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FESTIVAL DE CANNES

AFTER THE STORM

a film by
KORE-EDA HIROKAZU





FUJI TELEVISION NETWORK INC., BANDAI VISUAL CO., LTD., AOI PRO. INC. and GAGA CORPORATION
present



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A FILM BY

KORE-EDA HIROKAZU

STARRING

ABE HIROSHI, MAKI YOKO,
YOSHIZAWA TAIYO, KIKI KILIN

2016 / 117min / Japan / 1.85 / 5.1ch / Color



SYNOPSIS

Dwelling on his past glory as a prize-winning author, Ryota wastes the money he makes as a private detective on gambling and can barely pay child support. After the death of his father, his aging mother and beautiful ex-wife seem to be moving on with their lives. Renewing contact with his initially distrusting family, Ryota struggles to take back control of his existence and to find a lasting place in the life of his young son - until a stormy summer night offers them a chance to truly bond again.

DIRECTOR & PRODUCTION NOTES

Award-winning and critically acclaimed director Kore-eda Hirokazu returns with a powerful story of family ties remade, drawing more deeply than ever on his personal memories and experience.

ORIGINAL CONCEPT AND SCREENPLAY

The conception of the idea for this film goes back to 2001. "After my father died, my mother started living by herself in a housing estate," says Kore-eda Hirokazu. "When I went back home to see her during the New Year's holiday, I thought that someday I'd like to shoot a story about this estate. The first thing that came to mind was a scene of walking through the complex of buildings with grass that had become very beautiful the morning after a typhoon. I had memories from when I was a child about picking up fallen tree branches on my way to school. I remember how beautiful the estate was after the storm." From there, focusing on the events that occur on the night of a typhoon, the story of a family began to take shape. Kore-eda started writing the script in the summer of 2013. The following words were written on the first page: *It's not like everyone can become what they wanted to be.* "I thought this was a story pertaining to such a motif," he says. "So I made Ryota a man who works at a detective agency even though he wants to be a novelist. Not just at work, but at home too – where he is a son, a husband, a father, and a younger brother – he can't do anything right." The film's protagonist desires success as a writer while working at a detective agency under the pretense of research. Although he married and fathered a child, he has destroyed his family through an inability to stop gambling. The life he leads both at and away from work is very different from that which he once imagined. "It wasn't supposed to be like this."

And Ryota is not the only one... The same is true for the other characters we meet in the film. Kore-eda: "Burdened with a hopeless reality, and unable to give up on one's dream – it is for this very reason that happiness remains unattainable. This is a story that takes an intimate look at the present of people of the way they really are." All the characters experienced great difficulties in becoming the adults they wanted to be when they were kids. Even so, they continue to try and find a way to enjoy life, however different it might be from the future they dreamt of.

"Incorporating the changes that occurred within me after my mother and father died, it's the film that is most coloured by what I am," says Kore-eda. "After I die, if I'm taken in front of God or the Judge of the Afterlife and asked: 'What did you do down on earth?' I think I would first show them AFTER THE STORM."

Kore-eda Hirokazu

CASTING

From the moment Kore-eda started writing the script, he had Abe Hiroshi and Kiki Kilin in mind for the parts of the protagonist Ryota and his mother Yoshiko. The actor and actress first appeared in one of the director's films – also playing a parent and child – in STILL WALKING (2008). Since then, they have often played members of a 'family' created by Kore-eda, who observes: "I wrote the script while conjuring up Mr. Abe's voice in my mind."

Abe reflects on his character's humanity: "He resorts to bravado, and acts tough, but underneath he's fragile. Ryota is forever chasing his dream, and I think I was able to present his dependence on others as a sort of humanity."

Kiki, who has appeared in all of Kore-eda's films since I WISH, is an actress not just prized by the director, but indispensable: "If Kiki hadn't given me the OK, I wouldn't have made the film," Kore-eda reveals. "There's no one else whose presence is so impactful, as an actor or as a person. There were always many things for me to learn as she allowed me to film her."

Ryota's ex-wife Kyoko is played by Maki Yoko, who also appeared in LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON, and who comments: "There was a mysterious sense of relief on director Kore-eda's set. Once again, it was a place where I could be myself."

Lily Franky plays the director of the detective agency, and Yoshiko's classical music instructor – and the object of her desire – is played by Hashizume Isao, completing a cast of Kore-eda regulars.

Kobayashi Satomi, making her first appearance in a Kore-eda film, plays Ryota's unyielding older sister. Ikematsu Sosuke plays one of Ryota's juniors at the detective agency, and Yoshizawa Taiyo gives a powerful performance as Ryota's young son, an innocent child torn between his parents.

The combination of first-time participants and Kore-eda regulars results in an integrated and powerful ensemble cast.



FILMING AT THE HOUSING COMPLEX

Filming took place at the Asahigaoka Housing Complex in Kiyose, Tokyo, where director Kore-eda himself lived between the ages of 9 and 28. Residents who had known him would come to the set to see what was going on and to offer their congratulations for what felt like something of a triumphant return.

"The housing estate itself wasn't able to become what it wanted to be, either." Kore-eda said this because this complex that was built all over Japan as multiple dwelling homes that everyone wanted at one time has issues with dilapidation and aging of its residents, encountering conditions different from what was initially imagined. Along with a sense of nostalgia, Kore-eda shows us an overlapping of the seclusion of the housing estate with the sadness of characters who have been unable to become what they wanted to be. The portrayal of people living their daily lives is similar to *STILL WALKING*, but a story set in a housing complex gives a more down-to-earth perspective. Kore-eda: "In *STILL WALKING*, the parents' home was a private clinic, the setting was affluent, so perhaps there was some sort of link to Ozu. But as for the worldview this time around, the setting is a housing estate, and the character's lifestyle is lower key, duller in color. I get the feeling it somewhat resembles Naruse Mikio."

MUSIC

The film's original title in Japan is *UMI YORI MO MADA FUKAKU* which means "Even Deeper Than the Sea". This title is taken from a lyric of the single *Wakare no Yokan* (1987) by Teresa Teng, who was known as the "diva of Asia," and enjoyed great popularity in Japan.

"Japanese popular music was played a lot in my house, so I wanted to use a lyric from a Showa popular song as the title, in the same way that I got the title *STILL WALKING* whose original title in Japanese is *ARUITEMO ARUITEMO* which comes from the song *Blue Light Yokohama*." A lot of Teresa Teng's songs are about dramatic love, which connects with the concept of not everyone being able to become the adult they wanted to be," explains Kore-eda.

Takashi Nagazumi, as Hanaregumi, was responsible for composing and performing the music and theme song for the film. Director and musician first met when his song was used in Mami Sunada's documentary *ENDING NOTE: DEATH OF A JAPANESE SALARYMAN*, which Kore-eda produced. "Since I started writing the script, I played Hanaregumi's songs as potential music. I approached him to work on the score without question."



DIRECTOR / WRITER / EDITOR: KORE-EDA HIROKAZU

Born 1962 in Tokyo, Japan. After graduating from Waseda University in 1987, Kore-eda joined TV Man Union where he directed several prize-winning documentary programs. In 2014, he launched his production company BUN-BUKU.

In 1995, his directorial debut, MABOROSI, based on the original novel by Miyamoto Teru, won the 52nd Venice International Film Festival's Golden Osella. AFTER LIFE (1998), distributed in over 30 countries, brought Kore-eda international acclaim. In 2001, DISTANCE was selected in Official Competition at the Cannes Film Festival, and the star of his fourth work NOBODY KNOWS (2004). Yagira Yuya garnered much attention for becoming the youngest person ever to receive the Cannes Film Festival's Best Actor Award. In 2006, HANA, a film centered on vengeance, became his first attempt at a period piece. In 2008, he presented the family drama STILL WALKING, which reflected his own personal experiences, and received high praise from around the world. In 2009, AIR DOLL made its world premiere in Un Certain Regard at the 62nd Cannes Film Festival and was widely-praised for marking a new frontier in its depiction of a sensual love fantasy. In 2011, I WISH won the Best Screenplay Award at the 59th San Sebastian International Film Festival. In 2012, he made his TV series directorial debut with GOING HOME. LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON (2013), winner of the Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival, received the audience awards at San Sebastian, Vancouver, and Sao Paulo International Film Festivals and broke the box office records of his previous films in many territories. In 2015, OUR LITTLE SISTER premiered in Competition at the Cannes Film Festival, and received five awards including Best Film and Best Director at Japan Academy Prize, as well as the Jury Prize at the San Sebastian Film Festival..

Kore-eda has also produced films for young Japanese directors. KAKUTO, directed by Iseya Yusuke, premiered at the Rotterdam International Film Festival in 2003. WILD BERRIES (2003) was written and directed by Nishikawa Miwa whose second feature SWAY premiered in Director's Fortnight at Cannes in 2006. ENDING NOTE: DEATH OF A JAPANESE SALESMAN (2011) by Sunada Mami moved audiences worldwide.

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FILMOGRAPHY

AS DIRECTOR

- 1991 **HOWEVER. (SHIKASHI.)** - TV DOCUMENTARY
- 1991 **LESSONS FROM A CALF** (KUGAI HA DOKO HE ITTA) - TV DOCUMENTARY
- 1994 **AUGUST WITHOUT HIM** (KARE NO INAI HACHIGATSU GA) - TV DOCUMENTARY
- 1995 **MABOROSI** (MABOROSHI NO HIKARI)
- 1996 **WITHOUT MEMORY** (KIOKU GA USHINAWARETA TOKI) - TV DOCUMENTARY
- 1998 **AFTER LIFE** (WONDERFUL LIFE)
- 2001 **DISTANCE** (DISTANCE)
- 2004 **NOBODY KNOWS** (DARE MO SHIRANAI)
- 2006 **HANA** (HANA YORIMO NAHO)
- 2008 **STILL WALKING** (ARUITEMO ARUITEMO)
- 2008 **WISHING YOU'RE ALRIGHT - JOURNEY WITHOUT AN END**
BY COCCO (DAIJOUBU DE ARUYOUNI COCCO OWARANAI TABI)
- 2009 **AIR DOLL** (KUUKI NINGYO)
- 2010 **THE DAYS AFTER (NOCHI NO HI)** - TV DRAMA
- 2011 **I WISH** (KISEKI)
- 2012 **GOING HOME (GOING MY HOME)** - TV SERIES
- 2013 **LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON**
(SOSHITE CHICHI NI NARU)
- 2015 **OUR LITTLE SISTER** (UMIMACHI DIARY)

AS EXECUTIVE / PRODUCER

- 2003 **WILD BERRIES** (HEBI ICHIGO)
DIRECTED BY NISHIKAWA MIWA
- 2003 **KAKUTO** (KAKUTO)
DIRECTED BY ISEYA YUSUKE
- 2009 **BEAUTIFUL ISLANDS** (BEAUTIFUL ISLANDS)
DIRECTED BY KANA TOMOKO
- 2011 **ENDING NOTE** (ENDING NOTE)
DIRECTED BY SUNADA MAMI
- 2012 **THAT DAY - LIVING FUKUSHIMA**
(ANOHI - FUKUSHIMA HA IKITEIRU)
DIRECTED BY IMANAKA KOHEI



ABE HIROSHI AS SHINODA RYOTA

Born June 22, 1964 in Kanagawa, Japan. After working as a model, Abe made his screen debut in 1987 with *HAIKARA SAN GA TORU*, before gaining wide public recognition with his appearance in the TV series *TRICK* which began in 2002 and was later adapted for the big screen. In 2008, he received the Mainichi Film Award for Best Actor for the films *STILL WALKING* and *BLUE BIRD*. In 2012, he appeared in *THERMAE ROMAE*, in which his portrayal of an ancient Roman brought him nationwide popularity as well as the Blue Ribbon Award for Best Actor and Japan Academy Prize for Best Actor. Abe also won the Japan Academy Prize for Best Supporting Actor for *SNOW ON THE BLADES* (2014) and the Leading Actor Award for *CAPE NOSTALGIA* (2014). In 2015, he appeared in a lead role in the series *DOWNTOWN ROCKET* which scored the highest TV viewing figures in Japan for 2015. Recent appearances include *EVEREST: THE SUMMIT OF THE GODS* (2016), and the forthcoming films *SHIPPU RONDO* (2016) and *KOISAIKA MIYAMOTO* (2017). *AFTER THE STORM* marks Abe's fourth collaboration with director Kore-eda, after *STILL WALKING* (2008), *I WISH* (2011), and the TV series *GOING HOME* (2012).



MAKI YOKO AS SHIRAISHI KYOKO

Born October 15, 1982 in Chiba Prefecture, Japan. Maki made her film debut in *DRUG* (2001) directed by Sugawara Hiroshi. Her first leading role was in the film *VERONIKA DECIDES TO DIE* (2006). The same year, she received the New Actress Award at the 30th Yamaji Fumiko Awards for her performance in Nishikawa Miwa's *SWAY*, which premiered at Cannes' Directors' Fortnight. In 2010, she gave a tour-de-force performance in the NHK historical drama *RYOMADEN - THE LEGEND* as the wife of Sakamoto Ryoma (played by Fukuyama Masaharu). Further credits include the popular TV drama series *THE BEST DIVORCE* (2013), *A RESTAURANT WITH MANY PROBLEMS* (2015) and many others. In 2013, her performance in Tatsushi Omori's *THE RAVINE OF GOODBYE* won her the Japan Academy Prize for Best Actress. She also won the Japan Academy Prize for Best Supporting Actress for her performance in the Cannes Jury Prize winner *LIKE FATHER, LIKE SON*. *AFTER THE STORM* marks her second appearance in a Kore-eda film.



YOSHIZAWA TAIYO AS SHIRAISHI SHINGO

Born January 19, 2003 in Tokyo, Japan. In 2014 he made his acting debut in the TV series *HANAKO & ANNE*, and has also appeared in Zeze Takahisa's *STRAYER'S CHRONICLE* (2015) and TV series *UTENAI KEIKAN* (2016), adapted from the popular novel by Yoshiaki Ando.



KIKI KILIN AS SHINODA YOSHIKO

Born January 15, 1943 in Tokyo, Japan. In 1961, Kiki began her studies at the Bungakuza Actors Studio. She first won nationwide popularity following her appearance in the TV series *SHICHININ NO MAGO*. In 1974, she was acclaimed for the role as a mother of the lead character in the popular family TV series *TERAUCHI KANTARO IKKA*, and has remained active in films and TV ever since. Widely acknowledged as one of the finest actresses working in Japan, in 2007, she received the Japan Academy Prize for Best Actress with the film *TOKYO TOWER: MOM AND ME, AND SOMETIMES DAD*, and with *STILL WALKING* (2008), she won the Best Actress Award at the Three Continents Festival. Further credits include *VILLAIN* (2010), *CHRONICLE OF MY MOTHER* (2012), and *KAKEKOMI* (2015). In 2015, she appeared as a leper in the Cannes-premiered *SWEET RED BEAN PASTE* directed by Kawase Naomi and received Asia Pacific Screen Awards for Best Performance by an Actress. *AFTER THE STORM* marks her fifth collaboration with director Kore-eda.



CAST

SHINODA RYOTA ABE HIROSHI
SHIRAISHI KYOKO MAKI YOKO
SHIRAISHI SHINGO YOSHIZAWA TAIYO
SHINODA YOSHIKO KIKI KIUN

CREW

Original Story / Written by KORE-EDA HIROKAZU
Edited / Directed by KORE-EDA HIROKAZU
Music by HANAREGUMI
Director of Photography YAMAZAKI YUTAKA
Lighting by OSHITA EIJI
Sound by TSURUMAKI YUTAKA
Production Designer MITSUMATSU KEIKO
Production by AOI PRO. INC.
Chief Executive Producers ISHIHARA TAKASHI
KAWASHIRO KAZUMI
FUJIWARA TSUGIHIKO
TOM YODA
Executive Producers KUWATA YASUSHI
HAMADA KENJI
NAKAE YASUHIITO
MATSUSHITA TSUYOSHI
Associate Producer OSAWA MEGUMI
Producers MATSUZAKI KAORU
YOSE AKIHIKO
TAGUCHI HIJIRI

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