



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sapporo International Short Film Festival 2026 Announces the “Human Intelligence Prize,” a Special Award Presented by YumeBau

A new award celebrating the uniquely human gift of storytelling and craftsmanship in the age of AI

SAPPORO, Japan — October 19, 2026 — Sapporo International Short Film Festival (SSF) is pleased to announce a special award, the **Human Intelligence Prize**, a new award presented in partnership with **YumeBau Inc.**, based in Vancouver, Canada. The award will be presented for the first time at the 21st edition of the festival, to be held in Sapporo in October 23-25, 2026.

About the award



The Human Intelligence Prize recognizes films that incorporate techniques or sequences demonstrating the uniquely human soul of film-making, featuring human craftsmanship and artistry. The prize is open to films nominated in the 2026 International Competition. The winning film will receive a cash prize of JPY 200,000. The winner will be announced at the Award Ceremony on Friday, October 23. The prize is being introduced as a special award for the 2026 edition of the festival.



Comments



Mr. Wilson J. Tang

Wilson J. Tang, CEO and founder of YumeBau Inc., said:

"I have long admired Mr. Kubo-san, Festival Founder; Mr. Homma-san, Festival Managing Director; and how the Sapporo International Short Film Festival has celebrated well-crafted human stories from across the globe for decades."

"Especially at this moment when the world is standing at the precipice of Artificial Intelligence, it has never been more crucial to recognize the uniquely human gift of storytelling and human craftsmanship."

"Despite being a company that uses technology to make digital experiences, our philosophy has always been clear:

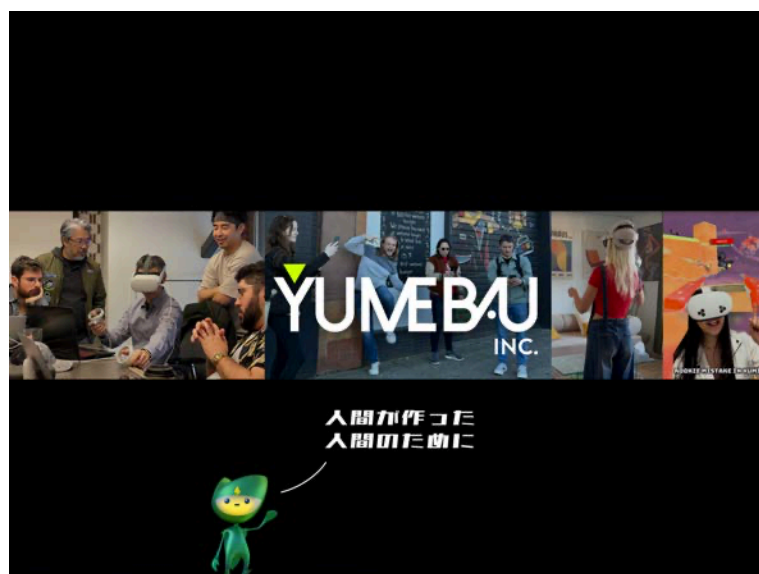
"Made By Humans. Made For Humans."

This prize is the embodiment of our philosophy."

Video Message : <https://youtu.be/sh3hTFAKpVg?si=iheMn-sqWUmBKtS->

About YumeBau Inc.

YumeBau Inc. is an independent game studio and creative technology company developing immersive digital experiences across gaming, virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and emerging platforms. Based in Vancouver, Canada, YumeBau brings together artists, designers, and developers to create innovative ways for people to play, learn, and connect. Its work includes collaborations on Fortnite, research and development with Meta on spatial computing experiences, and the development of its original VR game, BuildPort Xumia. Guided by its philosophy, "Made By Humans. Made For Humans," YumeBau believes that technology is most meaningful when it serves human creativity, imagination, and connection. Website: <https://www.yumebau.com/>





Sapporo International Short Film Festival's Statement on the Human Intelligence Prize



Wilson J. Tang has a long-standing relationship with the Sapporo International Short Film Festival and has previously served as an international juror. We are deeply grateful for his continued friendship and support, and sincerely honored that YumeBau, the company he leads, has joined us as a sponsor this year and established the Human Intelligence Prize. We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to Wilson and the entire YumeBau team for their generous support of the festival and for creating this meaningful award.

Wilson also served as a juror for the Human Intelligence Prize, evaluating films from the International Competition. As AI continues to have an ever-growing influence on creative expression, we believe that recognizing the value of uniquely human creativity, artistry, and storytelling can offer hope and encouragement to filmmakers and the film industry. Through this award, we hope to reaffirm the importance of what only humans can bring to the art of cinema and help inspire its future.

We are especially grateful that YumeBau shares our belief in the importance of discovering new voices, celebrating creative talent, and supporting the future of cinema.

About Sapporo International Short Film Festival

Sapporo International Short Film Festival (SAPPORO SHORT FEST) has been held every autumn in Sapporo since 2006. One of Japan's leading international short film festivals, it is recognized by the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television and has introduced many emerging filmmakers from Japan and abroad.

For its 21st edition in 2026, the festival received 2,622 submissions from 94 countries and regions. A total of 96 films from 28 countries and regions have been selected for the Official Selection and will be screened.

Past jurors include directors Nobuhiko Obayashi and Shunji Iwai, and manga artist Monkey Punch. In 2026, the International Jury consists of Johnnie To, one of Hong Kong's most celebrated directors, who has served on juries at the Cannes, Venice, and Berlin international film festivals; Daihachi Yoshida, director of *Teki Cometh*, which won three major awards at the Tokyo International Film Festival; and Sanghoon Lee, Artistic Director of the Busan International Short Film Festival. Through this newly established prize, the festival will celebrate the uniquely human creativity, storytelling, and craftsmanship that lie at the heart of filmmaking in the age of AI.



Festival Details

Name: 21st Sapporo International Short Film Festival & Market (SAPPORO SHORT FEST 2026)

Dates: Friday, October 23 – Sunday, October 25, 2026

Venues:

- Main venue: Concarino (Nishi Ward, Sapporo; directly connected to JR Kotoni Station)
- Theatre Kino (Chuo Ward, Sapporo)
- Kyujitsu Building (Jozankei Onsen, Minami Ward, Sapporo)
- Talk events: Hachiken Kaikan (Nishi Ward, Sapporo)

Organizer: NoMaps Executive Committee/Sapporo Short Fest

Website: <https://sapporoshortfest.jp/>

Tickets: <https://teket.jp/10642/77279>

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