

For Immediate Release:

March 1, 2009

Grand Prize Winners Selected at 31st Annual Tokyo Video Festival

Video Grand Prize: *“Melanie - Ich gehe meinen Weg (Melanie – I’m Going My Own Way),”*

(Klaus Fleischmann, 59, Germany)

JVC Grand Prize: *“The Way We Walk along Together”*

(Ritsuko Uchida, 80, Japan)

JVC (Victor Company of Japan, Limited) is pleased to announce that the 31st Tokyo Video Festival (TVF 2009) today named its Grand Prize winners at a ceremony at Landmark Hall in Yokohama, Japan, presenting the Video Grand Prize to **“Melanie – Ich gehe meinen Weg (Melanie - I’m Going My Own Way)”** and the JVC Grand Prize to **“The Way We Walk along Together.”** Also announced were 100 other prizes, including 30 Excellence Awards and 70 Selected Works. TVF2009 attracted 2,231 entries from 54 countries and regions, including 1,471 from overseas and 760 from Japan. Entrants ranged widely in age from 8 to 98, with people were in their 20s accounting for 64%.

Video Grand Prize Winner



Melanie – Ich gehe meinen Weg (Melanie - I’m Going My Own Way)

Klaus Fleischmann, 59, Germany

This documentary presents Melanie, a blind girl living a vigorous life thanks to the warm support of her family, friends and society. As shown through the lens of her uncle, Melanie is an active girl who has tried as hard as she could for everything from an early age. A hardworking student, in high school she became filled with a passion to dedicate herself to social work. Her perpetually positive attitude is an inspiration to everyone around her.

JVC Grand Prize Winner



The Way We Walk along Together

Ritsuko Uchida, 80, Chiba, Japan

This documentary depicts the daily life of the cameraperson as she looks after her 83-year-old husband, who requires Level 4 care. Assisted by the support of a nursing service, the woman finds that she can somehow manage to deal with the occasional worry about her situation. The work shows her husband's vitality when enjoying his beloved karaoke and drawing, and the strong love they share for each other after 57 years of marriage.

Three other entries were selected for People's Awards by members of the general public who visited JVC's website: **“Sin Decir Nada (Don't Say a Word)”** (Diana Carolina Montenegro García, Colombia), **“Sealed Heart”** (Chung Wai Kit, Hong Kong) and **“12.7%”** (Azusagawa High School Broadcast Club, Japan, Excellence Work).

As previously announced, this is the final year of the Tokyo Video Festival, which celebrated its 31st year in 2009. JVC thanks everyone for their enthusiastic support of the festival down through the years.

- Trends and Themes of TVF2009 Award Winners -

1. Works depicting strong emotions for one's way of life

"**Melanie – Ich gehe meinen Weg (Melanie - I'm Going My Own Way)**," the last Video Grand Prize of TVF, presents the life of Melanie, who has dealt with her blindness with a positive attitude, deep sensitivity and tireless energy. The director – her uncle – expresses the girl's strong desire to live actively and captures the admiration of the people and society who have extended her strong support.

Several other excellent documentaries present a wide range of human emotions also won prizes, including "**A Debut with Her Own Hair**" (Hideki Kato, Japan: Excellence Award), about a woman who cut her newly restored hair long after losing it, as well as a breast, to cancer; "**Master Sericulture**" (Yoshio Fujii, Japan: Excellence Award), which introduces a Canadian who dedicated himself to learning traditional Japanese sericulture to produce silk fabric completely on his own; and "**Clarinet Polka**" (Kanae Asahi, Japan: Excellence Award), about the director achieving personal growth through the experience of video recording a deaf university student and coming to better understand the inner feelings of her friend.

2. Works about deep feelings for one's family

"**The Way We Walk along Together**" won the JVC Grand Prize by recording the life of an eighty-something couple from the point of view of the wife, who takes care of her husband. One judge, Makoto Shiina, especially admired the scene of the couple singing together while pretending to be on a popular TV music program, saying: "It made me cry and smile at the same time. It is one of the best works I have seen in years." The straightforward scenes and narration provide a heartwarming view of the couple's strong bond of love.

As in previous years, more than 10% of awarded works were about love or family ties, including "**Faraway Hometown**" (Keiko Ishiwata, Japan: Excellence Award), about a woman who recorded her mother visiting her hometown for the first time in 65 years; "**Still Far, but a Shorter Distance to Father**" (Junichi Shindo, Japan: Excellence Award), which expresses the director's complicated feelings toward his estranged father and the realization of the relationship's importance only after his father's death; "**Red Paper Boat**" (Li Jun Cheng, China: Excellence Award), about a young brother and sister's feelings toward their family as they wait for the return of their parents, who have been away from home due to work; and "**My Big Happy Family**" (Joey Steffens and Severijn Heijmans, Netherlands: Excellence Award), which shows how a person discovers his family roots through the use of investigative methods such as searching the Internet.

3. Living actively in an aging society

At a time when population aging is leading to new social problems in Japan, many seniors skillfully used their camcorders to show seniors who have mastered the art of living by using their time effectively, including "**Challenge My Dream – Antarctica: The World's Greatest Unexplored Land**" (Junichi Arisawa, Japan: Selected Work), a travel log of a 71-year-old former teacher who realized his long-cherished dream of going to Antarctica after retirement; "**Elders on Mt. Everest**" (Eiko Funahashi, Japan: Selected Work), by a 69-year-old woman who recorded elderly climbers challenging Mt. Everest; "**Natural Color (Constructing a Clinical Practitioner's Large Hospital)**" (Kanji Aoyagi, Japan: Selected Work), a humorous work about the 77-year-old director collaborating with the town doctor to produce a colored version of an X-ray photo; and "**Energetic to the End**" (Harumi Matsuda, Japan: Selected Work), about a 72-year-old man who recorded himself struggling with a near-death illness and then being admonished by a Buddhist monk after recovering.

4. Explaining issues through facts

Most of these entries were documentaries made to depict specific aims and emotions, many involving social or historical problems, including "**Ideal Rice Farming – A Private Rice-Farming Institute's Search**" (Mitsuhiro Asano, Japan: Excellence Award), a documentary about researching unique farming methods in pursuit of effective methods of traditional rice culture; "**This is Going to be Really Good**" (Kyoko Okano, Japan: Excellence Award), which recorded a traditional event, called "Sumiyaki," held at the elementary school of a mountain village; "**Restoring a Thatched Roof**" (Yasuhiro Okamoto, Japan: Selected Work), about young artisans who used 150-year-old techniques to preserve a structure's thatched roof, taking five months along the way; "**Flying in the Wind**" (Zhou Shilun, China: Selected Work), which recorded six college students' views of the devastation and ensuing rescue operations in Sichuan, China following the massive earthquake; and "**Olympics in a Hongqiao Backstreet**" (Shan Zuolong, China: Selected Work), about the pride and warmth of residents in downtown Beijing who welcomed the 2008 Olympic Games.

Merely recording the facts can sometimes relay messages that are beyond the director's intention, as in the case of "**Section 60: Arlington National Cemetery**" (Downtown Community Television Center, U.S.A.: Excellence Work), a day at Arlington National Cemetery spent interviewing bereaved families visiting the graves of soldiers who lost their lives in places such as Iraq.

5. Drama boom accounts for one fourth of awarded works

There were 27 award-winning dramas, including 17 from overseas. Foreign works accounted for all of the Excellence Awards, an indication that amateur directors overseas have become increasingly interested in making dramas. The works covered everything from serious topics with deep meaning to pure entertainment.

Five Asian works received Excellence Awards, including "**Touch**" (Gao Shuai, China), which describes the rapidly changing environmental movement in China through the story of curious girl who wants to do away with plastic shopping bags; "**Sealed Heart**" (Chung Wai Kit, Hong Kong), about isolation in the modern society, as seen in an old man's mischievous attempts to fight loneliness; and "**The Eighteenth Birthday Party**" (Chuang Ching-Shen, Taiwan), a horror-drama with a surprise ending that reveals the distorted relationship between a girl and her stern father.

Other Excellence Award winners from abroad included "**Sin Decir Nada (Don't Say a Word)**" (Diana Carolina Montenegro García, Colombia), a young director's work that expresses the secret feelings of two high school females; and "**nenn mich einfach Tobi B. (Just Call Me Tobi B.)**" (Felix Stienz, Germany), a fantasy-drama in which people fall from the sky one after another.

6. Young generation's interest in art and animation

Applied works created with painstaking effort included videos that combined images with special effects and computer graphics, and highly expressive animations, particularly those by university students and young creators in their 20s, including "**Memory**" (Masashi Yokota, 25, Japan: Excellence Award), which is edited as a photo book with different memories of scenery and live images; "**It Begins at the Tips of the Eyelashes**" (Tomoko Norita, 23, Japan: Selected Work), a collage of images and sound effects expressing the highs and lows of life; "**laid in earth**" (Hiroko Satsuma, 21, Japan: Selected Work), which uses graphic skills to show a soul being enticed by sweet songs to leave this world behind for heaven; and "**Urban 'Typ'ification**" (Yu Kai, 24, China: Selected Work), which examines modern urbanization in terms of economic growth and the resulting problems.

Animated works included "**Laughter Resounding in My Head**" (Tomoya Takashima & Koto, Student, Japan: Selected Work), an analog music clip about a legendary phantom; "**Status**" (Taketo Shinkai, 26, Japan: Selected Work), which describes social divisions through anthropomorphic numbers; and "**Trick Words**" (New-Days, Student, Japan: Selected Work), a short animation about a boring meeting taking place and suddenly graffiti and words leap off their pages and start running around the room.

7. Video's practical roles for study and school clubs

Many students were awarded for works they made for their studies or club activities, including "**Did Students Block the Train Doors?**" (Hokkaido Fukagawa-higashi High School Broadcasting Club, Japan, Excellence Award); a compilation of media stories about reportedly ill-mannered high school students on public trains; "**12.7%**" (Azusagawa High School Broadcast Club, Japan, Excellence Work), which humorously examines the Japanese' poor knowledge of constitutional law by testing students on the subject; "**Giant Water Bugs – Breeding and Observation**" (Himeji Municipal Sugano Junior High School Biology and Science Research Group, Japan, Excellence Work), an examination of giant water bugs living in a rice paddy; and "**Clock Tower – The Pride and Symbol of our Town**" (Sapporo Municipal Hokuto Elementary School, Japan: Selected Work), a news report by elementary students regarding the Sapporo Clock Tower, said to be one of Japan's three most disappointing tourist spots.

About JVC Tokyo Video Festival (TVF)

JVC has held this international video festival annually since 1978, attracting some 52,517 entries during this time. The purpose of the TVF has been twofold: to create new vistas of free expression through video, and to popularize video culture. The festival is open to all individuals and groups, both professional and amateur, of any nationality, age and gender. All entries must be produced with a video camera, the playback time must not exceed 20 minutes, and the subject matter is not restricted.

TVF2009 Judging Committee Members

Nobuhiko Obayashi (film director),
Hakudo Kobayashi (video artist and professor, Seian University of Art and Design),
Hiroaki Sato (video artist and instructor, Nippon Engineering Collage),
Makoto Shiina (novelist), Isao Takahata (animated film director),
Susumu Hani (film director) and
Masanori Kitami (JVC).

TVF2009 Prizes

Video Grand Prize	1 work	500,000 yen (including prize money for Excellence Award), JVC hard-disk camcorder, trophy and certificate
JVC Grand Prize	1 work	400,000 yen (including prize money for Excellence Award), JVC hard-disk camcorder, trophy and certificate
Excellence Awards	30 works	100,000 yen, plaque and certificate
Selected Works	70 works	Plaque and certificate
People's Awards	3 works	Plaque

Note: On October 1, 2008, Victor Company of Japan, Limited (JVC) and Kenwood Corporation integrated their management to establish JVC KENWOOD Holdings, Inc. by means of a share transfer.

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Attachment

■ TVF2009 “Excellence Award” Winners (Grand Prizes and People’s Awards are colored)

< Japan >

NO.	Title	Entrants' name	Age	M / F	Occupation	Country/Region
1	Did Students Block the Train Doors?	Hokkaido Fukagawahigashi High School Broadcasting Club			Students	Hokkaido
2	Ideal Rice Farming – A Private Rice-Farming Institute's Search	Mitsuhiko Asano	62	M	Self-employed	Ibaraki
3	Memory	Masashi Yokota	25	M	Self-employed	Saitama
4	A Debut with Her Own Hair	Hideki Kato	48	M	Composer, Arranger	Saitama
5	The Way We Walk along Together	Ritsuko Uchida	80	F	Housewife	Chiba
6	Faraway Hometown	Keiko Ishiwata	58	F	Housewife	Chiba
7	Capture the Wind	Nonoho Suzuki	27	M	Company employee	Tokyo
8	Trafficked Children - Children Sold by Their Parents	Kokkyo naki Kodomotachi (KnK)				Tokyo
9	Master Sericulture	Yoshio Fujii	70	M	Retired	Kanagawa
10	12.7%	Broadcast Club of Azusagawa High-school in Nagano			Students	Nagano
11	Clarinet Polka	Kanae Asahi	19	F	Student	Shiga
12	Still Far but a Shorter Distance to Father	Junichi Shindo	59	M	Company employee	Osaka
13	Giant Water Bugs – Breeding and Observation	Himeji Municipal Sugano Junior High School Biology and Science Research Group			Students	Hyogo
14	This is going to be Really Good	Kyoko Okano	63	F	Housewife	Ehime
15	Skylark	Toru Kurokawa	70	M	Retired	Ehime

* Japanese entrants are listed by region from North to South.

< International >

NO.	Title	Entrants' name	Age	M / F	Occupation	Country/Region
16	Red Paper Boat (红纸船)	Li jun cheng	23	M	Imaging industry	China
17	Touch (觸點)	Gao Shuai	25	M	Student	China
18	Sealed Heart (封心鎖)	Chung Wai Kit	27	M	Self-employed	Hong Kong
19	Time Goes By (逝)	So Ho Fai	29	M	Engineer	Hong Kong
20	Variable (變臉)	Wong Wai-kit		M		Hong Kong
21	The Eighteenth Birthday Party (愛瑪的晚宴)	Chuang Ching-Shen	35	M	Director	Taiwan
22	Section 60: Arlington National Cemetery	Downtown Community Television Center				U.S.A
23	COCAIS, a cidade reinventada (Cocais - A Rediscovered Town)	Ines Cardoso	44	F	Artist	Brazil
24	Sin Decir Nada (Don't Say a Word)	Diana Carolina Montenegro García	23	F	Social Communicator	Colombia
25	Minoucosmos (Kitty's Cosmos)	Alain Boyer	61	M	Retired	France
26	Under Construction	Zhenchen Liu	31	M	Artist	France
27	Denk mal - Mahn mal! (Memories Can't Wait!)	IKS Medienwerkstatt				Germany
28	Melanie - Ich gehe meinen Weg (Melanie - I'm Going My Own Way)	Klaus Fleischmann	57	M	Company employee	Germany
29	nenn mich einfach Tobi B. (Just Call Me Tobi B.)	Felix Stienz	25	M	Filmmaker	Germany
30	My Big Happy Family	Joey Steffens/ Severijn Heijmans	20/21	F/M	Students	Netherlands

* Foreign country and region names are presented in the following sequence: Asia, North America, Central and South America, Europe, Oceania, the Middle East, and Africa.

■ TVF2009 "Selected Award" Winners

< Japan >

NO.	Title	Entrants' name	Age	M / F	Occupation	Country / Region
1	Catoptric Light	Maki Satake	28	F	Company employee	Hokkaido
2	Sweet Please	Ryuji Makino	24	M	Student	Hokkaido
3	Challenge My Dream - Antarctica: The World's Greatest Unexplored Land	Junichi Arisawa	71	M	Part-timer	Hokkaido
4	Clock Tower – The Pride and Symbol of our Town	Sapporo Municipal Hokuto Elementary School			Students	Hokkaido
5	It Begins at the Tips of the Eyelashes	Tomoko Norita	23	F	Student	Yamagata
6	Ruriko and Satoshi	Yusuke Ichikawa	23	M	Student	Yamagata
7	Filming (Summarized Version) - A Story about Those who do not Care for Others	Minoru Ikeda	63	M	Retired	Tochigi
8	Natural Color (Constructing a Clinical Practitioner's Large Hospital)	Kanji Aoyagi	77	M	Retired	Gunma
9	A Town with a Long History - Kamenoyu and Honcho 1-chome	Yonpan Project			Students	Saitama
10	Save the Blue Future!!	Itabashi Municipal Shimura 2nd Junior High School Science Club			Students	Tokyo
11	Laughter Resounding in My Head	Tomoya Takashima & Koto			Students	Tokyo
12	A Memory of Daily Life	Toshiko Hata	23	F	Student	Tokyo
13	Eyes of a Goldfish	Isao Kusakari	35	M	Self-employed	Tokyo
14	Elders on Mt. Everest	Eiko Funahashi	69	F	Self-employed	Tokyo
15	A Boy with a Camera	Yohei Tsuchiya	24	M	Company employee	Tokyo
16	Status	Taketo Shinkai	26	M	Company employee	Tokyo
17	Seikilos & I	Kenji Itoso/ Yu Kamefuchi	30/30	M/M	Self-employed	Tokyo
18	Trick Words	New-Days			Students	Tokyo
19	A Wish - Come Straight to You	Toshiya Tanaka	25	M	Part-timer	Tokyo
20	Eternally Yours	Atsushi Ogata		M	Filmmaker	Tokyo
21	Surprise Film Show in Yamagata	Chihiro Arai/ Asuka Hashizume	28/26	F/F	Company employee / Self-employed	Tokyo
22	The Reason She Won the Championship	Toshio Sato	75	M	Retired	Tokyo
23	Eyes to the Lens	Tomoki Tsukada	18	M	Student	Tokyo
24	14	Makiko Kimura	28	F	Company employee	Kanagawa
25	laid in earth	Hiroko Satsuma	21	F	Student	Kanagawa
26	Narrative Kinetics	Yusuke Shigeta	27	M	Self-employed	Kanagawa
27	Lady's Slipper Orchid on Mt. Shiomidake	Naoki Minorikawa	49	M	Company employee	Kanagawa
28	For the Homeland	Toyokazu Kaneko	75	M	Retired	Kanagawa
29	Sole Live Art	Kumiko Nagaiwa	19	F	Student	Kanagawa
30	Hime's Servile Daily Life	Yu Katsumata	27	M	Unemployed	Kanagawa
31	Portrait of Peace	Kiyoko Kaneko		F	Housewife	Kanagawa
32	The Way	Fujisawa Municipal Shonandai Junior High School Arts and Literature Club			Students	Kanagawa
33	Minori's Folklore: "A Young Man Bewitched by a Fox"	Minori Community Center				Fukui
34	Mt. Myogisan Road - My Internal Conflict	Kazuhiko Yoshino	47	M	Self-employed	Nagano
35	A Port Town "Tomo"	Shunsuke Matsushima	24	M	Student	Gifu
36	Maktub	Ryo Katanosaka	21	M	Student	Shiga
37	The Greatest Wall	Hiroyuki Hagihara/ Mitsuo Miyamoto			Students	Shiga

38	The Finale	Hitomi Takemura	21	F	Student	Kyoto
39	At a Barber	Koji Hori	67	M	Retired	Osaka
40	My Husband is a Freak!	Shizuka Otsuka	21	F	Housewife	Hyogo
41	Restoring a Thatched Roof	Yasuhiro Okamoto	60	M	Company employee	Hyogo
42	Energetic to the End	Harumi Matsuda	72	M	Certified social insurance labor consultant	Hiroshima
43	Debris Flow Country - Japan	Kenji Okimoto	73	M	Self-employed	Hiroshima
44	Sumo Wrestling by the Gods	Fumiko Hagio	57	F	Company employee	Fukuoka
45	Anmochidago-jiru Soup is Delicious	Chieko Watanabe	61	F	Self-employed	Kumamoto

* Japanese entrants are listed by region from North to South.

< International >

NO.	Title	Entrants' name	Age	M / F	Occupation	Country / Region
46	Flying in the Wind (迎风飘扬)	Zhou Shilun	23	M	Student	China
47	Kites - Visit to Guangzhou (鸪·寻广州故事)	Five Fly			Students	China
48	Olympics in a Hongqiao Backstreet (虹桥弄的奥林匹克)	Shan Zuolong	21	M	Student	China
49	Rouge (红粉)	Jin Huaqing	28	M	Imaging industry	China
50	Urban "Typ"ification (城“式”化)	Yu Kai	24	M	Student	China
51	Banana & Flower	Wong Wing Cheong	22	M	Photographer	Hong Kong
52	20 years - Just Video-ing My Children (a video salad of my 3 sons +1)	Kidlat Tahimik	66	M	Artist/ Film maker	Philippines
53	Hard Boiled Eggs	Wesley Leon Aroozoo	23	M	Student	Singapore
54	KH1	Kim Youn	18	F	Student	South Korea
55	A Brighter Day	Wichanon Somumjarn	26	M	Independent film maker	Thailand
56	ROJO EN EL BOSQUE SANGRIENTO ROJO EN EL BOSQUE SANGRIENTO (Red Bloody Forest)	Tetsuo Lumiere	28	M	Professor	Argentina
57	Primogênito Complexo (Firstborn Complex)	Lavinia Chianello/ Tomás Creus			Film industry	Brazil
58	Urbe (Big City)	Marcos Pimentel	31	M	Documentary Director	Brazil
59	Yurany	Ovilda Isabela Isaza	27	F	Producer	Colombia
60	.a priori (A Priority)	Rob Jacobs	19	M	Student	Belgium
61	Cloudy Rain	Sumiko Shoji	42	F	Artist	Germany
62	N'tamat	Jordane Maurs	29	F	Imaging industry	Germany
63	Sotto il mio giardino (Under My Garden)	Andrea Lodovichetti	32	M	Director	Italy
64	Simple Day	Janis Vitolis	19	M	Student	Latvia
65	Who I Am (Not)	Peter Vodička	21	M	Student	Slovakia
66	MADE IN JAPAN	Promofest				Spain
67	VOICES WE SHALL NEVER HEAR	Leandro Blanco	59	M	Airline Pilot	Spain
68	La Biquette Émissaire (Nanny-goat Emissary)	Filippo Filliger	30	M	Director	Switzerland
69	CLIMATE CYCLE	Undercurrents				U.K.
70	Seeing	Robin Whenary	24	M	Gardener	U.K.

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