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The 31st JVC Tokyo Video Festival

TVVF 2009

**An International Video Contest
for the People Around the World**



<http://www.jvc.co.jp/tvf/>

EXCELLENCE AWARDS

VIDEO
GRAND
PRIZE



Melanie - Ich gehe meinen Weg (Melanie - I'm Going to My Own Way)

Klaus Fleischmann Age57 Germany

19:00 | Documentary

A documentary about how Melanie, a visually impaired girl, makes her own way on her own two feet until the present time when she is to graduate from high school. Despite her visual impairment, she actively took on new challenges since her childhood, including performing in musicals and playing the piano. Thanks to these efforts, as well as support from others, she is now earnestly wishing to pursue a career in social welfare.

A highly sensitive film about the unique personality of a visually impaired girl, the main character of this documentary, who is skillfully portrayed. But, this is not all about this work. How unconcerned the surrounding people treat her and yet with a certain degree of care. . . I was deeply impressed by the natural relationship maintained between the girl and other people. (Hani)

JVC
GRAND
PRIZE



The Way We Walk along Together

Ritsuko Uchida Age80 Japan

18:55 | Documentary

A documentary in which an old couple in their 80s reflect on their daily lives, nursing care services, and importance of family. The wife, the filmmaker, looks after her husband who needs "level 4 nursing care", and explains about her heavy burden, the nursing care services provided to husband and his joy with karaoke. The film brings to light the realities of elder-to-elder nursing through such scenes. She says what is ultimately important is the bond between the couple.

Despite the cool tone of this film, the profound humanism underlying throughout it and the finely elaborated visual scenes and structure behind the seemingly casual production make this film a truly skillfully produced and excellent work. The scene in which the couple sings as in the Kohaku Utagassen (Red and White Year-end Song Festival) made me both cry and laugh. This is the best work I have seen in the last few years. (Shiina)



Section 60: Arlington National Cemetery

Downtown Community Television Center U.S.A

20:00 | Documentary

A documentary depicting a day in Section 60 of the Arlington National Cemetery where soldiers who lost their lives in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars are buried. There is no end to the families and friends who visit this saddest place and the most sacred place in the U.S.A.

The citizens of the U.S.A., a former video superpower, were astounded by the 9.11 attacks. In connection with these attacks, we had this film this year. Contrary to the original intention of Section 60 to praise young people who are believed to have died with honor for the sake of their country, all we can hear from the families is their mourning for those who were killed as a sacrifice for their country. Each scene is extremely beautiful, and if this is something done intentionally by the filmmaker, the aim of this film may be to unveil the deceptions of TV and other mass media. (Obayashi)



A Debut with Her Own Hair

Hideki Kato Age48 Japan

8:40 | Documentary

A documentary about a woman suffering breast cancer who had her breasts removed, and a record from the time when her hair begins to grow until it is cut for the first time. The woman, whose favorite phrase is "Never give up", continues to receive treatment secretly without telling anyone at her company about her disease. The film documents in great detail how she bravely fights against the disease by taking anti-cancer drugs and the making of a wig.

I admire the technique of the filmmaker who created this moving documentary in a curiously lighthearted way. Behind the light tone of this film lies deep and heavy love. The reason the woman, the main character, can act in such a calm way is probably because she is wrapped in that profound love. This is actually a work that I personally recommended for the JVC Grand Prize. (Hani)



Giant Water Bugs - Breeding and Observation

Himeji Municipal Sugano Junior High School Biology and Science Research Group Japan

9:50 | Documentary

A documentary made by a biology and science research group at a junior high school that observed and studied tagame, or giant water bugs, living in terraced rice paddies. The students carefully maintain observation records while raising the water bugs for one year. The students also investigate protecting the terraced rice paddies and how the bugs live there.

Creatures, our friends, used to thrive in the mountains and fields of Japan. We are sorry that we have forgotten about you for a long time. We are glad to know that you are still there in good health. From your active lives we used to learn many things in a fun way while playing. Please teach us in the future as well. We humans promise to study hard and live skillfully, wisely, and beautifully. (Obayashi)



Rice Farming - Pursuit of an Ideal by NPO Minkan Inasaku Kenkyujo (Private Rice Farming Institute)

Mitsuhiko Asano Age62 Japan

19:58 | Documentary

A documentary about Mr. Inaba, Director of NPO Minkan Inasaku Kenkyujo (private rice farming institute), who is pursuing an ideal form of rice farming in Japan where food safety is currently a big issue. The film explores the merits and demerits of agricultural chemicals, explains Japanese farming history, and even clarifies the current financial status of farmers. The film also introduces how international technical exchanges among Japan, China, and Korea are being implemented to jointly promote an ideal form of rice farming in Asia.

Rice farming was originally a natural recycling culture developed by Asians with grains consumed as food, straw used as material for ropes and other daily utensils, and ashes scattered as fertilizer. As doubts are arising about modern civilization and food safety has become an urgent issue due to a contaminated rice scandal and other incidents, this film, which just plainly shows Mr. Inaba's demonstrational rice farming method, which prevents weeds from growing, is curiously impressive. This film also reminds me that rice paddies are a treasury of living creatures. (Kobayashi)



Minoucosmos (Kitty's Cosmos)

Alain Boyer Age61 France

5:00 | Drama

A story about a cat whose sleeping is disturbed the noises of bugs in the garden. The garden in which the cat lies is full of noise from pill bugs, ants, hairy caterpillars, spiders, butterflies, and various other insects. With the cat as the main character, the film uses sound effects effectively to express the activities of these insects.

A very short film with a witty French humor that everyone can enjoy. The sound effects added to the movements of insects make this film successful. (Shiina)



Under Construction

Zhenchen Liu Age31 France

9:55 | Art

An artistic documentary made up of 3D and 2D images shows how houses are destroyed and redevelopment is implemented in Shanghai. Still and CG-synthesized images are used effectively to realistically express a heap of rubble left after the destruction in great detail.

A huge volume of rubble is reproduced in great detail. The scenes amid this rubble of the ruins of a town are very interesting. CG-synthesized scenes look curiously flat and thin perhaps due to the frontality of those images. Realistic insertions of a flock of birds and people crossing the screen are effective. From interviews with former residents we realize that it is a redevelopment site in Shanghai, and receive the filmmaker's strong message that the way the city is being redeveloped is clearly different from that of Western European cities. (Kobayashi)



封心鎖 (Sealed Heart)

Chung Wai Kit Age27 Hong Kong

20:00 | Drama

A story about Ah Chi, who begins to reflect on himself as he discovers the truth behind an incident that occurs at a nearby apartment house where the door keyholes have been sealed with adhesives by someone. Ah Chi, a locksmith who dreams of becoming a policeman, launches his investigation to find the truth about the keyhole incident, while trying to restore his life with his wife.

The quality of short stories is increasing every year, but this film is outstanding particularly in its way of capturing the theme. The mischief done by the lonely old people in the film, which reflects modern society, is funny and yet slightly sad. However, not just old people feel lonely but also couples living in cities like the main characters of the film. The visual techniques employed in the film are sound and powerful. (Sato)



逝 (Time Goes By)

So Ho Fai Age29 Hong Kong

19:53 | Drama

A drama showing the fragility of the relationships among memories, love, and time. Centering on love between Choi, a woman who likes photography, and Roy, a researcher, the relationship of the man and woman is tangled like arabesque.

The sharp increase in the number of young entrants in their 20s reflects the current times in which works made with compact digital equipment may dominate the world of video around the world, and the world of video created by these young people gives us a sense that a rich future will come. Through its script, camera work, and direction, this video drama offers a new type of drama particularly in terms of the way the characters communicate with each other. (Obayashi)

EXCELLENCE AWARDS



Master Sericulture

Yoshio Fujii Age70 Japan

16:10 | Documentary

A documentary about a Canadian man who is earnestly devoted to silkworm raising deep in the mountains. He was captivated by silk when he saw a farmer's wife weaving a kimono from silk, and ever since he has raised and hybridized silkworms, and even made his own indigo dyes. A story of Japanese culture told by a foreign man.

A mountain village surrounded by tea fields. In this village, a man plants mulberry trees in the same way as in the old days, skillfully repairing old tools that were left at a corner of a museum, which now nobody knows how to use, and handles the entire traditional process by himself from raising silkworms to spinning, twisting, indigo-making, plant dyeing, and weaving. And what surprises us even more is that this man is a Canadian! His look and way of uses his hands when at work are calm and graceful. Even a spinning wheel that looks like a mechanical device makes us think about many things. A "must-see" film. (Takahata)



COCAIS, a cidade reinventada (Cocais - A Rediscovered Town)

Ines Cardoso Age44 Brazil

15:00 | Documentary

A poetic documentary made with employees and patients of an asylum in a town in the State of São Paulo, Brazil. By filming a wedding, dining, movie show, and dance at the hall and other events, the filmmaker reflects on how towns should be and about human rights, and tells the history of the town which was rediscovered through the production of this film.

The theme and video are closely tied together, making this film a visual poem. The camera angles and editing are particularly impressive thanks to their overflowing goose pimple-giving sophistication. (Shiina)



Faraway Hometown

Keiko Ishiwata Age58 Japan

8:49 | Documentary

A documentary unfolds through the warm eyes of the daughter regarding her mother's return to Kitami in Hokkaido, the mother's hometown, for the first time in 65 years. While visiting various places in the town associated with memories of her youth and meeting local people, the old mother remembers her past, and becomes lively. Even after returning home from the journey, she remains lively and smiles.

Personal records and memories, but they turn out to be Japanese universal records and memories, and invoke a painful yet beautiful sympathy. Journalism groping for happy communication. After viewing this film, which is not about lost things but about a mother's mind that still remains in former times, I only wished her a peaceful future. The everyday life she finds after returning from her travels is unspeakably beautiful. It is far away, but it does exist. (Obayashi)



Capture the Wind

Nonoho Suzuki Age27 Japan

19:56 | Documentary

A film about a couple and their child consisting of three parts: "work", "outing with wife", and "wind". Video taken with a mobile camera phone is converted into a 35 mm film and projected on a screen using a projector. In the next part, a camera is mounted on a kite and a video is taken from the sky. In the last part, the family celebrates together.

What penetrates this film is the fun of discovering something through detailed manual work. I was first amazed at the filmmaker's painstaking work of converting video filmed with a mobile camera phone to 35 mm film using a PC. The scenes of the filmmaker and his wife visiting a park, which had been taken from the sky using a camera mounted on a kite, were also amazing. These scenes taken by a fisheye lens bob up and down as the kite moves-as if the camera were on "someone's belly". I experienced a "hand-crafted feel" at all times while watching the video. (Sato)



Memory

Masashi Yokota Age25 Japan

5:27 | Animation

An artistic work in which a video comprising three scenes of memories is CG-processed and combined together like a photo collection book. In the first scene a family is playing and having a fun together in an open space. The second scene consists of still photos of a cat and people taken from the door of a house at short intervals of time. The third scene is the landscape that can be seen from the rooftop of a house after going up stairs.

A photo begins to move, becomes three-dimensional, and approaches us. The filmmaker, who presented time as something tangible using a pile of photos in a previous work, again offers a mysterious visual experience. This film makes us aware-to our amazement-of how large a volume of information can be conveyed through video. This film tells us about the fun of discovering something amazing through the filmmaker's tremendously painstaking manual work.(Sato)



Clarinet Polka

Kanae Asahi | Age19 | Japan

18:02 | Documentary

A documentary made by a college student who has begun to live alone and wishes to change herself. This film is about Kayo, a friend of the filmmaker who has hearing difficulties. Kayo and the filmmaker are always together when the film is shot, but one day, Kayo becomes ill. The filmmaker, who did not notice any sign of change in her health, views video shot in the past again and, for the first time, notices something important.

A film portraying the filmmaker's friend who has hearing difficulties and yet lives life in a strong and cheerful manner. But, the filmmaker felt uncomfortable about her likeable cheerfulness, and as the film unfolds, she begins to talk frankly about her distress – the hidden feelings behind her cheerfulness. While her hardships and personality strike us deeply, the motivation of the filmmaker to shoot the film and who wishes to see herself grow through film-making, as well as the change in her mind-set toward the end of the film, constitute its framework. A good work that can only be created by young students like this filmmaker. (Takahata)



Skylark

Toru Kurokawa | Age70 | Japan

13:27 | Documentary

A documentary about skylarks raising their chicks under the protection of local people, showing the growing process of the chicks until they leave the nest. The filmmaker drives kites and crows away from the nest, and tries to protect them when weed killer is to be sprayed and the grass is to be cut to build a car park. The warm support of the local people saves the chicks.

In Japan where the number of living species is decreasing, video records of life that have been painstakingly created often end up with mere depictions of helpless creatures. However, this filmmaker has skillfully captured a subtle moment of contact between people and skylarks when a grass, the bird's nesting place, is to be turned into a car park, and has thereby given depth to his work. A wonderful film. (Hani)



Sin Decir Nada (Don't Say a Word)

Diana Carolina Montenegro García | Age23 | Colombia

13:48 | Drama

A drama portraying the relationship between Veronica, the prettiest girl at a girl's school, and Sophia who loves Veronica. Sophia takes photos of Veronica secretly, but one day, this becomes known to the other students, and Sophia is made fun of by them. But, Veronica also begins to become fond of Sophia.

Young people who have had video equipment around them in their daily lives since their birth create videos as naturally as they see through their own eyes. Their enthusiasm for the subjects they focus on is therefore uniquely strong, and the subjects on which they focus sometimes sparkle like a miracle. Immoral, beautiful, and natural. This film, depicting the impulses of young people, is a cute work that slightly opens an immoral door. (Obayashi)



變臉 (Variable)

Wong Wai-kit | Hong Kong

7:00 | Drama

A drama inspired by a Chinese classic, in which the main character who has always been adapting himself to others and lost himself, begins to search for his own identity. All of the people around him, whether on commuter trains or in the office, have masks as he does. Who am I?

I also thought about writing a novel with the same theme a long time ago, in which everyone wears masks when going to the town or their companies. This film is an excellent visual expression of that kind of world. Fun and yet weird. A good esprit. (Shiina)



觸點 (Touch)

Gao Shuai | Age25 | China

10:26 | Drama

A drama with its motif derived from the abolition of plastic shopping bags, a measure to protect the environment. A girl's favorite doll made from plastic bags is thrown away on the day of the abolition of plastic shopping bags. This is just the beginning of change. Something lost might be still be near you. . . .

It seems that ecological reform is progressing rapidly in China as well. This film depicts the uncertainty and nightmare of the girl who is concerned about what will happen as from Children's Day when plastic shopping bags are abolished in the rapidly changing society. The performance of the girl who is full of curiosity is brilliant, and the scene in which the girl makes a pretty doll from trash and the animated nightmare are interesting. I understood this film as questioning the excessively rapid transition. (Kobayashi)

EXCELLENCE AWARDS



红纸船 (Red Paper Boat)

Li Jun Cheng | Age23 | China

15:22 | Drama

A drama about family love portraying the pure minds of a little brother and sister waiting for their parents who are working away from home, and the warm heart of their grandmother. The two children, who received a phone call from their mother at the end of the year, go to a bus stop to meet their parents. But, although parents of their friends appear from the door of the bus, their parents do not. The children continue waiting, and make a wish upon a shooting star.

The parents work away from home, and their daughter, young son, and grandmother wait for their return. I was attracted to this film because their lives overlap that of Japanese villages 50 years ago. The modern telephone and travel bag appearing in the film brought me back to the present. Because both the father and mother are away in a town, the loneliness of the children is even more severe. When scolded, the little son says: "Mom will come home if I become a bad boy". A drama skillfully capturing the nature of children. (Takahata)



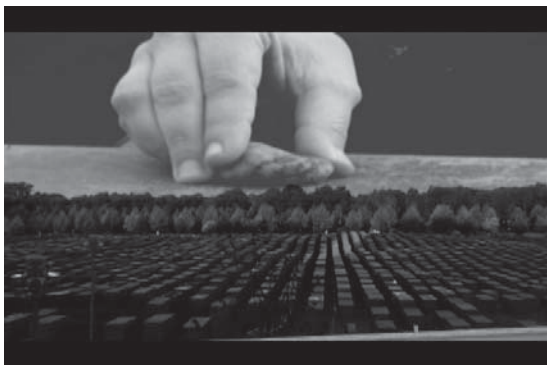
Still Long but a Shorter Distance to Father

Junichi Shindo | Age59 | Japan

20:00 | Documentary

A three-part documentary about the filmmaker's father who was diagnosed with cancer. Although the father keeps changing hospitals in an attempt to fight the disease until the end, he gradually becomes weak, is diagnosed as having only one month to live, and finally passes away. The filmmaker used to keep some distance between himself and his father when younger, but now he realizes the greatness of his father's presence after his death.

What is a father? Even fathers who look sensible to others sometimes treat their sons in a domineering way. This gap between fathers and sons that can never be filled is a theme also dealt with in "Last Chapter" last year. The film has black screens inserted from time to time, and its frequency increases toward the end, which I understood to be a technique for omitting scenes to express a sense of loss. The climax is the last scene in which the son sets fire to a photo of his dead father using a firework. From this expression of the son's resentment and vexation, I could also feel the depth of his love toward his father. (Kobayashi)



Denk mal - Mahn mal! (Memories Can't Wait!)

IKS Medienwerkstatt | Germany

13:00 | Documentary

A documentary communicating the fact that many young Jews were oppressed by Nazis in Germany during the holocaust. There is no end to people who visit the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe in Berlin from around the world. The film also shows that a history class at a junior high school takes up the holocaust and the Memorial as a topic.

It is approximately 60 years since the holocaust. With the memorial day as a motif, this film offers a kind of artistic installation showing what took place during the day. The gravestones are presented as if they are art objects that are transformed by light and shadow along with the passage of time, and centering around these gravestones, various elements are combined—such as requiems of the sounds of stones stacked by people, messages from worshippers from around the world, and profiles of some war victims—to make up this film. I found this combination very interesting. This type of film tends to be like a sermon, but the filmmaker avoided this by creating the film in such a way that we can learn from multiple aspects. I thought this idea was wonderful. (Kobayashi)



Did the High School Students Obstruct People from Getting on the Train?

Hokkaido Fukagawahigashi High School Broadcasting Club | Japan

8:29 | Documentary

A documentary investigating the truth of a mass media report on passengers who claimed that they could not get on a train because of the bad manners of high school students onboard the train. The high school students interview station staff and passengers, and visit the newspaper company to discover that the article was written without sufficient investigations. The film also explores problems on the part of the high school students, and proposes a solution.

A well-made film. The focus of attention is always on business profits in Japan, and this can be said even for a train. In the case of the train in this film, the doors on only one side were opened. This resulted in blocking the smooth flow of passengers into the train, but the mass media blamed high school students (quite a few were on the train). This film reveals the misleading reports of mass media in a sincere and sound manner with no exaggerations. (Hani)



Trafficked Children -Children Sold by Their Parents

Kokkyo naki Kodomotachi (KnK) | Japan

16:34 | Documentary

A film based on true stories told by children who participated in a video workshop of an NGO. Children are traded and forced by violence to work, and the money they earn is taken away. Even if they manage to flee from hardship, they have to keep working away from their homes to survive.

A drama based on a true story about children who were taken from Cambodia and sold in Thailand-including even interviews with parents who sold their children-created by children who had the same sad, painful experiences. With this film, the filmmakers not only communicate the tragedies to the rest of the world, but also look back on their own pasts objectively and cooperate with each other in producing this film to gain the power to live their lives. A wonderful attempt. (Takahata)



梓川高校憲法 改正案

第6条
 全校生徒の目標がたった梓川高校憲法を
 みんなの日々の努力により
 守り続けていこう。

12.7%

Broadcast Club of Azusagawa High-school in Nagano | Japan | 11:08 | Documentary

A documentary in which students at Nagano Prefecture Azusagawa Senior-High School carry out a survey of constitutions on the occasion when their school's constitution was established. From the survey it is found that teachers, as well as students, are generally not satisfied with the school's constitution. The survey also shows that those who could answer questions about the characteristics of the Constitution of Japan correctly accounted for only 12.7% of ordinary people and 40% even in the case of the teachers. Later, students at the school decide to revise their school's constitution by adding a new Article 6.

A work created by high school students that portrays the complex reality of Japanese society seriously and yet with a humorous tone. The original purpose of a constitution was to counter dictatorship and authority, but since the Constitution of Japan was established relatively late in history, its original purpose is not known by many people and remains vague. I want to give a big round of applause to this keen insight. (Hani)



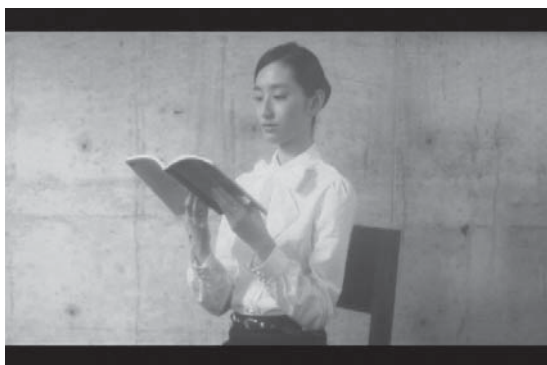
This is Going to be Really Good

Kyoko Okano | Age63 | Japan

9:57 | Documentary

A documentary in which all 20 pupils at an elementary school deep in the mountains practice charcoal-making as an annual event at the school. The children have valuable experience making an opening in the kiln through which cut wood is placed, and taking turns to maintain the fire throughout three nights. After the kiln is sealed to leave the wood to be slowly carbonized for 10 days, deep-black charcoal is finally obtained.

All 20 pupils at an elementary school help to make charcoal every year. The filmmaker, who became enthusiastic about making charcoal, focuses more on recording the whole process in detail than on filming each child to portray what they learnt. The children, however, enjoy making charcoal in the film, and their liveliness, as well as the narrator played by a fifth-grade girl, make this film an admirable work. (Takahata)



愛瑪的晚宴 (The Eighteenth Birthday Party)

Chuang Ching-Shen | Age35 | Taiwan

19:55 | Drama

A drama depicting the distorted relationship between Emma and her father, who enforces strict control and discipline. Emma, who becomes a perfect girl thanks to her father's strict discipline and education, reveals the truth in a letter she writes for the first time in her life to her father at her 18th birthday party.

A horror movie scattered with clever gimmicks, a rare type of work for this contest. This film was seen by some judges as being unpleasant, but in my opinion, this is a technically good work as a whole. Its quality level is as high as professionally produced TV thrillers. (Shiina)



My Big Happy Family

Joey Steffens/Severijn Heijmans | Age20/21 | Netherlands | 4:15 | Drama

A film about a young woman called Joey who looks for her real father on the Internet with her friend. She visits the house of her father, Gilbert, who she found on the Internet, and confirms that he is her real father. She also realizes, while talking with her father, that her family is actually a big family with an elder brother, grandmother, and brother-in-law and sister-in-law.

While watching this film, I was wondering whether there are many families like the one in this film in the Netherlands. What strikes me is the easy-going nature of the female student, who is the main character of the film. The divorced African father and German mother, their second marriage partners, their respective children ... The girl has a big family with everyone connecting with others in some way or another. The girl coolly accepts this fact, and her strong personality is impressive. Although some parts may be reproduced or fictional, the way the film portrays the family is fun. (Sato)



Nenn mich einfach TOBI B. (Just Call Me Tobi B.)

Felix Stienz | Age25 | Germany

15:00 | Drama

A mysterious fantasy drama about men appearing from the sky one after another who call themselves "Tobi B". These men, whose number gradually increases, wear the same suit and behave in a strange way. With young women also joining them, the large pasture is turned into a counter bar. Tobi B begins to tell the truth.

A film that creates a mysterious space-in a different way from that for "Shop Owner", the filmmaker's previous work awarded last year. This filmmaker is very skillful and ingenious. After a man suddenly comes down from the sky, men in similar clothes appear from the sky one after another. All of these men except the first one call themselves "Tobi B". This is actually a portrayal of purgatory, the entrance to the afterworld, but the strangeness created is superb. (Sato)

SELECTED WORKS

Catoptric Light

Maki Satake



Age28 | Japan
4:30 | Art

An artistic work in which the past is reproduced using photos left by her grandfather and her own memories. The old memories that she has long forgotten are revived.

Sweet Please

Ryuji Makino



Age24 | Japan
3:00 | Animation

A film in which the filmmaker begins to renew his views of his mother country, Japan, while traveling in Nepal.

Challenge My Dream-Antarctica : The World's Greatest Unexplored Land

Junichi Arisawa



Age71 | Japan
13:21 | Documentary

The filmmaker decides to visit Antarctica, a dream since his childhood, when he reaches 70 years old. This adventurous spirit changes the way he sees his own life.

Pride of Our Town - Town's Symbol Clock Tower

Sapporo Municipal Hokuto Elementary School



Japan
11:55 | Documentary

The Clock Tower in Sapporo as seen through the eyes of children. They investigate its long history and hear local people talking about the tower enthusiastically.

It Begins at the Tips of the Eyelashes

Tomoko Norita



Age23 | Japan
3:10 | Animation

An experimental video collage made up of various elements under the unified theme of the tips of eyelashes from which the day begins.

Ruriko and Satoshi

Yusuke Ichikawa



Age23 | Japan
16:00 | Drama

A comic love drama about two young men who fall in love with the same woman.

Filming (Summarized Version)-A Story about Those Who Do not Care for Others

Minoru Ikeda



Age63 | Japan
20:00 | Documentary

A film telling the whole story of trouble between the filmmaker who filmed the cinema from outside and the management of the cinema who claims that filming is against the rule.

Natural Color (Construction of a Large Hospital of a Clinic Practitioner)

Kanji Aoyagi



Age77 | Japan
7:37 | Drama

A humorous drama featuring a clinic practitioner who is committed to developing colored X-ray images and his friend who supports the project.

A Town with a Long History - Kamenoyu and Choncho 1- chome

Yonpan Project



Japan
11:14 | Documentary

The owner of a public bath who has decided to close her loss-making business and people of the town look back at its history, and talk about its future possibilities.

Save the Blue Future!!

Itabashi Municipal Shimura 2nd Junior High School Science Club



Japan
15:05 | Documentary

A film that introduces the "Narikin Project" organized by a science club of a junior high school to prevent global warming.

Laughter Resounding in My Head

Tomoya Takashima & Koto



Japan
3:10 | Animation

A music clip with original music created under the theme of Akamanto (Red Mantle), a legendary urban monster.

A Memory of Daily Life

Toshiko Hata



Age23 | Japan
3:38 | Animation

A clay animation film in which a salaried man tries to escape from the place he is in to put an end to his monotonous life.

Eyes of a Goldfish

Isao Kusakari



Age35 | Japan
16:50 | Drama

A serious drama looking into the inner self of a woman who is confronted with herself and finds an answer.

Elders Went to Mt. Everest

Eiko Funahashi



Age69 | Japan
13:10 | Documentary

A precious film documenting climbers of middle and advanced ages attempting to conquer Mt. Everest, the highest mountain in the world, as well as showing valuable local sceneries.

A Boy with a Camera

Yohei Tsuchiya

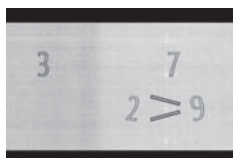


Age24 | Japan
11:27 | Drama

Kaito, an elementary school boy, goes to the seaside to take photos for his elder brother who has chosen to withdraw from social life and stay in his room.

Status

Taketo Shinkai

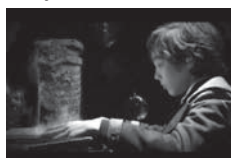


Age26 | Japan
7:27 | Animation

An animation film depicting widening gaps in society using personified numbers and symbols.

Seikilos & I

Kenji Itoso/Yu Kamefuchi



Age30/30 | Japan
14:04 | Drama

A historical fantasy in which an archaeologist tries to decipher a small text carved in a stone monument in Turkey.

Trick Words

New-Days



Japan
3:50 | Animation

A CG animation film in which characters scribbled meaninglessly during a boring meeting and small dolls run about on documents.

A Wish - Come Straight to You

Toshiya Tanaka



Age25 | Japan
19:29 | Documentary

A documentary about the activities of the Animal Life Station (ALIS), an NPO committed to protecting animals and making them happier.

Eternally Yours

Atsushi @ata



Japan
15:00 | Drama

A comedy about an old woman living alone and a fraudster trying to sell anti-aging and longevity drug to her. Both fight by cheating each other.

Surprise Film Show in Yamagata

Chihiro Arai/Asuka Hashizume



Age226 | Japan
13:20 | Documentary

Two women hold surprise film shows at various locations on their way to Yamagata to attend an international film festival.

The Reason Why She Won the Championship

Toshio Sato



Age75 | Japan
9:53 | Documentary

A documentary exploring what has made the filmmaker's granddaughter, a table tennis champion, such a good player.

Eyes to the Lens

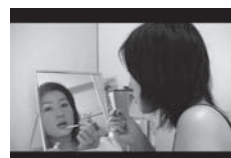
Tomoki Tsukada



Age18 | Japan
10:36 | Drama

A man whose attention is always paid to the camera capturing this film and who does not look at his girl friend. Their date continues with their conversation not going well.

Makiko Kimura



Age28 | Japan
10:50 | Documentary

A film portraying the change in the mind of a 28 years old filmmaker who realizes how she has lived without meaning, and decides to live more seriously.

14

Laid in Earth

Hiroko Satsuma



Age21 | Japan

2:17 | Art

An artistic film combining real and CG images that depicts soul guided being to heaven by a sweet song that lures people to their deaths.

Narrative Kinetics

Yusuke Shigeta



Age27 | Japan

6:30 | Art

An artistic film that creates a new video language and a story using various movements.

Lady's Slipper Orchid on Mt. Shiomidake

Naoki Minorikawa



Age49 | Japan

11:05 | Documentary

A film that reports serious damage to atsumoriso (lady's slipper) caused by deer in the Japan Southern Alps, and provides beautiful landscapes of the mountains.

For Homeland

Toyokazu Kaneko



Age75 | Japan

13:51 | Documentary

Korean safety representative earnestly studies Japanese disaster prevention activities by attending seminars and on-site training.

Sole Live Art

Kumiko Nagaiwa



Age19 | Japan

2:54 | Art

A challenging film that explores a new type of expression that combines real images of the performer's physical body expressions and virtual CG images.

Hime's Servile Daily Life

Yu Katsumata



Age27 | Japan

11:58 | Drama

A drama portraying two sisters who both fall in love with the same boy, their senior at school, who comes to their family-running shooting gallery every day.

Portrait of Peace

Kiyoko Kaneko



Japan

12:05 | Documentary

A film portraying the last years of the life of the filmmaker's mother who lived alone for 60 years. The film is made up of images of the mother's cheerful smiles and happy memories at spa resorts.

The Way

Fujisawa Municipal Shonandai Junior High School Arts and Literature Club



Japan

7:00 | Documentary

A junior high school student who is at a loss as to which future course to take looks back at her own past while following the route to her school, and decides to make the next step forward.

Minori's Folklore "A Young Man Bewitched by a Fox"

Minori Community Center



Japan

14:50 | Drama

A folk story from Fukui Prefecture. A young man, who is spoken to by a beautiful girl, walks around all night long, and loses his purse and souvenir.

Mt. Myogisan Road - My Internal Conflict

Kazuhiko Yoshino



Age47 | Japan

19:52 | Documentary

The filmmaker, who created a Mt. Myogisan guide video, reflects on himself and his family, and talks about his attachment to life.

A Port Town "Tomo"

Shunsuke Matsushima



Age24 | Japan

18:52 | Documentary

A documentary shot in the port of Hiroshima that captures the relationships between landscapes and people from six perspectives.

Maktub

Ryo Katanosaka



Age21 | Japan

19:30 | Documentary

The filmmaker, who became disgusted with the realities of life, returns to his hometown, and looks at himself while conversing with friends.

The Greatest Wall

Hiroyuki Hagihara/Mitsuo Miyamoto



Japan

19:55 | Drama

A film about two young men living together who stay inside a building at all times without going out anywhere. The film expresses the misery of modern society under the theme of "love".

The Finale

Hitomi Takemura



Age21 | Japan

7:27 | Drama

A film portraying discord between a man who is bored with his monotonous relationship with his girlfriend and his girlfriend who doesn't care about it at all, under the theme that a stale love life does not produce anything.

At a Barber

Koji Hori



Age67 | Japan

7:00 | Documentary

The filmmaker recalls the happy life of his late father and mother while having a shave at a barber, and wishes to live a happy life like them.

My Husband is a Freak!

Shizuka Otsuka



Age21 | Japan

7:02 | Documentary

A woman was surprised to discover that her husband owns numerous shamisen, a Japanese string musical instrument, after marrying him, and introduces his hobby in an amusing manner.

Restoring a Thatched Roof

Yasuhiro Okamoto



Age60 | Japan

11:40 | Documentary

A documentary about a thatcher who re-thatches the roof of an old house in Hyogo Prefecture using traditional techniques while staying and cooking his own food in the house.

Energetic to the End

Harumi Matsuda



Age72 | Japan

12:13 | Documentary

A documentary in which the filmmaker, who was suddenly struck by ulcerative colitis, prepares for his possible death, and talks about his fight against the disease.

Debris Flow Country Japan

Kenji Okimoto



Age73 | Japan

18:30 | Documentary

The film warns that afforestation and river improvement to control floods are the responsibility of the government.

Sumo Wrestling by the Gods

Fumiko Hagio



Age57 | Japan

20:00 | Documentary

Blindfolded women engage in sumo wrestling at the Masue Inari Shrine in Fukuoka Prefecture. It is an amusing event that unites wrestlers and audience.

Anmochidago-jiru Soup is Delicious

Chieko Watanabe



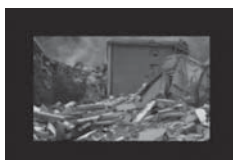
Age61 | Japan

9:40 | Documentary

A film about a cheerful cooking class in which the recipe for anmochidago-jiru soup, a local sweet potato soup in Kumamoto Prefecture, is passed down to young mothers.

迎风飘扬 (Flying in the Wind)

Zhou Shilun



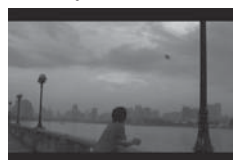
Age23 | China

12:55 | Documentary

A film recording the rescue activities of six volunteer college students in areas affected by the Sichuan Earthquake, as well as scenes of the disaster.

鸢·寻广州故事 (Kites-Visit to Guangzhou)

Five Fly



China

12:00 | Drama

A film in which the filmmaker casts affectionate eyes on traditional kite-flying in Guangzhou, which survives rapid urbanization in the region.

虹桥弄的奥林匹克 (Olympics in a Hongqiao Backstreet)

Shan Zuolong



Age21 | China

14:03 | Documentary

All the family members celebrate the Olympics and enjoy games in their own style in a local old town.

SELECTED WORKS

红粉 (Rouge)

Jin Huaqing



Age28 | China

20:00 | Documentary

A young woman decides to leave her Chinese theatrical company, which is short in manpower to perform plays, and sets out on a new journey in life.

城“式”化 (Urban "Typ" ification)

Yu Kai



Age24 | China

5:00 | Art

An artistic film created under the theme of modern urbanization, which presents a contrast between economic growth and the things behind it.

Banana & Flower

Wong Wing Cheong



Age22 | Hong Kong

14:13 | Drama

A boy who has just moved into the town falls in love with a policewoman at first sight, and runs after her.

20 years-Just Video-ing my Children (a video salad of my 3 sons +1)

Kidlat Tahimik



Age66 | Philippines

19:54 | Documentary

The filmmaker looks back at what he recorded over the past 20 years, and reflects on the technologies that have advanced and his sons who have grown over these years.

Hard Boiled Eggs

Wesley Leon Aroozoo



Age23 | Singapore

15:00 | Drama

A film created with monochrome video and various sounds to portray the lives of the father who likes gambling and earns no money and his daughters.

KH1

Kim Youn



Age18 | South Korea

13:00 | Drama

A film about a father who is devoted to repairing his camera and his son who wants to become an actor but has no money. One day, the father's camera suddenly disappears.

A Brighter Day

Wichanon Somumjarn



Age26 | Thailand

16:52 | Drama

A film based on a true story about the Thai people's struggle for democracy combined with a documentary video, which calls for the need for true democracy.

ROJO EN EL BOSQUE SANGRIENTO (Red Bloody Forest)

Tetsuo Lumiere



Age28 | Argentina

4:00 | Art

A film about a young director who strives to create a movie. One telephone call changes the whole situation.

Primogénito Complexo (Firstborn Complex)

Lavinia Chianello/Tomás Creus



Brazil

11:25 | Animation

A poetic and fantastic animation film about the eternal battle between the first son and his newborn younger brother.

Urbe (Big City)

Marcos Pimentel



Age31 | Brazil

15:00 | Documentary

A film that focuses on the roots of a certain town in Brazil and the feelings and thoughts of its residents, and looks at what modern large cities are like.

Yurany

Ovilda Isabela Isaza



Age27 | Colombia

9:34 | Drama

A film about a little candy-selling girl who lives in poverty, but with a dream, and never loses hope.

Priority

Rob Jacobs



Age19 | Belgium

1:00 | Documentary

A one-minute film made up of interviews with many people who relate a number of things they want, but cannot answer clearly what they want to give to others.

Cloudy Rain

Sumiko Shoji



Age42 | Germany

10:20 | Documentary

A man who is told he has cancer talks about how he will fight it. He overcomes his fear of death, and reflects on how to live the rest of his life.

N'tamat

Jordane Maurs



Age29 | Germany

19:39 | Documentary

A film expressing imagery that goes beyond time and space through children and their families in the Republic of Mali in Africa.

Sotto il mio giardino (Under My Garden)

Andrea Lodovichetti



Age32 | Italy

19:54 | Drama

A mystery in which a boy called Marco, who is crazy about ants, investigates the murder of a neighbor's wife by observing an ant colony.

Simple Day

Janis Vitolis



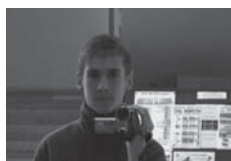
Age19 | Latvia

1:00 | Art

An amusing one-minute video in which a boy lies in various postures according to the picture drawn on the ground to play out a 2D performance.

Who I Am (Not)

Peter Vodička



Age21 | Slovakia

1:00 | Drama

I cannot stand on my hands, sing or drive. I am a useless man, but there is still one thing I am good at.

Made in Japan

Promofest



Spain

6:00 | Drama

A man goes to Japan after his mother discloses that his father is Japanese, but begins to wonder why he does not look oriental.

Voices We Shall Never Hear

Leandro Blanco



Age59 | Spain

5:00 | Documentary

A film questioning the current relationship between nature and people, as well as communicating a cries of living creatures governed by people, through a video of oceanic life.

La Biquette Émissaire (Nanny Goat Emissary)

Filippo Filliger



Age30 | Switzerland

11:00 | Drama

A film created with the play-within-play technique, in which a movie about a couple who are always in trouble is produced by staff, all of whom are women.

Climate Cycle

Undercurrents



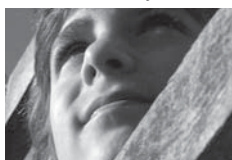
U.K.

20:00 | Documentary

A film about a couple who travel from the U.K. to Australia by bicycle, without using aircraft to help protect the environment.

Seeing

Robin Whenary



Age24 | U.K.

7:10 | Drama

A boy watches the landscape quietly while standing still in weak sunlight during the afternoon of a summer day.



The 30-year History of TVF Is a Historical Heritage of communication from which We can Learn Many Lessons

by Nobuhiko Obayashi , Filmmaker

The history of TVF began 30 years ago with works submitted by junior high school students. It was a time when showing films made by children officially in such a public space as TVF was still unthinkable. What amazes us even more is that the first TVF attracted many ambitious works from obscure young artists who are now professional movie directors in their 50s leading the Japanese cinema world, and that all of them failed to receive an award. Submissions from experienced artists in the TV world also disappeared soon, and this shows that TVF has stayed away from movies and TV since its beginning, and has been aware of its mission to focus on "presenting the opinions and video expressions of citizens", a type of film that was still in its infancy in those days. During the next 20 years, the majority of submissions comprised the personal expressions of seniors, women, and children. TVF, therefore, looked like an amateur contest at first glance, but its

beginning was also seen as the birth of "citizen journalism", the voices of the general public who had had nowhere to express their opinions until then.

It is this mission that has allowed TVF to develop its unique history. The reason why only TVF has managed, desperately, to remain alive while many other amateur video contests launched during the same period disappeared immediately after the bubble economy burst is because it has been recognized that this "citizen's video festival" represents a "culture" that is necessary to maintain the integrity of journalism around the world. For example, don't you think that it would be exciting if we could achieve a calm communication-oriented world where works at TVF are run on TV all day long and peace is earnestly sought after? This kind of world must be our future target!

The past 10 years have seen a sharp

increase in the number of submissions from young people caused by major changes in video equipment, which have become increasingly digitized. These young people will shape our future. The members of the amateur force that began film-making with 8 mm films and supported TVF for 20 years after its inception are now in their 80s and are still active as "enlightened citizens".

TVF has now become a place where we can learn many lessons about communication and journalism. We must take advantage of this precious "historical heritage", and fully utilize it for a better future.



Can TVF Be an Oasis that will Energize Our Impoverished Society?

by Hakudo Kobayashi , Video Artist, Professor of Seian University of Art and Design

It is thanks to the tremendous efforts of JVC and the TVF Office staff that TVF has continued until today. TVF this year attracted entrants from 54 countries and regions, which I think was possible only with JVC's global network. TVF is a historical milestone in the video industry's mécénat activities. Unlike movies and TV programs, TVF focuses on "video communication" every year, which can only be expressed through dialogs among citizens. This "video communication" can also be called "citizen's video" or "cathode-ray tube democracy". No matter what the images may be, TV cathode-ray tubes reproduce them in an absolutely equal manner. There are no distinctions between professionals and amateurs, or among nationalities, genres, or ages. Similar to these cathode-ray tubes, TVF is also a totally borderless festival for all global citizens. Fortunately, the popularization of VHS, DV, and DVD formats has made VCRs an everyday item, and this has led to a gradual increase in the number countries from which there have been entrants, allowing us to see the current status of citizens around the world, which is not available

through other media. While watching the opening of Vietnam to the outside world in the 1980s, video art in Eastern Europe and the U.S.S.R, the fall of the Berlin Wall around 1990, the birth of indios video in the Amazon region, and other events, I have noticed that I am playing the role of a living witness to modern times by screening submissions that communicate to society what is happening in the world. When the TVF Symposium was held in June last year, we discussed the Akihabara stabbing rampage. It has been reported that the suspect gradually came to feel alienated while writing numerous messages on an Internet bulletin board, and began to place what looked like murder notices on the board. It seems unfortunate that the suspect did not have his own community. Communities are places where people can feel fulfilled as citizens in their daily lives. Communities include not only local communities but also TVF, which serves as a media community that gives energy to people. There are many people who are moved, reflect on their own attitudes, and find something to live for after viewing TVF films. Although it is not certain how many

more years the storms of racial wars and the global recession will last, I am sure that citizen's video will function as an oasis that will energize our impoverished society. See this year, for example, "Melanie - I'm Going to My Own Way", which documented the life of a girl who had a disability for a long time; "Clarinet Polka", in which the filmmaker realizes the difficulty of communicating while shooting her classmate; "A Debut with Her Own Hair", a film about a woman who returned alive from a fight against disease; and "The Way We Walk along Together" and "Still Long but a Shorter Distance to Father", films about family nursing. These are not particularly cheerful films, but will allow you to experience the joy and agony of living. In addition, "Rice Farming - Pursuit of an Ideal by NPO Minkan Inasaku Kenkyujo (Private Rice Farming Institute)", which explores food safety issues; "Master Sericulture", a film about a foreign man raising silkworms; and "Faraway Hometown", a film about an old woman who returns to her hometown, are also works that will remind you of the taste of happiness in life that you might have forgotten.



Something Precious that We must Maintain Carefully

by Hiroaki Sato, Video Artist, teacher of Nippon Engineering College

I completely confined myself to my room to watch the submitted works for four days before the final screening. While doing so, I kept asking myself "Do I want to watch this video again with someone else?". This is the stance I take every year when I watch submissions. The reason I take this stance is because I consider it very important to share a filmmaker's experiences with someone else. The intention of the filmmaker lying behind the creation of his film, as well as the relationship between the filmmaker and the subject to be filmed, must be valued at all times. The viewer should not forget to respect their value. While offering convenience, mobile phones, PCs and many other personal media are causing people to lose respect for other people. However, TVF is, in my belief, building something that opposes this trend-something beautiful and fulfilling.

Of all the works I watched, there is one work that particularly struck me. It is "20 years-

Just Video-ing my Children (a video salad of my 3 sons +1)" created by Kidlat Tahimik from the Philippines. Tahimik is often regarded as a kind of godfather of independent filmmakers. He has already received some prizes at TVF. A large wooden box placed in his room is filled with films he has shot in various formats, such as 8 mm and 16 mm film, 3/4 inch cassettes, and VHS-C tapes. These films are a total mess in the box, looking like "spaghetti" as Tahimik calls them. They are fragments of his dramatic films as well as others showing people he and his sons met in various countries. They include shots in Japan, and even films that are hard to view due to noise. One of the filmmaker's sons is a PC expert who helps his father with editing. This huge pile of films in the box is a portrayal of the filmmaker's family and, at the same time, a personal video history. Tahimik's work will probably never end; as long as there are filmmaking tools-in whatever forms-available, he will

probably continue to hold one and aim it at someone. The history of video is, in fact, a chain of people's communication linked through this kind of endless effort. I want to pay my respects to the powerful determination of filmmakers who have built a history.

I cannot refer to other works here because I am running out of space in which to write. But, I would like to say thank you to all of the entrants this year who have won my respect more than in any other years.



Many Works showing high levels of skill

by Makoto Shiina, Novelist

It is already more than 10 years since I became a TVF judge. I am amazed at how tremendously the quality of entries has improved over these years.

For this year's festival, all works, whether documentary or drama, were created by artists who know what to do in accordance with theories of film-making, and many works were masterpieces of unique individuality.

As the age range of applicants has widened, the number of works created by young people surged like a swelling tide in the top 100 list, and I strongly felt-once again this year-the pleasure of enjoying the cutting edge of the times through these personal videos.

I was also amazed that each work precisely conveyed, not only the motivation of their artists to make the work, but also the aims of

each artist.

As for overall trends, there were many works that pursued their themes very flexibly, without being constrained by the stereotyped classification of genres that had been maintained until quite recently. It seems to me that this flexibility contributed to upgrading the overall quality level of entries.

When comparing Japanese to overseas works, I found that the way works are produced is fundamentally different, with many Japanese works created by individuals and many overseas works by organizations such as production companies or organizing committees. This difference is not a matter of being professional or amateur, but is probably due to differences in attitudes toward film-making.

No matter what kind of work it may be, whether a home-crafted work filmed by an

individual or a larger-scale work by an organization, the key to winning this type of contest is ultimately how deeply a work can draw viewers into its world. In this sense, I was thrilled by the competition among the variety of works this year at TVF.

I have also been astonished by significant technical improvements of entries during the past five or six years. We have probably entered era of the close association between hardware and software.



Triangular relationship of artist, subject, and viewer

by Isao Takahata, Animation Film Director

In this year's TVF, I was amazed by the fact that a number of excellent documentaries had been created by women of middle and advanced ages. I was impressed all the more by the energy of modern women and technological advances of video filming and editing equipment supporting those women to produce their films.

The basics of making a home video are to edit recordings of close family members and, while looking back to the past, add narrations in such a way that they convey the enthusiasm and intention of the artist. However, even in such basic home videos, when scenes captured or the subject family members filmed are powerful or meaningful, the videos often begin to speak directly to the viewers without relying on-or occasionally even by betraying-the enthusiasm and intention expressed verbally. When there is a subtle gap and a struggle between the artist's enthusiasm and intention and the subjectivity and

objectivity of the video, the viewer directly faces the presented scenes and, by keeping somewhat away from the artist's enthusiasm and intention, is allowed to explore his own thoughts and feelings about the work. The viewer can also, for example, measure the closeness of the artist to the subject family member, admire the relationship, and build trust in-or maybe doubt and criticism about—the artist.

Experiencing this type of triangular of the artist, subject, and viewer is in fact the true charm of viewing videos seriously, as well as the time when we feel that videos are a source of energy. I had many such experiences in this year's TVF again. These include "The Way We Walk along Together", which maintains an exquisite distance from the husband, and allows the filmmaker to be a part of the film like another leading character, "Melanie - I'm Going to My Own Way", "Section 60: Arlington National Cemetery", "A Debut with

Her Own Hair", "Giant Water Bugs - Breeding and Observation", "Rice Farming - Pursuit of an Ideal by NPO Minkan Inasaku Kenkyujo (Private Rice Farming Institute)", "Master Sericulture", "COCAIS -A Rediscovered Town", "Faraway Hometown", "Clarinet Polka", "Skylark", "Still Long but a Shorter Distance to Father", "Trafficked Children-Children Sold by Their Parents", "Memories Can't Wait!", "Portrait of Peace", "Sealed Heart", "Variable" and "Red Paper Boat".

I was impressed that overseas entries include many excellent dramas and fantasies created by professionals and would-be professionals this year again. There are many interesting overseas works even in the "Selected Works" category, such as "Nanny Goat Emissary". There were not many animations, but some works, such as "Under Construction" and "Memory", incorporated animation techniques and were amazing achievements.



Birth of New Culture

by Susumu Hani, Film Director

I enjoyed viewing entries very much this year.

I was particularly struck with admiration by "Melanie - I'm Going to My Own Way", "A Debut with Her Own Hair", and "The Way We Walk along Together". All these works succeeded in matching the intention of the filmmakers with the resultant expressions, which I thought was wonderful.

However, what is striking about this year's TVF is that there are still many other excellent works, such as "COCAIS -A Rediscovered Town" and "Whole View of Memory". "Skylark" is a good film, too, which delightfully captures the intersection of the lives of the little bird and people. "My Big Happy Family" presents in a comical way the facts of the 21st century in which we all need to reconsider what the family is. In previous TVFs, I always felt that about half of the top 30 works still lacked expression somewhat, but this year I felt for the first time that 30 is

not enough. A very long time ago, I was told by Mr. Masahiro Ogi, then a judge of TVF, that "You are a prophet crying out in the wilderness. If a work is recommended by you that has realized even one tenth of what you advocate, I will also recommend it for the Grand Prize". After Mr. Ogi passed away, Mr. Shigeru Kawata, a genius of an artist, appeared and completely changed TVF. But even after this, there were still only a few outstanding works. However, this year is completely different. I think that this may be called the beginning of a new culture.

This tendency is evident even in works created by high school students, such as "Did the High School Students Obstruct People from Getting on the Train?" and "12.7%". While depicting an event surrounding them in their own style, these young filmmakers are also well aware that there is a different society from theirs. I felt this when I saw, for example, "12.7%", which points out that

there are many teachers who do not know how constitutions began to be established in countries.

The number of videos whose starting point is to look deeply into the inner self is on the increase. While it seems that current literature and journalism still do not have a broader perspective to see how the inner self appears on the surface and looks to other people, videos are now beginning to have that broad perspective as well.



Full Blooming of Citizen Journalism

by Masanori Kitami, Victor Company of Japan, Ltd.(JVC)

Did our predecessors who opened up the video era imagine that a day like this year's TVF would come? This year saw a great number of impressive works in many genres. It can probably be safely said that citizen journalism has finally fully bloomed. It is no exaggeration to say that citizens have now acquired literacy in video, and are able to identify, give insight into, and reconstruct from the viewpoint of citizens-the nature of various incidents taking place around them.

"The Way We Walk along Together" presents us in a comical yet careful way the potential crisis of "elder-to-elder nursing", an issue that is becoming increasingly serious. The true feeling expressed by the wife who is concerned about her sick husband's health, as well as the casual tone of the narration telling us about the future of the old couple, are striking.

"Melanie - I'm Going to My Own Way" is a

film about the pure mind of a blind girl whose attitudes are always more than earnest, as well as about the comfortable distance maintained between her and other people with disabilities around her in a mature society.

"Giant Water Bugs - Breeding and Observation" is a film carefully created by junior high school students. The film is not just a report on the lives of giant water bugs, but also proposes new potential for video.

I would like to express our thanks to the Chinese people who sent us more than 1,000 entries. Many are excellent works that convey the current social conditions, life, and people's feelings in modern China.

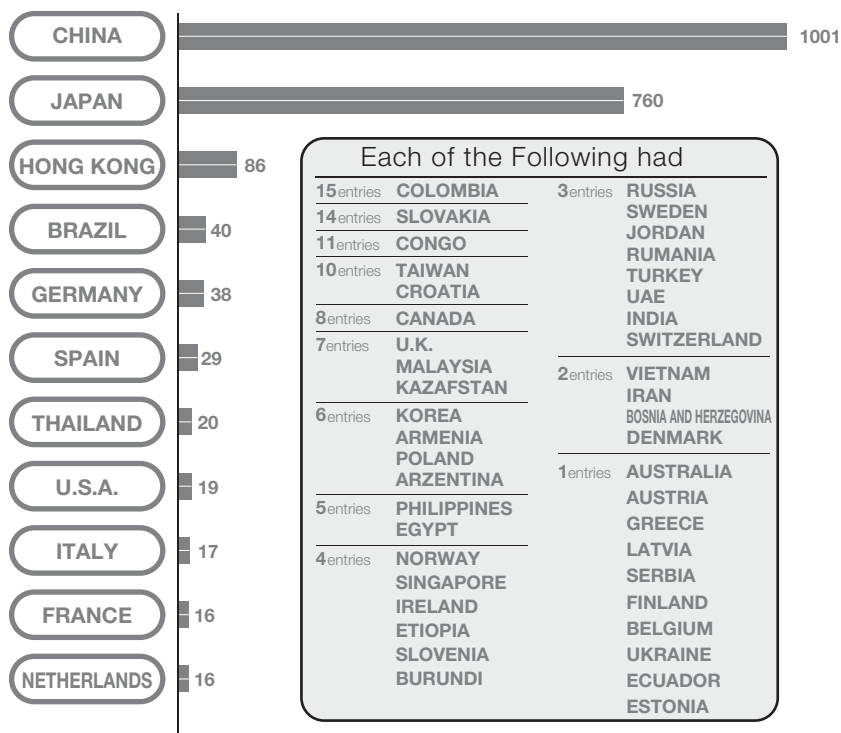
"Olympics in a Hongqiao Backstreet" which narrowly missed the Excellence Award, is a likable film depicting the feelings of ordinary Chinese people at the time of the Olympics.

"Red Paper Boat" is a portrayal of children who are anxiously waiting for the return of their parents working away from home. These films present scenes that Japanese and other people once saw, and are very impressive.

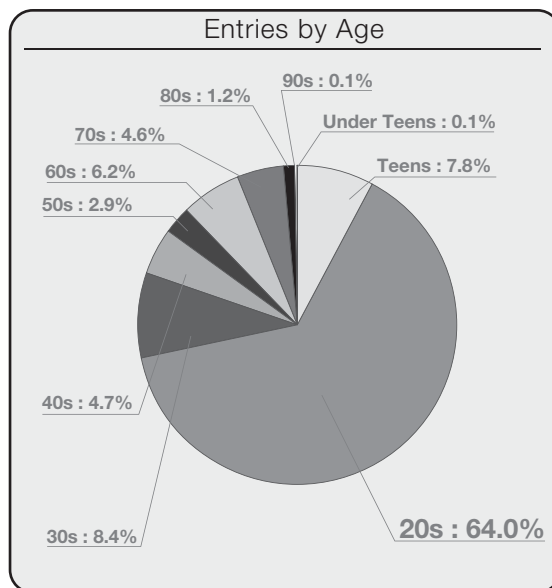
Both "A Debut with Her Own Hair" and "Energetic to the End" are films about people fighting against a disease, and give us courage and energy. Including these precious works, the total number of entries in the present and past 31 TVFs has exceeded 52,000. Works created by people in their 20s or younger accounted for more than 70% this year, and the works are becoming increasingly diverse. Citizen journalism will be accelerated more than ever-This is what I felt about the future of video after completing the screening. I would like to extend our gratitude to all of the entrants at TVF and people from the video industry for supporting this festival for so many years.

Profile of TVF2009 Entries

Breakdown by Country or Region N=2,231(Japan-760,Overseas=1,471)



TOTAL 2231



The world's largest citizen's video festival for video fans around the world

The 31st JVC Tokyo Video Festival TVF2009

The 31st JVC Tokyo Video Festival "TVF2009" opened this year in Yokohama, boasting an incredible 2,231 works (760 from Japan, 1,471 from overseas) produced in 54 countries and regions worldwide. This 31st staging of the Tokyo Video Festival closed the final chapter on this long-running event that has been supported by video fans worldwide for all these years, and we are truly grateful for their support. With video fans attending from all over the world, the announcements and prize giving finale on March 1 was bursting with the excitement and passion one would expect from a citizen's video festival in its 31st successful year.



AWARDING

This year's Video Grand Prize was awarded to "Melanie - I'm Going to My Own Way", the story of a young blind girl and her path to independence and self-realization. "The Way We Walk along Together", a heartwarming portrayal of an elderly couple in extended care, captured the JVC Grand Prize.



▲ The crowd of attendees cheers the prizewinners.



VIDEO GRAND PRIZE

**Melanie
- I'm Going to My Own Way**

Klaus Fleischmann (Germany)



JVC GRAND PRIZE

**The Way
We Walk along Together**

Ritsuko Uchida (Japan)

TALK FORUM

We asked some of the judges, regular contributors, past award-winners and other long-time JVC Tokyo Video Festival supporters to share their thoughts about TVF with us.



▲ The judges and others associated with the TVF give speeches expressing their appreciation of it.



RECEPTION


After the talk forum, conversation flowed as the judges, award-winners and other video enthusiasts gathered for a reception.

▼ Judges and prizewinners chat.



History of The Video Grand Prize

1st 1979.3/29
Run! ENODEN



18:12 Kawasaki City Miyuki Junior High School Broadcasting Committee (Japan)

2nd 1979.11/29
BUBBLING



20:00 Tomiyo Sasaki (U.S.A)

3rd 1980.12/9
THIRD AVENUE
:ONLY THE STRONG SURVIVE



15:00 Keiko Tsuno & Jon Alpert (U.S.A)

4th 1981.11/17
LIFE WITH RAY



12:52 Megan Roberts & Raymond Ghirardo (U.S.A)

5th 1982.11/18
Parting



19:58 Atsushi Yoshimoto (Japan)

6th 1983.11/24
LOVE OF LINE OF LIGHT AND SHADOW
:THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE



10:24 Reynold Weidenaar (U.S.A)

7th 1984.11/17
The horse from Hokkaido
:A Drive and His Beast



19:57 Yukikazu Watanabe (Japan)

8th 1985.11/18
VIETNAM
:TALKING TO THE PEOPLE



20:00 Jon Alpert, Maryann De Leo & Quan Nguyen (U.S.A)

9th 1986.11/17
VIDEO LETTER EXCHANGE
:LONGFELLOW FURZEDOWN



13:50 Larry Johnson & Elaine Wynne (U.S.A)

10th 1987.11/16
A Bridge Over the Ocean



20:00 Katsunori Hosomi, Tsutomu Hara, Douna Boynton (Japan)

11th 1988.11/21
Video Visits Homes of Students



11:00 Kiyoshi Yamamoto (Japan)

12th 1989.11/27
An Affection Concealed by Coolness



8:10 Takiko Otsuka (Japan)

13th 1990.11/26
Sketchbook: Thirty-Something



17:47 Yoshihiko Ohata (Japan)

14th 1991.11/25
Autobiography with a Tattered Cover



13:16 Shigeru Kawata (Japan)

15th 1992.11/30
I went to Korea



19:04 Shinichi Ohta (Japan)

16th 1993.11/24
Life through a Dove's eyes



19:59 Shigeru Kawata (Japan)

17th 1995.1/23
DOBRE NAJEDENI RIDIČI BULDOZERŮ
Well-Fed Bulldozer's Drivers



20:00 Jan Růž / ětr Pázek (Czech)

18th 1996.1/20
Tokyo Makes Me So Itchy




9:15 Toshimaru Hatano (Japan)

19th 1997.2/1
Why Crows Cry



19:59 Shigeru Kawata (Japan)

20th 1998.1/24
LIFE OF CRIME
:DELERIS'S SAD STORY



20:00 Jon Alpert (U.S.A)

21st 1999.2/6
Challenging Video



9:22 Fumiko Kozu (Japan)

22nd 2000.1/30
4,000 Pictures Remain



20:00 The Broadcasting Department, Sapporo Moiva High School (Japan)

23rd 2001.2/3
Amanogawa




5:40 Takae Kawase (Japan)

24th 2002.3/21
That Dam's Water, Who Needs It!




20:00 Ryouichi Sato (Japan)

25th 2003.2/15
Rogo
The Senior Life



20:00 Noriko Fukuoka (Japan)

26th 2004.2/14
Why Can't I Do Sakaagari?



12:42 Yoshihisa Ishizu (Japan)

27th 2005.2/19
Grainy Days



18:45 Chieko Oki (Japan)

28th 2006.2/18
Fledge



20:00 Sawako Nakai (Japan)

29th 2007.3/3
Plays the air.



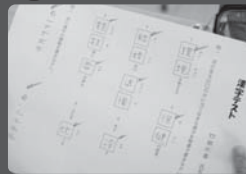
19:54 Seiko Uchida (Japan)

29th 2007.3/3
Fear no Evil



19:56 Guillermo Costanzo / Teresa Bo (Argentine)

29th 2007.3/3
The Mystery of Chinese Character Tests



19:24 Broadcast Club of Azusagawa High-school in Nagano (Japan)

30th 2008.3/2
The Last Chapter



20:00 Makiko Ishihara (Canada)

30th 2008.3/2
An Assertion from a Modern 21-Year-Old Woman



11:59 Yuki Kurokawa (Japan)