

## **Nippon Connection – 23rd Japanese Film Festival June 6 – 11, 2023, Frankfurt am Main / Germany**

### **Festival Regulations**

#### **Article I**

The Nippon Connection Film Festival 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 23rd time at Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, NAXOS, DFF – Deutsches Filminstitut & Filmmuseum and other venues in Frankfurt am Main from June 6 – 11, 2023.

#### **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, Blu-ray, Quicktime. The films (screening material) must have English or German subtitles or be dubbed in English or German.

The submission deadline is February 15, 2023. There is no submission fee. The entry form will be provided online at [NipponConnection.com](http://NipponConnection.com). The entry form must be filled out in Romaji (Title and name of the director in Kanji/Kana and Romaji).

The submission to the festival includes that the right holder of the film agrees with the submission. The selection process will be finalized by April 23, 2023 at the latest.

#### **Article IV**

The festival has four competitions with the following four awards. The films participating in competitions are chosen by the film program committee of the festival.

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 2022 or 2023

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 2022 or 2023

The director of the film is the recipient of the award. The director will be granted an English subtitling for her/his next film (courtesy of Japan Visualmedia Translation Academy) which is produced in Japan and has 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 JURY 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 2022 or 2023

The director of the film is the recipient of the award. 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 2022 or 2023

The director of the film is the recipient of the award. All films participating in the competition for the NIPPON DOCS AWARD are shown in the NIPPON DOCS section.

All awards will be announced at the award ceremony held on June 11, 2023.

## **Article V**

Submitted films that do not comply with the award regulations will also be 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/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/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 purposes 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 screeners 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.