Film Program

Selections from Film Entries

A selection of 11 films taken from films submitted from 19 countries. The Audience Award will be given to the film that receives the most votes by members of the audience.

**Online**

- **Online streaming**: worldwide
- **Selected Film Director - Interview Online talk**
  - The streaming URL will be announced on the festival site.

**In-person**

- **Selected Film A**
  - Bent Director: Martina Bell
    - 2020/USA/American Sign Language, English/Japanese subtitles, English subtitles/2 mins/Suspense/International premiere
    - A deaf college professor committing an irregular behavior in his car, must confront his moral decision.

- **Selected Film A**
  - No choice Director: Hrysto
    - 2021/France/French Sign Language, French/Japanese subtitles, English subtitles/59 mins/Suspense/World premiere
    - Hugo is a cabaret drag queen at "Chez Titi". With his sister Victoria, his faithful friend Matt, and all the regulars of the famous cabaret at hand, Hugo takes to the stage for his latest number. Shortly afterwards, a shocking murder is discovered.

- **Selected Film A**
  - The Word Factory Director: Alexander Laferriere
    - 2019/USA/American Sign Language, English/Japanese subtitles, English subtitles/18 mins/Romantic comedy/International premiere
    - Working at a factory that makes words, a man falls in love with a woman he can only see through a glass window.

- **Selected Film B**
  - Quieter is Louder Director: Kathleen Rae Gonzales
    - 2019/Philippines/American Sign Language, Japanese/American subtitles/8 mins/Human drama/International premiere
    - With a grim expression and a backpack on his back, a Deaf boy heads to school. But underneath, he struggles with a dilemma in his heart.

- **Selected Film B**
  - A Sonic Pulse Director: Antoine Marinot, Dorothy Allen-Pickard
    - 2019/UK/British Sign Language, English/Japanese subtitles/7 mins/Documentary/Asia premiere
    - A Sonic Pulse explores D/deaf people's experience of electronic music from a visceral, communal and scientific perspective. Meaning on them. Rated R-15 *Not available to those under the age of 15.

- **Selected Film B**
  - Me, a Homeland within the Homeland Director: Ahmed Al-Samman
    - 2021/Egypt/Arabic/Japanese subtitles, English subtitles/7 mins/Human drama/Asia premiere
    - A man commits a crime and is detained at a police station. Under interrogation from detectives, he opens up about his life.

- **Selected Film B**
  - Love X Bites Director: Yupar Momo, M. Noe
    - 2020/Myanmar/Burmese/Japanese subtitles, English subtitles/17 mins/Romance/International premiere
    - During the Covid-19 outbreak, two women quarantine at a hotel and share a room. One is deaf. They communicate through text messages and body gestures. Soon, sexual tensions flare up and they find themselves unexpectedly in a passionate affair. Rated R-15 *Not available to those under the age of 15.

- **Selected Film B**
  - Scarlett Director: Mirko Scheit, Tobias Lehmann
    - 2020/Germany/German Sign Language/Japanese subtitles, English subtitles/14 mins/Horror comedy/Asia premiere
    - Chris and Mary are in an unhappy relationship. In an effort to reignite their previous intimacy, Chris makes a special online order one evening. However, it is the beginning of a descent into nightmare. The combination of eroticism and horror takes the audience on an eclectic journey somewhere in between reality and dreams. Rated R-15 *Not available to those under the age of 15.

- **Selected Film B**
  - Image Director: Billy Jake Cortez
    - 2019/Philippines/Tagalog, English, American Sign Language, Filipino Sign Language/Japanese subtitles, English subtitles/8 mins/Experimental/World premiere
    - Sophie, a young deaf painter goes online live and takes back her self with her paintings with deep meaning on them. Rated R-15 *Not available to those under the age of 15.

- **Selected Film B**
  - The Train Between Us Director: Hasna Mufidah, Mayang Irsan
    - 2019/Indonesia/Indonesian Sign Language, Indonesian/Japanese subtitles, English subtitles/10 mins/Romance/World premiere
    - A Deaf young man, has just gone through a painful breakup with his Hearing girlfriend. However, old memories are sparked when he meets her again on a train platform. The Train in Between Us tells the story of the struggles of a relationship between the two world of the Deaf and Hearing.

**Online : limited to Japan**

- 1st screening: 12/4 (Saturday) 10:30 JST (available for 72 h)
- 2nd screening: 12/7 (Tuesday) 21:00 JST (available for 72 h)
- 3rd screening: 12/8 (Wednesday) 17:00 JST (available for 72h)

**In-person**

- **Selected Film A**
  - The Audience Award will be given to the film that receives the most votes by members of the audience.

- **Selected Film A**
  - **In-person**
    - In-person: limited to Japan
    - 1st screening: 12/4 (Saturday) 17:35
    - 2nd screening: 12/5 (Sunday) 18:45
    - Advance tickets ¥800, Same-day tickets ¥1000
CODA (Children Of Dead Adults) are children born to Deaf parents who experience the world of deafness at home, but the hearing world outside. It is a stressful situation when people outside regard them as "children of disabled people," however, they do not feel that they fit in the Deaf world either because they can hear. This film, the first feature-length documentary to cover CODA in the United States, follows three 15-year-old CODAs and how they find their path over the course of three years. Through depicting the formation of self identities during this impressionable time in their lives, it reveals to us the unknown world of CODAs. Won TOKYODOCS 2016 Grand Prize, Presented at HOTDOCS2021.

**Online : worldwide**
1st screening: 12/4 (Saturday) 10:30 JST (available for 72 h)  
2nd screening: 12/7 (Tuesday) 21:00 JST (available for 72 h)  
3rd screening: 12/9 (Thursday) 20:00 JST (available for 72 h)  
# Advance tickets ¥1500, Same day tickets ¥1700

**In-person**
12/4 (Saturday) 12:30  
Mitsuo Itabashi (Actor) - Commentary  
#Advance tickets ¥1500, Same day tickets ¥1700

**In-person**
12/5 (Sunday) 14:30  
Itaru Matsui (Director) - Meet and Greet  
*Advance tickets ¥1500, Same day tickets ¥1700*
**Film Program**

3 different works focusing on social issues such as identity and racism experienced by different people. The films will be screened with Japanese audio guides.

### Feeling Through

**Director:** Doug Roland  
2019/USA/American Sign Language, English/Japanese subtitles, English subtitles, Japanese audio guide/19 mins/Japan premiere/In-person, online streaming worldwide

While walking through the streets of New York after a party, a young boy has a chance encounter with a DeafBlind man asking for help. The two end up sticking together through the night and an unexpected friendship develops. Nominated for the 2021 Academy Award for Best Short Film, Marlee Matlin, a Deaf actor who was cast as the leading role in "Children of a Lesser God," is executive producer.

**In-person** 12/4 (Saturday) 10:30  To be screened after the opening ceremony, Audio guide screening  
**Online:** worldwide  
1st screening: 12/4 (Saturday) 10:30 JST (available for 72 h)  
2nd screening: 12/7 (Tuesday) 21:00 JST (available for 72 h)  
3rd screening: 12/9 (Thursday) 20:00 JST (available for 72 h)  
* Advance tickets ¥1300, Same-day tickets ¥1500

### This is Normal

**Director:** Ryan Welsh, Justin Giddings  
2013/USA/American Sign Language, English/Japanese subtitles, English subtitles, Japanese audio guide/20 mins/In-person, online streaming worldwide

Growing up surrounded by hearing people, a young woman, who can’t hear, struggles to fit into the Deaf community. However, the film's exploration of what is “normal” will find both supporters and detractors in the audience. Adapting or rejecting the Deaf identity and the conflict between, this short drama explores her search for an identity to call her own.

### Double Discrimination

**Director:** Rinkoo Barpaga  
2014/United Kingdom/British Sign Language/Japanese subtitles, English subtitles, Japanese audio guide/27 mins/In-person, online streaming worldwide

Deaf director, Rinkoo, who is Asian, interviews members of the Deaf community about their experience with racism. Black and Asian Deaf people say they are targets of racism, whereas white Deaf people say they have not seen such racism. This short documentary confronts the hierarchy that exists in Deaf society.

**In-person** 12/4 (Saturday) 10:30  To be screened after the opening ceremony, Audio guide screening  
**Online:** worldwide  
1st screening: 12/4 (Saturday) 10:30 JST (available for 72 h)  
2nd screening: 12/7 (Tuesday) 21:00 JST (available for 72 h)  
3rd screening: 12/9 (Thursday) 20:00 JST (available for 72 h)  
* Advance tickets ¥1300, Same-day tickets ¥1500

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**Special Feature on Deaf Directors**

5 films selections capture the complexity of the world from a Deaf perspective. From the unique eyes of the Deaf, we explore this world.

### I quit, being “friends”

**Director:** Ayako Imamura  
2020/Japan/Japanese Sign Language, Japanese/English subtitles, Japanese subtitles/64 mins/Online streaming worldwide

Due to Asperger’s, Ma-chan finds it tiring to be perceptive to other people’s feelings and finds it hard to deal with people. Director Ayako Imamura, who is born deaf, shows an understanding face, but is inwardly conflicted. When the relationship between the two becomes strained over trivial things, the camera is turned, the director being worried over who bears responsibility for the problem. Screened at Aichi International Women's Film Festival and Nippon Connection Film Festival, Germany.

**Online:** worldwide  
1st screening: 12/4 (Saturday) 10:30 JST (available for 72 h)  
2nd screening: 12/7 (Tuesday) 21:00 JST (available for 72 h)  
3rd screening: 12/9 (Thursday) 20:00 JST (available for 72 h)  
* Advance tickets ¥1000, Same-day tickets ¥1200

### Silence on that Day

**Director:** Ayako Imamura  

Nearly 10 years has passed since the documentary, “The Connecting Bridge”, was announced in 2013 about Deaf people and the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. Immediately after the earthquake occurred, Director Ayako Imamura, visiting Miyagi prefecture, was determined to let people know about the situation of Deaf people living there. Since then, she has continued to visit Miyagi prefecture as well as other areas affected by natural disasters such as the Kumamoto earthquake, West Japan flooding, and more recently, the Covid-19 pandemic to record the plight of the Deaf, and intends to do so until the day that everyone can live safely. This film is a 10 year record of the Deaf and how they cope with natural disasters.

**Online:** worldwide  
1st screening: 12/4 (Saturday) 10:30 JST (available for 72 h)  
2nd screening: 12/7 (Tuesday) 21:00 JST (available for 72 h)  
3rd screening: 12/9 (Thursday) 20:00 JST (available for 72 h)  
* Advance tickets ¥1000, Same-day tickets ¥1200

### Until Rainbow Dawn followed

**Director:** Mika Imai  

Hana and Ayumi, both Deaf, meet at a sign language circle. Attracted to the same sex for the first time, Hana decides to begin a relationship with Ayumi, who is still unsure. However, when Hana tells her parents about the relationship, she is rejected by her mother. Despite Hana’s shock over her mother’s attitude, Ayumi is persistent and invites her to a gathering of Deaf LGBTQ. The people she meets, though grappling with troubles of their own, are forward-looking and positive about the future. Depicted by a Deaf director, in full sign language, this is a heart-warming tale of Deaf and LGBTQ intersectionality.

**Online:** worldwide  
1st screening: 12/4 (Saturday) 10:30 JST (available for 72 h)  
2nd screening: 12/7 (Tuesday) 21:00 JST (available for 72 h)  
3rd screening: 12/9 (Thursday) 20:00 JST (available for 72 h)  
* Advance tickets ¥1000, Same-day tickets ¥1200

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*Ayako Imamura (Director) - Online talk - Online streaming  *The streaming URL will be announced on the festival site.
Audism Unveiled
Director: Ben Bahan, H-Dirksen Bauman, Facundo Montenegro
2008/USA/American Sign Language, English/Japanese subtitles, English subtitles/57 mins/Online streaming limited to Japan

Audism, combining the words auditory and racism, refers to the concept that being able to hear or doing things by hearing and speaking is superior, and doing otherwise is inferior. In 1988, Deaf students attending Gallaudet University stage a protest, “Deaf President Now,” demanding the election of a Deaf university president, and in so doing, increasing public awareness of Audism for the first time. In this film, they recount their experiences of oppression and discrimination that they have faced, bringing to light the topic of Audism.

Online : limited to Japan
1st screening: 12/4 (Saturday) 10:30 JST (available for 72 h)
2nd screening: 12/7 (Tuesday) 21:00 JST (available for 72 h)
3rd screening: 12/9 (Thursday) 20:00 JST (available for 72 h)
※ Advance tickets ¥1000, Same-day tickets ¥1200
Ben Bahan, H-Dirksen Bauman,(Directors) - Online talk - Online Streaming A The streaming URL will be announced on the festival site.

We were there...we are here
Production: Boğaziçi University - The SIGN-HUB team
2020/Europe/Various sign languages/Japanese subtitles, English subtitles/42 mins/Online streaming worldwide

The SIGN-HUB project researches the history and sign languages of the Deaf community in Europe, and this film showcases interviews with several elderly Deaf people. A variety of sign languages are represented, including Catalan, French, German, Israeli, Italian, Dutch, Spanish, and Turkish sign languages. From each sign language community, the interviewer asks about their personal stories, work, education, and major events that they have experienced.

Online : worldwide
1st screening: 12/4 (Saturday) 10:30 JST (available for 72 h)
2nd screening: 12/7 (Tuesday) 21:00 JST (available for 72 h)
3rd screening: 12/9 (Thursday) 20:00 JST (available for 72 h)
※ Free of charge

Sound and Fury
Director: Josh Aronson
1999/USA/American Sign Language, English/Japanese subtitles, English subtitles/79 mins/Online streaming limited to Japan

Cochlear implants are increasing the potential for people to recover from hearing loss. Should we use cochlear implants on a young child with a hearing loss? Or should we accept them for who they are? This documentary follows two couples who are forced to make this difficult choice. Through the lead up to the decision, it reflects the inherent conflict of opinions and the feelings of the heart.

Online : limited to Japan
1st screening: 12/4 (Saturday) 10:30 JST (available for 72 h)
2nd screening: 12/7 (Tuesday) 21:00 JST (available for 72 h)
3rd screening: 12/9 (Thursday) 20:00 JST (available for 72 h)
※ Advance tickets ¥1000, Same-day tickets ¥1200
Josh Aronson - Online talk - Online Streaming A The streaming URL will be announced on the festival site.

Sound and Fury: 6 Years Later
Director: Josh Aronson
2006/USA/American Sign Language, English/Japanese subtitles, English subtitles/29 mins/Online streaming limited to Japan

Set six years after “Sound and Fury,” this documentary is produced with support of Cochlear Implant Children’s Association. The documentary promises him the connection of a soulmate. Eight finds the perfect match, but it is completely unexpected for Chase. Breaking up with his boyfriend, Chase is seeking a new romance when he meets mysterious matchmaker, Eight, who promises him the connection of a soulmate. Eight finds the perfect match, but it is completely unexpected for Chase.

Online : limited to Japan
1st screening: 12/4 (Saturday) 10:30 JST (available for 72 h)
2nd screening: 12/7 (Tuesday) 21:00 JST (available for 72 h)
3rd screening: 12/9 (Thursday) 20:00 JST (available for 72 h)
※ Advance tickets ¥1000, Same-day tickets ¥1200
Josh Aronson - Online talk - Online Streaming A The streaming URL will be announced on the festival site.

Sign Language Time
Co-directors: Su Qing, Mina
2010/China/Chinese Sign Language, Chinese/Japanese subtitles, English subtitles, Simplified Chinese subtitles/87 mins/Online streaming limited to Japan

Following “White Tower”, screened at the Yamagata International Documentary Film Festival, this documentary film focuses on the perspective of Fang Fang, a Deaf dancer, who has studied dancing since she was very young. Then she was diagnosed with hearing loss, living a different life. When she got a cochlear implant, she was able to communicate with others. This documentary focuses on the perspective of Fang Fang, who has Deaf siblings, and Mina, who focuses on photographing the lives of the Deaf.

Online : limited to Japan
1st screening: 12/4 (Saturday) 10:30 JST (available for 72 h)
2nd screening: 12/7 (Tuesday) 21:00 JST (available for 72 h)
3rd screening: 12/9 (Thursday) 20:00 JST (available for 72 h)
※ Advance tickets ¥1000, Same-day tickets ¥1200
Su Qing, Mina - Online talk - Online Streaming A The streaming URL will be announced on the festival site.

Reverse Polarity
Director: Jules Dommer
2018/USA/American Sign Language, English/Japanese subtitles, English subtitles/43 mins/Online streaming limited to Japan

Breaking up with his boyfriend, Chase is seeking a new romance when he meets mysterious matchmaker, Eight, who promises him the connection of a soulmate. Eight finds the perfect match, but it is completely unexpected for Chase. The surprising twist is a must see! This LGBT-romantic comedy, aimed at Deaf adults, is a compilation of six episodes originally broadcast on DPAN TV that focuses on the lives of the Deaf.

Online : limited to Japan
1st screening: 12/4 (Saturday) 10:30 JST (available for 72 h)
2nd screening: 12/7 (Tuesday) 21:00 JST (available for 72 h)
3rd screening: 12/9 (Thursday) 20:00 JST (available for 72 h)
※ Advance tickets ¥1000, Same-day tickets ¥1200
Jules Dommer - Online talk - Online Streaming A The streaming URL will be announced on the festival site.

Signing in Languages
Co-directors: Su Qing, Mina
2010/China/Chinese Sign Language, Chinese/Japanese subtitles, English subtitles, Simplified Chinese subtitles/87 mins/Online streaming limited to Japan

Sign languages are diverse, and each has its own grammar and syntax, as well as richness and complexity. In this documentary, the director challenges the unchallenged territory of sign language. Studying some three generations of both Deaf and hearing, researchers at the University of Haifa’s Sign Language Research Lab talk about the sign language that has evolved in Israel over the last century. The director in this film continues to discuss humanity’s mother tongue, translations, and intergenerational transmissions, and invites the audience to broaden our recognition of human languages.

Online : limited to Japan
1st screening: 12/4 (Saturday) 10:30 JST (available for 72 h)
2nd screening: 12/7 (Tuesday) 21:00 JST (available for 72 h)
3rd screening: 12/9 (Thursday) 20:00 JST (available for 72 h)
※ Advance tickets ¥800, Same-day tickets ¥1000
Su Qing, Mina - Online talk - Online Streaming A The streaming URL will be announced on the festival site.

I’ll Walk Towards You with the Eyes of a Deaf
Director: Laetitia Carton
2015/France/French, French Sign Language/Japanese subtitles/105 mins/Online streaming limited to Japan

Director Laetitia Carton’s friend Vincent, who is deaf, dies suddenly. In her grief, she points the camera and spotlights the lives of Deaf people. From the perspective of a Deaf teenager’s family, this documentary reflects on the diversity of Deaf people, their familial love and conflict, as well as the realities of Deaf education are highlighted.

Online : limited to Japan
1st screening: 12/4 (Saturday) 10:30 JST (available for 72 h)
2nd screening: 12/7 (Tuesday) 21:00 JST (available for 72 h)
3rd screening: 12/9 (Thursday) 20:00 JST (available for 72 h)
※ Advance tickets ¥1000, Same-day tickets ¥1200
Laetitia Carton - Online talk - Online Streaming A The streaming URL will be announced on the festival site.

Sasaki in My Mind
Director: Tokuya Uchiyama
2020/Japan/Japanese/Japanese subtitles/119 mins/Online streaming limited to Japan

27 year old Yui moves to Tokyo to pursue his dream of becoming an actor, however he is not successful. One day, he reunites with his high school classmate, Tao, and through exchanging conversations, he recalls both the happy and bittersweet memories of his high school days, as well as the charismatic Sasaki and his friends. This poignant youth drama evokes the sense of being a hero that is in everyone’s hearts when they are in their 20’s. Acclaimed at the 33rd Tokyo International Film Festival, and other domestic and overseas festivals, won the 20th Koenos Shindo Awards Silver price, and other awards.

Online : limited to Japan
1st screening: 12/4 (Saturday) 10:30 JST (available for 72 h)
2nd screening: 12/7 (Tuesday) 21:00 JST (available for 72 h)
3rd screening: 12/9 (Thursday) 20:00 JST (available for 72 h)
※ Advance tickets ¥1000, Same-day tickets ¥1200
Tokuya Uchiyama - Online talk - Online Streaming A The streaming URL will be announced on the festival site.

Special Screening Event
In order to promote the domestic film industry, we have selected a film that we would like you to watch with Japanese subtitles. The film industry this year has been abuzz with accolades for this acclaimed, charming feature film about the brilliance of youth.

 Địa điểm:.Badabylon Bird’s Nest
Đoạn giới thiệu: "3rd Love" is a psychological thriller that explores the themes of love, loss, and the complexities of human relationships. Written and directed by Tatsuo Miyajima, the film tells the story of a man who, after losing his wife, becomes obsessed with finding a way to bring her back from the dead.

Trò chơi: tài lòng - Online Streaming A The streaming URL will be announced on the festival site.