

A HAYAO MIYAZAKI FILM

Ponyo on the Cliff by the Sea

ORIGINAL STORY AND SCREENPLAY WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY HAYAO MIYAZAKI MUSIC BY JOE HISAISHI
THEME SONGS PERFORMED BY MASAKO HAYASHI AND FUJIOKA FUJIMAKI & NOZOMI OHASHI
STUDIO GHIBLI NIPPON TELEVISION NETWORK DENTSU HAKUHODO DYMP WALT DISNEY STUDIOS HOME ENTERTAINMENT
MITSUBISHI AND TOHO PRESENT A STUDIO GHIBLI PRODUCTION - PONYO ON THE CLIFF BY THE SEA
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER KOJI HOSHINO PRODUCED BY TOSHIO SUZUKI
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Studio Ghibli, Nippon Television Network, Dentsu, Hakuhodo DYMP,
Walt Disney Studios Home Entertainment, Mitsubishi and Toho

PRESENT

PONYO ON THE CLIFF BY THE SEA



**WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
HAYAO MIYAZAKI**

Running time: 1H41 – Format: 1.85:1
Sound: Dolby Digital Surround EX - DTS-ES (6.1 ch)

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SYNOPSIS

A small town by the sea.

Five year-old Sosuke lives high on a cliff overlooking the Inland Sea. One morning while playing on the rocky beach below his house, he discovers a goldfish named Ponyo, her head stuck fast in a jam jar. Sosuke rescues her and keeps her in a green plastic pail.

Ponyo is fascinated by Sosuke. Sosuke feels the same about Ponyo. He tells her, "Don't worry, I'll protect you and take care of you." But Ponyo's father Fujimoto - once human, now a sorcerer who lives deep under the sea - forces her to return with him to the ocean depths.

"I want to be human!" Ponyo declares, and determined to become a little girl and make her way back to Sosuke, she escapes. But before she does, she empties the Water of Life, Fujimoto's precious store of magical elixir, into the ocean.

The sea waters rise. Ponyo's sisters are transformed into enormous fish-shaped tidal waves that climb as high as Sosuke's house on the cliff. The chaos of the ocean world envelops Sosuke's little town and it sinks beneath the waves.

A little girl and a little boy. Love and responsibility. The sea and life itself. In an age of nervous anxiety and uncertainty, PONYO ON THE CLIFF BY THE SEA is Hayao Miyazaki's unreserved depiction of the story of a mother and her child.

CAST

<i>Lisa</i>	Tomoko Yamaguchi
<i>Koichi</i>	Kazushige Nagashima
<i>Gran Mamare</i>	Yuki Amami
<i>Fujimoto</i>	George Tokoro
<i>Ponyo</i>	Yuria Nara
<i>Sosuke</i>	Hiroki Doi
<i>Young woman</i>	Rumi Hiiragi
<i>Toki</i>	Kazuko Yoshiyuki
<i>Yoshie</i>	Tomoko Naraoka

CREW

ORIGINAL STORY AND SCREENPLAY	Hayao Miyazaki
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY	Toshio Suzuki
PRODUCER	Koji Hoshino
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER	Joe Hisaishi
MUSIC	Katsuya Kondo
SUPERVISING ANIMATOR	Noboru Yoshida
ART DIRECTOR	Michiyo Yasuda
COLOR DESIGN	Atsushi Okui
DIGITAL IMAGING	Takeshi Seyama
EDITING	Shuji Inoue
SOUND MIXING	Koji Kasamatsu
SOUND EFFECTS	Eriko Kimura
RECORDING	Seiji Okuda
ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS	Ryoichi Fukuyama
	Naoya Fujimaki
PROMOTIONAL SPONSOR	Asahi Soft Drinks
SPECIAL MEDIA SUPPORT	Lawson
	The Yomiuri Shimbun
PRESENTED BY	Studio Ghibli, Nippon Television
	Network, Dentsu, Hakuhodo DYMP,
	Walt Disney Studios Home Entertainment,
	Mitsubishi and Toho

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

A LITTLE SEASIDE TOWN

This is the story of Ponyo, a little fish from the sea who struggles to realize her dream of living with a boy named Sosuke. It also tells of how five-year old Sosuke manages to keep a most solemn promise.

PONYO ON THE CLIFF BY THE SEA places Hans Christian Andersen's THE LITTLE MERMAID in a contemporary Japanese setting. It is a tale of childhood love and adventure.

A little seaside town and a house at the top of a cliff. A small cast of characters. The ocean as a living presence. A world where magic and alchemy are accepted as part of the ordinary. The sea below, like our subconscious mind, intersects with the wave-tossed surface above. By distorting normal space and contorting normal shapes, the sea is animated not as a backdrop to the story, but as one of its principal characters.

A little boy and a little girl, love and responsibility, the ocean and life - these things, and that which is most elemental to them, are depicted in the most basic way in PONYO ON THE CLIFF BY THE SEA. This is my response to the afflictions and uncertainty of our times.

Hayao Miyazaki

HAYAO MIYAZAKI

ORIGINAL STORY/SCREENPLAY/DIRECTOR

Hayao Miyazaki was born in 1941 in Tokyo. After graduating from the Gakushuin University in 1963 with a Political Science and Economics degree, he joined Toei Animation Company. As in the case of his mentor Isao Takahata, this was seen as an unusual choice of careers for someone with his academic credentials. As a university student, Miyazaki had become deeply interested in children's literature and read a wide variety of books written for children from all over the world. He is also a superb draftsman.

As an animator, Miyazaki was involved in the creation of many TV series and feature films, often in collaboration with Takahata. Miyazaki also directed a TV series THE FUTURE BOY CONAN in 1978 and feature films such as THE CASTLE OF CAGLIOSTRO in 1979. In the early 1980's Miyazaki spent time in Los Angeles studying animation with the famous "Nine Old Men" of the Walt Disney Studios. One of his friends and fellow students from those days was John Lasseter, the creative head of Pixar Animation Studios and the director of its films TOY STORY, A BUG'S LIFE and TOY STORY 2. During this period Miyazaki also wrote and illustrated the critically acclaimed epic, the serial graphic novel NAUSICÄ OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND.

Miyazaki co-founded Studio Ghibli in 1985 with Takahata, and has directed eight feature films since. His film SPIRITED AWAY has broken every box office record in Japan, and garnered a very long list of awards and prizes, including the Golden Bear at the 2002 Berlin Film Festival and the Oscar for Best Animated Feature Film at the 2003 U.S. Academy Awards. Miyazaki is still widely known as a maker of films which are primarily intended for viewing by children. His feature film entitled HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE, based on the book of the same name by British author Diana Wynne Jones, received the Osella award at the 2004 Venice Film Festival. Miyazaki was awarded with the Golden Lion Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2005 Venice Film Festival. His latest feature film PONYO ON THE CLIFF BY THE SEA was released in Japan in July 2008.

He has also published several books of his poems, essays and drawings, and designed several highly-praised and unique buildings, including the Ghibli Museum, Mitaka in Tokyo's Inokashira Park.

JOE HISAISHI

MUSIC

Born in 1950, Nagano Prefecture. During his days in Kunitachi College of Music, Joe Hisaishi became interested in minimal music and started his career as a musical composer and began to make, play, and produce contemporary music for a number of concerts. In 1982, he gave his first album INFORMATION, to the world as a solo artist. Since then, he has released many solo-albums and established his own style, which is free from traditional boundaries of music genres. His latest album, ASIAN X.T.C., was released in October 2006.

After releasing NAUSICAA OF THE VALLEY OF THE WIND (1984), he has composed over 50 Japanese and foreign film soundtracks, including MY NEIGHBOR TOTORO (1988) and PRINCESS MONONOKE (1997) by Hayao Miyazaki, HANA-BI (1998) and other films by Takeshi Kitano.

He won many outstanding awards including five Japanese Academy Awards for Best Music, The Los Angeles Film Critic Association (LAFCA) Best Music Award for HOWL'S MOVING CASTLE (2004), and Hong Kong Film Academy Best Music Award for a Chinese film, THE POST-MODERN LIFE OF MY AUNT (2006).

In the past years, he toured actively, performing in a variety of styles, such as piano solo, ensemble and orchestra. His next concert, "Joe Hisaishi Concert in Budokan – 25 Years of Collaboration with Hayao Miyazaki" was held in August 2008.

"PONYO ON THE CLIFF BY THE SEA"

LYRICS	Katsuya Kondo
ADDITIONAL LYRICS	Hayao Miyazaki
MUSIC COMPOSITION AND ARRANGEMENT	Joe Hisaishi
PERFORMANCE	FUJIOKA FUJIMAKI Nozomi Ohashi

*Ponyo Ponyo Ponyo tiny little fish
She's a little fish from the deep blue sea
Ponyo Ponyo Ponyo she's a little girl
She's a little girl with a round tummy*

*Pitter-patter, hop-hop and jump
Look, I have legs! I'm gonna run!
Squishy-squeeze, wave them around
Look, I have hands! Let's hold them now!*

*When I'm skipping with her,
my heart does this dance
Munch n'munch, kiss-hug!
Munch n'munch, kiss-hug!
O he's my favorite little boy, rosy-rosy red-red*

*Ponyo Ponyo Ponyo tiny little fish
She's a little fish from the deep blue sea
Ponyo Ponyo Ponyo she's a little girl
She's a little girl with a round tummy*

*Sniff-sniff-sniff, this smells so good
I'm so hungry, I'm gonna eat!
Take a look around, very carefully
I'm sure he's there looking too*

*When we laugh together, my cheeks feel so hot
Happy happy kiss-hug! Happy happy kiss-hug!
O he's my favorite little boy, rosy-rosy red-red*

*Ponyo Ponyo Ponyo tiny little fish
Came to the house on the cliff by the sea
Ponyo Ponyo Ponyo she's a little girl
She's one happy girl with a round tummy*

In Miyazaki's own words, "The image of this song is a father and daughter singing together during bath time."

FUJIOKA FUJIMAKI

PERFORMERS

Known as the duo Marichans in the 70's, Takaaki Fujioka and Naoya Fujimaki reunited in November 2005 to form the "old geezer entertainment unit" FUJIOKA FUJIMAKI. Singing the middle-aged Japanese salaryman blues, the majority of their fans are baby boomers. They have released 2 albums, FUJIOKA FUJIMAKI I (2006 Sony Music Entertainment) and FUJIOKA FUJIMAKI II (2007 Sony Music Entertainment), and 3 single CDs. Their latest single, "A Small Flame That Ignited an Old Man's Heart" (2007 Zetima), is a collaboration with Mai Sato of the Japanese girl idol group Country Musume.

NOZOMI OHASHI

PERFORMER

Born on May 9, 2005, Nozomi Ohashi is a member of the Central Children's Theatrical Company. She was cast as the young Shuli Ueno in the 4th episode of TSUBASA NO ORETA TENSHI TACHI (Fallen Angels) and young Manami Konishi in YO NIMO KIMYONA MONOGATARI 2005 HARU NO TOKUBETSU HEN (Bizarre Stories 2005 Spring Special). She also played the young Aoi Miyazaki in the 2004 movie INU NO EIGA (A Dog's Life). Nozomi makes her debut as a singer with "Ponyo on the Cliff by the Sea."

MOTHER AND CHILD

Last fall Hayao Miyazaki, who would be turning sixty-seven in the coming year, said to me, "I've come to an age where I can count with my fingers my remaining years.... And then, I'll probably be reunited with my mother. What should I say to her when that time comes?"

This was what Miya-san was thinking about all long while making PONYO ON THE CLIFF BY THE SEA.

A reunion scene was put into his film. This does not mean that the "reunion" which Miya-san mentioned is directly depicted or that Miya-san appears in the film as himself. Through the five year-old Sosuke, he meets a certain old woman. What the two will say to each other, I will not say. I ask that you watch the film and enjoy....

However old you may become, for a child, a mother's existence is vast and deep.

Toshio Suzuki (Producer, Studio Ghibli)

CHARACTERS

PONYO (YURIA NARA)

A little "goldfish" from the sea who dreams of becoming human after her encounter with Sosuke.

SOSUKE (HIROKI DOI)

A carefree and honest 5-year-old boy who lives in a small seaside village at the top of a cliff.

LISA (TOMOKO YAMAGUCHI)

Sosuke's mother, an employee at the Sunflower Senior Day Care Center, who is a competent young woman managing both household and work.

KOICHI (KAZUSHIGE NAGASHIMA)

Lisa's husband and Sosuke's father, Koichi is the captain of a freighter that plies Japan's Inland Sea, and mostly away from home.

GRAN MAMARE (YUKI AMAMI)

Ponyo's mother and also the Mother of the Sea.

FUJIMOTO (GEORGE TOKORO)

Ponyo's father who travels underwater in a submersible yacht which he has named The Basking Shark.

YOUNG WOMAN (RUMI HIIRAGI)

A young woman with a rather old-fashioned manner whom Ponyo and Sosuke encounter in a boat holding her infant child.

PONYO'S SISTERS (AKIKO YANO)

A school of young "goldfish" nurtured inside a spherical aquarium.

TOKI (KAZUKO YOSHIYUKI)

AND YOSHIE (TOMOKO NARAOKA)

Two wheelchair dependent old ladies cared for at the Sunflower Senior Center.

