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TOM YODA
PRESENTS

OFFICIAL SELECTION 2014

WORLD

渇き



OF

KANAKO

A FILM BY TETSUYA NAKASHIMA



SYNOPSIS

When beautiful straight-A high school student Kanako goes missing, her mother asks ex-husband Fujishima - a drifting, irresponsible former cop - to find their daughter. He embarks on a desperate search in the hope of reuniting his 'perfect family' - by any means necessary.

But as his investigation progresses, Fujishima starts to discover the darkness that lies behind his daughter's impeccable façade. Clue by clue, revelation by revelation, he starts his descent into the hellish underworld of Kanako's secret life...

Tetsuya Nakashima follows his internationally-lauded box office hit "Confessions" (multiple Japan Academy Prize winner 2011; Best Asian Film, Hong Kong Film Awards 2011) with an intense, shocking, psychedelic journey into the world of city youngsters insatiably hungry for ever wilder, ever more delirious sensations...

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TETSUYA NAKASHIMA

DIRECTOR

Filmography

Tetsuya Nakashima is the director of the highly acclaimed "Kamikaze Girls" (2004), "Memories of Matsuko" (2006), and "Paco and the Magical Book" (2008). In 2010, his "Confessions" won Best Picture at the 34th Japan Academy Awards, and made the final shortlist for Best Foreign Language Film at the 83rd Academy Awards®.

With each new film, Nakashima continues to explore and reinvent different genres, filtering his unique vision through his powerful and overwhelming visual sense and deep feeling for essential humanity. He has created a remarkable body of work, a series of no-holds-barred entertainments, constantly pushing back creative boundaries with a dizzying mélange of violence, pop and deliriously heightened style.





Director's note

I first read the award-winning "Hateshinaki Kawaki" by Akio Fukamachi without considering a film adaptation. The story appeared to me like a Greek myth, and stayed in my mind for a long time.

Love and hate do not sit on opposite sides of a table. This sentiment, that I felt particularly strongly when I was shooting my last film "Confessions," became the theme of my next project, and then I realized I could use the story of this novel to depict these emotions, 'love' and 'enmity', interacting with each other through the relationship between a father and a daughter.

I also became fascinated with the main character, Fujishima. He is full of flaws and completely messed up, but he can't help but yearn for human connection. The problem is that he can only communicate with others through violence. As soon as he connects with someone, he first harms, then destroys and thus loses the person. I wanted to make a movie about this man. I wanted to portray a good-for-nothing man becoming a father. The loneliness of a man with this kind of nature is not only tragic, but also comic.

In "The World of Kanako," I tried to make a film full of wild energy, in contrast to "Confessions," and asked for baroque and complex performances from the cast. I wanted the audience to grasp the incomprehensible human power radiating from them. I hope you enjoy the story of love and hate between the bastard father Fujishima and the devilish daughter Kanako.

Tetsuya Nakashima, 2014

CAST



KOJI YAKUSHO - Akiyazu Fujishima

Koji Yakusho has received Best Actor awards for several films including "Shall We Dance?" (1996), "Sleeping Man" (1996) and "Cure" (1997). International acclaim followed his performances in the Palme d'Or winner "The Eel" (1997), "Memoirs of a Geisha" (2005) and "Babel" (2006). Recent credits include "Tokyo Sonata" (2008), "13 Assassins" (2010), "Chronicle of My Mother" (2012), "The Kiyosu Conference" (2013) and the forthcoming "A Samurai Chronicle".



NANA KOMATSU - Kanako

Born in Tokyo in 1996, Nana Komatsu began her professional life as a model, and appeared in numerous promotional videos and commercials from 2008. "The World Of Kanako" marks her acting debut.



SATOSHI TSUMABUKI - Detective Asai

Satoshi Tsumabuki received Best Actor and Best New Actor awards at the 25th Japanese Academy Awards for "Waterboys" (2001), his film debut. Further awards have included Best Actor at the 77th Kinema Junpo for "Josee, the Tiger and the Fish" (2003) and Best Actor at the 34th Japanese Academy Awards for "Villain" (2010). Best known for his cinema work, Tsumabuki is also active in television and on stage. Notable credits include "Spring Snow" (2005), "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift", "Tears for You" (2006), "The Magic Hour" (2008), "My Back Pages" (2011), "Smuggler" (2011), "For Love's Sake", "Fly with the Gold" (2012), "Tokyo Family" (2013), "The Kiyosu Conference" (2013), "Judge!" (2014) and "The Little House" (2014). Forthcoming releases include "Our Family" and "The Rising Sun Over Vancouver".



JOE ODAGIRI - Detective Aikawa

Since making his movie debut in "Bright Future" (2003), Joe Odagiri has won multiple awards, including Japanese Academy awards for Best New Actor ("Blood and Bones", 2004) and Best Actor ("Sway", 2007 and "Tokyo Tower: Mom and Me, and Sometimes Dad", 2007). "Sway" had its world premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in 2006. Odagiri's recent credits include Kim Ki-duk's "Dream" (2008), "Plastic City" (2008), "The Warrior and the Wolf" (2011), "My Way" (2012), "I Wish" (2011), "Real" (2013) and "The Great Passage" (2013).



MIKI NAKATANI - Kanako's Teacher

Miki Nakatani won Best Supporting Actress at the 27th Japanese Academy Awards for "When the Last Sword Is Drawn" (2003), and Best Actress at the 30th Japanese Academy Awards for "Memories of Matsuko" (2006). In 2011 she was awarded the 46th Kinokuniya Individual Performance Prize for her stage performance in "Hunting Gun", and won Best Actress at the 21st Yomiuri Performance Awards for "Lost in Yonkers" two years later. Further screen credits include the "Ring" series, "Silk" (2007), "Hankyu Railways - A 15-minute Miracle" (2011), "The Tale of Genji" (2011), "Real" (2013), "The Kiyosu Conference" (2013) and "Ask This of Rikyu". She will next be seen in "Tsukuroi tatsu hito" (2015).



CAST

Koji Yakusho
Nana Komatsu
Satoshi Tsumabuki
Hiroya Shimizu
Fumi Nikaido
Ai Hashimoto
Jun Kunimura
Asuka Kurosawa
Munetaka Aoki
Joe Odagiri
Miki Nakatani



Directed by Tetsuya Nakashima
Based on the novel "Hateshinaki Kawaki"
by Akio Fukamachi (TAKARAJIMASHA, Inc.)
Screenplay: Tetsuya Nakashima,
Nobuhiro Monma, Miako Tadano
Chief Executive Producers:
Tom Yoda, Yutaka Suzuki,
Naohito Miyamoto, Kazuo Nakanishi
Producers: Satomi Odake, Yutaka Suzuki
Associate Producer: Eiji Murano
Co-Producer: Fumitsugu Ijuin
Cinematographer: Shoichi Ato
Lighting: Shin Takakura
Sound: Masahito Yano
Production Designer: Toshihiro Isomi
Set Designer: Toshiharu Nakamae
Set Decorator: China Hayashi
Costume Designer: Hiromi Shintani
Hair & Make-up Artist: Satoshi Yamazaki
VFX Supervisor: Masahide Yanagawase
VFX Producer: Shinji Tsuchiya
VFX Supervisor/CG Director: Ryukow Masuo
Editor: Yoshiyuki Koike
Sound Designer: Mizuki Ito
Music Producer: Toyohiko Kanahashi
Music: GRAND FUNK INC.
Casting: Junjiro Kurosawa, Kumiko Hosokawa
Scripter: Yukiko Nagasaka
Assistant Director: Seitaro Kai
Line Producer: Kenji Kato
Developed and Produced by GAGA Corporation, Licri Inc.
Presented by GAGA Corporation, Licri Inc., GyaO Corporation,
TSUTAYA
Production by Licri Inc.



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