

**Nippon Connection – 21st Japanese Film Festival  
June 1 – 6, 2021, 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., Schwedlerstrasse 1-5, 60314 Frankfurt am Main, Germany, and takes place for the 21st time at Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, Theater Willy Praml in der Naxoshalle, Deutsches Filmmuseum and Mal Seh'n Kino from June 1 – 6, 2021.

Article III

The program is divided into seven sections: NIPPON CINEMA, NIPPON VISIONS, NIPPON DOCS, 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, music videos and TV series.

Formats accepted are: DCP, HDcam, DigiBeta, 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 February 15, 2021. There is no submission fee. The DVD sent for the selection will not be returned and requires English or German subtitles.

The entry form will be provided online from November 7, 2020 at [www.nipponconnection.com](http://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 23, 2021 at the latest.

Article IV

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

The "Nippon Cinema Award" in the NIPPON CINEMA section, the "Nippon Visions Jury Award" as well as the "Nippon Visions Audience Award" in the NIPPON VISIONS section and „Nippon Docs Award“ in the NIPPON DOCS 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) at least 60 minutes in length
- 4) produced in 2020 or 2021

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) at least 60 minutes in length
- 4) produced in 2020 or 2021

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 Kultur- und Sprachzentrum) 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) at least 60 minutes in length
- 4) produced in 2020 or 2021

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

The NIPPON DOCS AWARD is endowed with EUR 1,000 and determined by audience vote. All films participating in the competition for the "Nippon Docs Award" must be

- 1) produced in Japan or directed by a Japanese director
- 2) at least a German premiere
- 3) at least 60 minutes in length
- 4) produced in 2020 or 2021

All films participating in the competition for the "Nippon Docs Award" are shown in the NIPPON DOCS section.

The submission to the festival includes that the right holder of the film agrees with the submission.

All awards will be presented at the award ceremony held on June 6, 2021 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.