

Yamato (California)

Artwork



Trailer

<https://youtu.be/swscTWuGPbk>

Credits

Director: Daisuke MIYAZAKI

Cast: Hanae KAN / Nina ENDO / Reiko KATAOKA / Haruka UCHIMURA / Masayuki SHIONOYA

Genre

Family / Cultural Difference / Drama

Information

[2016 / Color / HD / Stereo / 119 min. / Japanese with English subtitles]

Festival Record

- Official Selection - The 20th Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival
- Official Selection - The 16th Transilvania International Film Festival
- Official Selection - The 45th Montreal Festival du Nouveau Cinéma
- Official Selection - The 41st Sao Paulo International Film Festival
- Official Selection - The 27th Singapore International Film Festival
- Official Selection - The 38th Durban International Film Festival
- Official Selection - The 8th Cambodia International Film Festival
- Official Selection - The 12th Osaka Asian Film Festival
- Official Selection - The 10th Amsterdam CINEMASIA Film Festival
- Official Selection - The 11th Asian Pacific Screen Awards
- Official Selection - The 12th Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival
- Official Selection - The 11th Five Flavours Film Festival
- Official Selection - The 5th Berlin Asian Film Festival
- Official Selection - The 10th Hong Kong Independent Film Festival
- Official Selection - The 17th South Taiwan Film Festival
- Official Selection - The 17th Frankfurt Nippon Connection Film Festival
- Official Selection - The 11th New York Japan Cuts Film Festival
- Official Selection - The 19th Japan-Filmfest Hamburg
- Official Selection - Macau Han-Lan Cinema 2016

Synopsis

Sakura is a moody teenage girl living close to the US military base in the city of Yamato, a town north of Tokyo. She wants to become a musician like the American rappers she admires, but is held back by stage-fright when faced with performing in front of a live audience.

Then she meets Rei, the half-Japanese half-American daughter of her mother's American soldier boyfriend. Rei has flown from California to visit for the summer. Sakura dislikes her immediately, but Rei's familiarity with American Hip Hop becomes a bridge between the two girls as they spend an unforgettable time together exploring, arguing over and bonding through the mix of Japanese and American culture in the unique landscape of Yamato.

Though their adventures and quarrels may lead Sakura into danger, they may also let her face her fears and participate in the city's music competition.

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Tora-san of Goto

Artwork



Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/297642239>

Credits

Masaru OURA

Genre

Documentary

Information

[2016 / Color / HD / Stereo / 114 min. / Japanese with English subtitles]

Festival Record

Winner Incentive Award - Galaxy Award 2016

Winner Grand Prix - Fuji Networks System Documentary Grand Prize 2016

Winner Best Documentary - Shanghai TV Festival 2016

Winner Documentary Film Grand Prize - Agency for Cultural Affairs Film Award 2017

Synopsis

Nagasaki City is two hours by plane and bus from Tokyo. Seventy miles further east of Nagasaki lies the Goto Archipelago. In the north of the archipelago, on the island of Kamigoto, Tora-san and his family live, making natural salt and Goto Udon. There are 9 people in his family, 7 children. We began following them in 1999. The father, Tora-san, has a personal motto: Train your own kids yourself. The children wake up every morning at 5 a.m. and help make udon for an hour before they go off to school. Tora-san says he wants them to learn important life lessons that they cannot learn at school. Each of the 7 children have their own feelings about this as they grow up. One rebels against her father and leaves home. One stays home and becomes a fisherman. Each child is different. The children growing up strong, their father growing old, the fights, sorrows, and joys shared by parents and children...a portrait of the changing generations of a family, woven together with the natural beauty and the festivals of Goto. How will this family live, how will they thrive, on this remote island? From when the youngest child is two to when he is 24, this documentary traces 22 years of one family's history.

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I AM A WEAPON

Artwork



Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/182643325>

Credits

Director: Akihiro MIMA

Cast: Ibuki TSUJI / Hideki TAMAI / Yuka HIRAHARA / Takeshi YAMAMOTO / Shun SUGATA

Genre

Thriller

Information

[2016 / Color / HD / Stereo / 88 min. / Japanese with English subtitles]

Festival Record

Winner Incentive Award - Galaxy Award 2016

Winner Grand Prix - Fuji Networks System Documentary Grand Prize 2016

Winner Best Documentary - Shanghai TV Festival 2016

Winner Documentary Film Grand Prize - Agency for Cultural Affairs Film Award 2017

Synopsis

Moto Maruse witnessed his father beat the man who was having an affair with his mother to death during his childhood. Because of this, he is worried that he might someday develop and impulse for violence. Avoiding relationships with other people, Moto becomes a piano tuner. One day, he meets a boy named Shaku Fujii who has many things in common with him, and Moto starts teaching him piano. Shaku's mother Itsuka has an ex-husband named Seiichiro who is a journalist and investigates puzzling random incidents of violence that have occurred in various locations. At the same time, Moto is drawn into a mysterious organization for acting revenge, "Messengers." However, Seiichiro starts to expose the existence of the organization.

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Grab the Sun

Artwork



Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/281767110>

Credits

Director: Yutaro NAKAMURA
 Cast: Kaito YOSHIMURA / Kodai ASAKA / Yukino KISHI

Genre

Romance / Drama

Information

[2016 / Color / HD / Stereo / 89 min. / Japanese with English subtitles]

Festival Record

Official Selection - Tokyo International Film Festival 2016

Synopsis

Yat, an aspiring singer and an ex-child actor, Takuma and a photographer, and Yumika, Takuma's ex, have known each other since high school. While Yat appreciates the photos Takuma takes of him as they are what made him famous, he has mixed feelings about their relationship for he fixes his affections on Yumika. Yumika, on the other hand, also notices that she has feelings for Yat but is unable to escape her ambiguous relationship with Takuma.

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But Only Love...

Artwork



Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/158438457>

Credits

Director: Kazuhiro SANO
 Cast: Hitomi ENJO / Azusa SAKAI / Rina SERIZAWA / Miho NINAGAWA / Yoichi IIJIMA / Kazuhiro SANO

Genre

Family Problem / Erotic

Information

[2015 / Color / HD / Stereo / 89 min. / Japanese with English subtitles]

Festival Record

Official Selection - Tokyo International Film Festival 2016

Synopsis

SASAKI Hiroshi has throat cancer, undergoes surgery and loses his voice. He thinks about his life in exchange for his lost voice, and spends his life peacefully with his wife, Harumi. It's as if he was born again, and he sometimes behaves childish to Harumi. One day, his daughter Kumiko asks him "Who's my real dad?" He gets shocked to know their blood type shows they're not parents and a child biologically. It's as if his happiness is completely overturned. Doubts, jealousy, hatred, and delusion overwhelm him. Next day, when he stands still in front of a temple, a man, called YAMAOKA, suddenly talks to him. Hiroshi tells his worries to YAMAOKA, though they meet for the first time. YAMAOKA asks Hiroshi to go on a trip together with Harumi and Chie, YAMAOKA's partner. On their way to a hot-spring, Chie seduces Hiroshi, which makes Harumi irritated. After they arrive at the hot-spring, Chie threatens Harumi, saying "Today is the day you receive punishment."

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I'm10, Then I'll Catch11.

Artwork



Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/200925269>

Credits

Director: Yoshimasa JIMBO
Cast: Hibiki HAMADA / SHION / Kosho KAWAMURA

Genre

Children / Family

Information

[2014 / Color / HD / Stereo / 75 min. / Japanese with English subtitles]

Festival Record

Winner: The Audience Award - 20th Kinder Film Fest Kyoto
Official Selection: Fukuoka Independent Film Festival 2014
Official Selection: Osaka Asian Film Festival 2014

Synopsis

An elementary school boy, Shogo, catches insects and collects them at home every day during his school's winter break. His school mate girl, Kanon pleads with him to become his pupil. Shogo allows it and starts to teach her how to catch insects and mount them.

Shogo knows there is a much larger insect collection in his father's room, which is always locked. But when his father, Toru, comes back from his job overseas, where he is touched by the reincarnation philosophy of India and Bhutan, he tells Shogo that he doesn't want to collect insects anymore and gives his collection room key to Shogo. Whilst wondering why his father stops collecting insects, Shogo gets the key.

Shogo's grandfather, Tadashi, treats his dead wife's ashes as a living figure, but Shogo notices that the noodles Tadashi offers to her for the new year remains in the bowl. Shogo thinks the reason why the noodles don't disappear is because his grandmother has already reincarnated into something else.

After the new year's day, Shogo examines his grandmother's ashes brought from his grandfather's house with his microscope and thinks the reincarnation philosophy over in his collection room. Shogo comes to his parents' bedroom and asks how long reincarnation continues. His mother, Kaori, tells him it doesn't last forever.

A few days later, Shogo goes to the river with Kanon. After scattering the ashes, the strong wind blows. He explains to her that it's gratitude from his grandmother and says goodbye to the river.

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Dressing Up

Artwork



Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/153755025>

Credits

Director: Yuka YASUKAWA
 Cast: Kirara INORI / Karen SATO/ Tomoya WATANABE / Takuji SUZUKI / Yuka HIRAHARA

Genre

Suspense / Child Abuse

Information

[2013 / Color / HD / Stereo / 68 min. / Japanese with English subtitles]

Synopsis

Kumi SAKURAI is a seventh-grader who has been brought up by her father. When she is asked to write about her dream for a homework assignment, she cannot imagine what her future will be like. After hearing a classmate say, "I want to be like my mother", Ikumi starts to be interested in her own mother. Eventually, she discovers her mother's past, which her father has kept secret. The girl opens up a Pandora's Box that she should never have opened. She wanders around the world seeking love to survive. What will she find...?

Copyright Credit

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Kept

Artwork



Trailer

<https://vimeo.com/182517850>

Credits

Director: Maki MIZUI
 Cast: KAYANO / Ken Koba / MOMOHA / IONA / Moe SAKURA / Hiroko YASHIKI

Genre

Suspense / Fantasy

Information

[2014 / Color / HD / Stereo / 70 min. / Japanese with English subtitles]

Festival Record

Official Selection - Yubari International Fantastic Film Festival 2014
 Official Selection - Boston Underground Film Festival 2014
 Official Selection - Feratum International Film Festival 2014

Synopsis

A young girl abducted by a serial sex criminal and is released unharmed, but decides not to inform the police. She must face the moral consequences when the assaults continue against other women. The director, MIZUI, is a victim of a sexual crime and still suffers from its memory, depicts what the sex crime is and how the victim lives after the case.

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