THE INTERNATIONAL OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (IOC) OFFERS THE FOLLOWING VIDEO NEWS RELEASE TO ALL NEWS AGENCIES, BROADCASTERS AND ALL ONLINE PLATFORMS FREE OF CHARGE

STORY HEADLINE: Animated film “Tomorrow’s Leaves” which celebrates the Olympic values is released worldwide on the day of the Tokyo 2020 Opening Ceremony

LOCATION: Tokyo, Japan
DATE: 23 July 2021
LANGUAGE: English

STORY SCRIPT: The short animated film “Tomorrow’s Leaves” has been released worldwide today to coincide with the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

Commissioned by the Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage (OFCH), and produced by the Academy Award-nominated Yoshiaki Nishimura of Studio Ponoc, the film provides a fresh perspective on the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect. It opened the Annecy International Animated Film Festival last month,

Angelita Teo, Director of the OFCH, said: “We wanted to celebrate the Olympic spirit with an entirely new audience, especially young people, through a different kind of artistic project.

“To lead up to the cultural programme at Tokyo 2020, we decided to explore animation to express the Olympic values of excellence, friendship and respect. This film is a work of art to inspire future generations, with a message about the importance of collaboration and care for the environment.”

The film carries a meaningful message about solidarity, collaboration and the environment. It features five children from diverse lands, who are dispatched as envoys to find out why the annual arrival of leaves carries a message of concern. The envoys travel to a distant land, quietly guided by tiny spirits.

Each envoy has its own strengths and vulnerabilities. They compete and support each other as they draw closer to their destination, facing treacherous terrain and difficult conditions. Through athletic challenges and the uniting power of sport, they discover the positive fundamental values that come with playful competition. Together, the envoys approach the source of the message and try to restore life to a future in peril.
This commission is in keeping with the OFCH’s mission to offer opportunities to artists to create new works that explore the relationship between art, sport and the Olympic values, through its International Arts and Culture Programmes. “Tomorrow’s Leaves” shares messages of hope, peace and solidarity, and leaves a powerful artistic legacy for animation fans across the globe.

Producer Yoshiaki Nishimura said: “Studio Ponoc has made this short film keeping in mind children’s future or ‘tomorrow’. It may be difficult to screen the film in many countries currently, but thanks to the internet, I am grateful that we can deliver the film to children not only in Japan but around the world.”

Among the limited theatrical releases worldwide will be special screenings at the Tokyo Skytree, a stunning aerial location in the Tobu Tower, one of the most famous tourist spots in Tokyo, as well as free screenings at the United Cinema in Toyosu near Tokyo, from today (23 July) and 29 July.

Other film festivals that have expressed interest in screening the film include the BFI London Film Festival, the Cinekid Festival 2021 in Amsterdam and the Newport Beach Film Festival in California.

Credits
Director: Yoshiyuki Momose
Music: Takatsugu Muramatsu
Producer: Yoshiaki Nishimura

SHOTLIST:
00:01 “Tomorrow’s Leaves” trailer, outlining the story of five young people spreading the Olympic values of hope, peace and solidarity, while highlighting environmental issues facing the planet.

-- ENDS --

© Copyright International Olympic Committee 2021. This content is the exclusive property of the International Olympic Committee (IOC). IOC-VNRs are for bona fide news reporting purposes only and all rights required for their production have been cleared. Terms and Conditions of the IOC Newsroom and olympics.com apply.

For more information, please contact the IOC Media Relations Team: Tel: +41 21 621 6000, email: pressoffice@olympic.org, or visit our web site at www.olympics.com