.)**



A man suddenly chased by an unmanned bicycle. At the same time but in another place, a girl encountered a weird thing. The representation of the bicycle with the soul is superb. This film is a horror movie, but also you may say it’s a youth film. The strange story about the bicycle and man/woman will stimulate your imagination.

**Director’s profile:** Born in 1991, Tokyo. He started film making in the film society at Waseda University. After graduating, he works as a video editor.

## “TOKYO GIRL” by Nebiro Hashimoto (8min.)



January 2019. An era “Heisei” was going to be over soon. A girl would witness the change of era for the first time. The short film correcting fragments of this period which are inseparable from a girl who lives her life now. it's 8 minutes running through with speedy monologue and images.

**Director's profile:** Born in 1994, Gumma. While at university, he'd learned the potential of film's expression and started making films. After graduating, he entered in TOKYO VISUAL ARTS, a film college.

## “Wanderer” by Emi Kobayashi (31min.)



Sakiko's boyfriend cancelled their trip to Denmark due to a business trip and tells her to trip alone. Sakiko stays at home and pretends as if she is on a trip to Scandinavia countries by herself. It's a wonder but the world around her is gradually changing... Where she would go at last?

**Director's profile:** Born in 1992, Tokyo. While at the University of Tokyo, she started making films with her friends. After graduating, she entered in the Fiction course of the Film School of Tokyo to learn filmmaking.

## Program G

### “MEGUMI” by Madoka Michioka (34min.)



Megumi is a high school student who wants to get into a college of the arts. She lives with her mother and her new partner, and sometimes meets her father when he comes to Tokyo. She knows in her head that she is blessed with abundance, but she can't stop having complicated feelings. There is a great scene that she lets her feelings out.

**Director's profile:** Born in 1998, Hiroshima. In the film making class at Waseda University, her project was selected and she started making film. She wrote this script while remembering her high school days.

### “OLD DAYS” by Nobushige Suematsu (54min.)



Three boys who used be members of motorcycle gang, reunite after a long time. They ride on again with the bike which belongs to their dead friend. Time passed, but the friendship never changes. The runaway scene is realistic and one of the highlights of this film.

**Director's profile:** Born in 1983, Tokyo. He started his career as an actor and appeared in the films, acts and Music Videos. Influenced by his father who worked as a director, he started directing the film at the age of 24.



## Program H

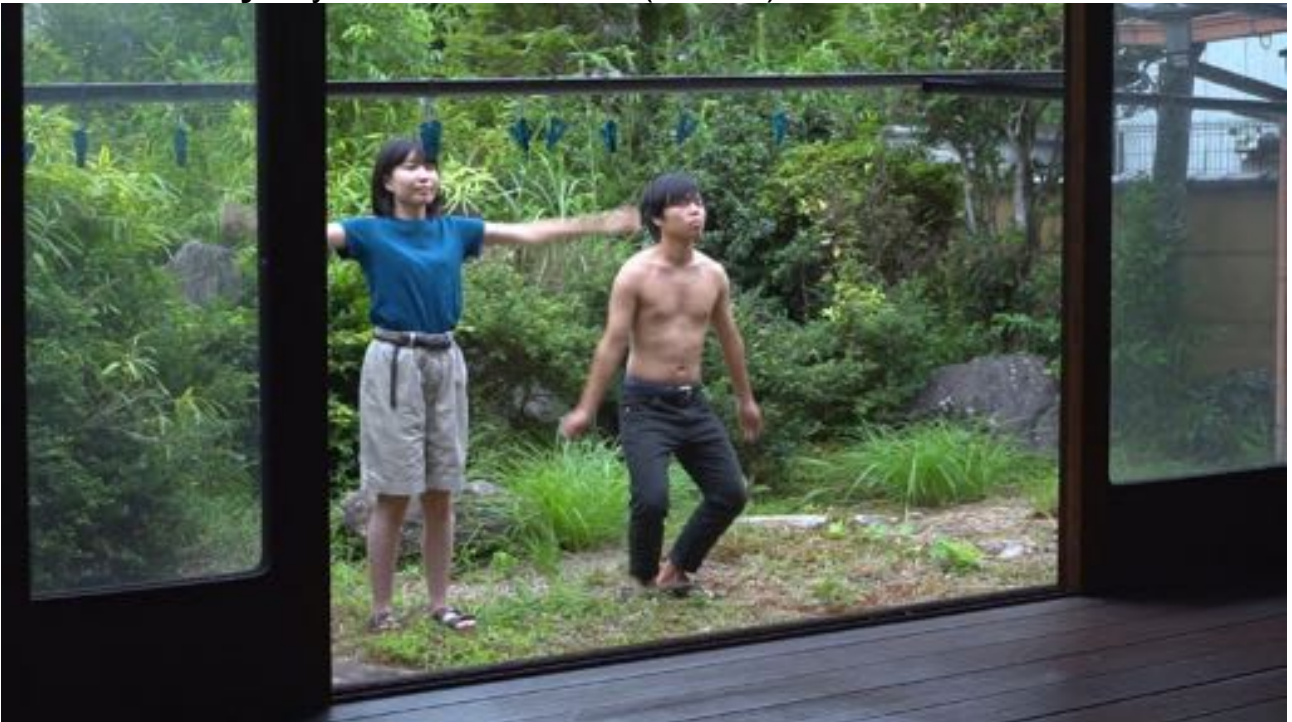
### “When the Rain Stops” by Yui Yamaguchi (28min.)



Two junior high school students Rikako and Kota have a problem at home. Not fitting in home or town, they become friends and find their own place at a riverside. This film depicts feelings of lonely children who are at the mercy of parents' situation.

**Director's profile:** Born in 1996, Chiba. Yui Yamaguchi started filmmaking as a junior high student and studied at Nihon University College of Art. She is currently working as a photographer at a photo studio and writing screenplays for independent films.

### “Don't Be Silly” by Masa-aki Tamura (45min.)



Natsuko visited her cousin Akio whom she likes. Their grandmother is an invisible and only Akio is able to see her. If Natsuko can get to see her too, would they be able to share the same view of the world? This film waver our idea of what we see and our common sense.

**Director's profile:** Born in 1995, Shiga. After joining in the film society of Ritsumeikan University, he started film making. He has been making narrative films in the film society, and documentaries In the seminar.