

Nippon Connection – 15th Japanese Film Festival June 2 – 7, 2015, Frankfurt am Main/Germany

Festival Regulations

Article I

Nippon Connection is the largest showcase of Japanese film worldwide and takes place in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. The festival's aim is to contribute to the development and promotion of Japanese film culture and it presents the whole range of innovative Japanese film art: blockbusters, dramas, animation and experimental films, documentaries as well as short films. Nippon Connection gives special attention to young and innovative talents and independent productions.

Article II

The festival is organized by Nippon Connection e.V., Mertonstrasse 26-28, 60325 Frankfurt am Main, Germany, and takes place for the 15th time at Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, Theater Willy Praml at Naxoshalle, the German Film Museum and Mal Seh'n Cinema in Frankfurt from June 2 – 7, 2015.

Article III

The program is divided into six sections: NIPPON CINEMA, NIPPON VISIONS, NIPPON ANIMATION, NIPPON RETRO, NIPPON KIDS and NIPPON CULTURE. All films are selected by the festival program committee. Not all selected films take part in the competitions.

Accepted films are short and long feature films as well as documentaries, experimental films and music videos.

Formats accepted are: DCP, 35mm, 16mm, 8mm, HDcam, DigiBeta, Betacam SP, DVcam, miniDV, Blu-ray, Quicktime (all formats; PAL or NTSC). The films must have English or German subtitles or be dubbed in English or German.

The submission deadline is March 1, 2015. There is no submission fee. The DVD sent for the selection will not be returned and does not require subtitles, but subtitling is preferred.

The entry form will be provided online from October 16, 2014 at www.nipponconnection.com. The entry form must be filled out in Romaji (names in Kanji/Kana and Romaji). The selection process will be finalized by April 30, 2015 at the latest.

Article IV

The festival has three competitions. The films participating in competitions are chosen by the film program committee of the festival and can take part in one of the competition slots for the following awards:

The "Nippon Cinema Award" in the NIPPON CINEMA section and the "Nippon Visions Jury Award" as well as the "Nippon Visions Audience Award" in the NIPPON VISIONS section.



The NIPPON CINEMA AWARD is endowed with EUR 2,000 (courtesy of Bankhaus Metzler) and determined by audience vote. All films participating in the competition for the “Nippon Cinema Award” must be

- 1) produced in Japan or directed by a Japanese director
- 2) at least a German premiere
- 3) over 60 minutes in length
- 4) produced in 2014 or 2015

The director of the film is the recipient of the award. All films participating in the competition for the “Nippon Cinema Award” are shown in the NIPPON CINEMA section.

The NIPPON VISIONS JURY AWARD is granted by an international jury. The jury is named by the festival organization and consists of three members. The films participating must be

- 1) produced in Japan or directed by a Japanese director
- 2) at least a German premiere
- 3) over 60 minutes in length
- 4) produced in 2014 or 2015

The director of the awarded film will be granted an English subtitling for her/his next film (courtesy of Japan Visualmedia Translation Academy). The next film must be produced in Japan and have Japanese as the main language.

The jury may give a special mention to one other film. All films participating in the competition for the “Nippon Visions Award” are shown in the NIPPON VISIONS section.

The NIPPON VISIONS AUDIENCE AWARD is endowed with EUR 1,000 (courtesy of Japanisches Kulturzentrum) and determined by audience vote. All films participating in the competition for the “Nippon Visions Audience Award” must be

- 1) produced in Japan or directed by a Japanese director
- 2) at least a German premiere
- 3) over 60 minutes in length
- 4) produced in 2014 or 2015

All films participating in the competition for the “Nippon Visions Audience Award” are shown in the NIPPON VISIONS section.

Submitted films must be confirmed by the right holder.

All awards will be presented at the award ceremony held on June 7, 2015 at Künstlerhaus Mousonturm.

Article V

Submitted films that do not comply with the award regulations will be also accepted but do not take part in the competitions.

The festival program and all screening schedules are decided by the festival organization. The festival organization reserves its right to decide the section in which the film participates. There are no legal rights to participate either in the festival program or in one of the competitions.

Article VI

Cost for the transport and insurance of the prints/tapes/hard disks of the selected films to the festival will be covered by Nippon Connection if not agreed otherwise. The return will be covered by the next festival or by Nippon Connection. If the print is going back to the distribution company/rights holder, Nippon Connection will insure the prints/tapes/hard disks from the arrival at the festival until they leave and are in the hands of the transport company.

Any press material like EPKs, trailers and stills required for promotional purposes should be sent after confirmed participation. The festival reserves the right to use a short chosen content (up to 3 minutes) of the film for promotional purpose without notice.

IMPORTANT: All material (including screeners and press material) sent by mail from non-EU member states must be clearly marked with a customs declaration stating the following: „For cultural purpose only. No commercial value.“ It must be accompanied by a proforma invoice stating a value of no more than USD 15. Please note that samples will not be returned.

Article VII

The submission to the festival includes the acceptance of these rules.

Article VIII

The festival director reserves her right to make decisions in unclear cases according to the international regulations.