

A FILM BY KOJI YAMAMOTO

DIANA ACEVEDO YUI OHTA KOTOMI HIROTA

# MAKHALISS

COAST VISION PRODUCTIONS, KAMEI KOGYO, STRAW HUT MEDIA PRESENT A FILM BY KOJI YAMAMOTO "MAKHALISS" DIANA ACEVEDO YUI OHTA KOTOMI HIROTA GLEN CASPILLO MIO KIYOTA EIGO TANAKA  
TAKESHI MASAGO ARASHI SHIMONOSONO PRODUCED BY KOJI YAMAMOTO KAZUKI FENDO SAORI YAJIMA HIROAKI MORI MARIKO ARAI RYAN TILLOTSON JOEY HARRIS CASTING BY RYAN TILLOTSON JOEY HARRIS RYOICHI WADA  
MUSIC BY KOJI YAMAMOTO EDITED BY KOJI YAMAMOTO DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY NICHOLAS MATTHEWS ART DIRECTOR SARA MATSUTAKE IROHA FUKAYA COSTUME DESIGNER HITOMI SATO EXECUTIVE PRODUCER NOBUYUKI KAMEI YASUTO KAMEI MASUMI ASANO OSAMU UEMURA  
SCREENPLAY BY KOJI YAMAMOTO CARSTEN DAU DIRECTED BY KOJI YAMAMOTO



# MAKHALISS

[Narrative Short]

*Genre:* Drama, Fantasy, Supernatural

*Running Time:* 30 minutes

*Directed By:* Koji Yamamoto

*Written By:* Koji Yamamoto Carsten Dau Kenta Ikeda

*Produced By:* Koji Yamamoto Kazuki Endo Saori Yajima

*Production Company:* Coast Vision Productions

*Cinematographer:* Nicholas Matthews

*Composer:* Koji Yamamoto





# LOGLINE

A cold-hearted reaper, MAKHALISS, meets a dying teenage girl, SATSUKI, who secretly plans to kill her mother out of mercy to save her from the worst agony any mother could go through: seeing her own child die.

# SYNOPSIS

A cold-hearted reaper, MAKHALISS, does not hesitate to take the lives of humans because of her grudge against them. She believes they are all better off dead because death brings peace to their spirits. Unimpressed with how she handles her victims, a wise reaper, TOKALI, shares his wisdom: "In human form, some spirits may choose to suffer. Or struggle." Unable to understand his words, MAKHALISS moves on to meet a dying 17-year-old girl, Satsuki, who suffers from the guilt of leaving her single mother behind. As MAKHALISS witnesses the tragic fate of SATSUKI and her mother, she learns why some spirits choose to suffer and how love could be cruel yet beautiful.

# OUR STORY

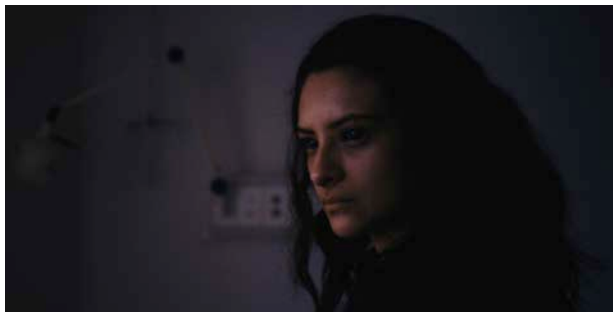
MAKHALISS is an international project made with a team of passionate cast and crew from Japan and America. Since the story is told through the perspective of an outsider, a reaper, who doesn't understand human minds, we had to make sure Japan, our filming location, and the story of a Japanese mother and daughter felt foreign and unique. To achieve that, we had a group of filmmakers and cast from America: a cinematographer, **Nicholas Matthews** (*Cuck*, *Ice Cube's "Good Cop, Bad, Cop"*), co-writer, **Carsten Dau**, actors, **Diana Acevedo** and **Glen Caspillo**.

Filed in beautiful mountain landscapes of Nagano prefecture during autumn, beautiful colors of the dying leaves and the sense of isolation made the film visually bleak, emotional and powerful. It's a surreal yet beautiful world.

This film deals with death in a very poetic way. It's about finding beauty and peace in it. It doesn't either justify or deny what death brings to us all. During the production, we received a devastating news: one of the producers' best friend took his own life. In spite of this tragedy, he insisted to keep working on this film since he believed making this film would help him deal with the sorrow.

This film became very personal to him and also everyone involved since death is a universal theme we all deal with. This is a film dedicated to those who have been affected by deaths of their loved ones.





## Diana Acevedo as *Makhaliss*

Diana is a Los Angeles based actress known for *A Clear Shot*, *The Haunting of La Llorona*, and *Killer Looks*. This is her first time acting in an Asian film.



## Yui Ohta as *Satsuki*

Yui is a Tokyo based actress and a radio personnel. She has acted for many tv shows including *Kyokara Orewa*, a series based on top selling Japanese comic book.



## Kotomi Hirota as *Mother*

Kotomi is a Tokyo based actress who acted for many commercials, TV shows and feature films.

# DIRECTOR, Koji Yamamoto

Born and raised in Japan, Koji moved to Los Angeles at the age of 18 and studied filmmaking at California State University, Long Beach. While living in California, he directed short films such as *Blue Prairie* and *And so the Story Goes*. *Ghost of the Sun*, a short fantasy film he made in Japan, premiered at 69<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival.

After living in California for 7 years, Koji moved back to Japan and started his own production company, Coast Vision Productions. He has directed films and commercials for both the Japanese and international clients.

He is a multi-skilled filmmaker who can direct, write, produce, edit, compose, and vfx. His commercial clients include Sony, Square Enix, Pokerstars, Airbnb, FWD Insurance and Docomo.





## CINEMATOGRAPHER, Nicholas Matthews

Nicholas is a Los Angeles based cinematographer. He's filmed projects all over the world. The Hollywood Reporter praised his use of "expansive widescreen" and "adept long takes" on the *2018 Dances with Films Grand Jury Prize winner*. And the L.A. Times called his work on border thriller *The Boatman* "more art film than action film; deliberately paced, skillfully shot, emotionally challenging." In addition, he's worked with artists ranging from **Ice Cube** to **Rise Against**, as well as brands like **Specialized Bikes**, **Lego** and **Experian**.



## SOUND SUPERVISOR, Matt Brodnick

Matt is a Los Angeles based production sound mixer. He has worked on films such as *20<sup>th</sup> Century Women* and *Everest*. His work also includes commercials for clients such as Honda, Samsung, Toyota, HBO, Delta Airline etc.





# PRAISE

“Every frame of Makhaliss is beautifully and meticulously crafted by the director Koji Yamamoto. The film is merciless in reflecting the depth of love and human suffering, and in this way it is honest and courageous.”

– Miki Dezaki (Director, “Shusenjo”)

“This is a tale about reapers. In spite of its surreal story settings, its beautiful cinematography and top notch performances drag you into the world of surreal realism. What a shocking movie experience!”

– Akira Nobi (Director, “Secret Waltz”)



# CREDITS

*Directed by:* KOJI YAMAMOTO

*Written by:* KOJI YAMAMOTO CARSTEN DAU KENTA IKEDA

*Produced by:* KOJI YAMAMOTO KAZUKI ENDO SAORI YAJIMA

*Director of Photography:* NICHOLAS MATTHEWS

*Art Director:* SARA MATSUTAKE IROHA FUKAYA

*Editor:* KOJI YAMAMOTO

*Costume Designer:* HITOMI SATO

*Hair & Make-up Artist:* REIKO FUJIWARA

*Music by:* KOJI YAMAMOTO

*Production Sound Recordist:* MATT BRODNICK

## CAST

*Makhaliss* DIANA ACEVEDO

*Satsuki* YUI OHTA

*Mother* KOTOMI HIROTA

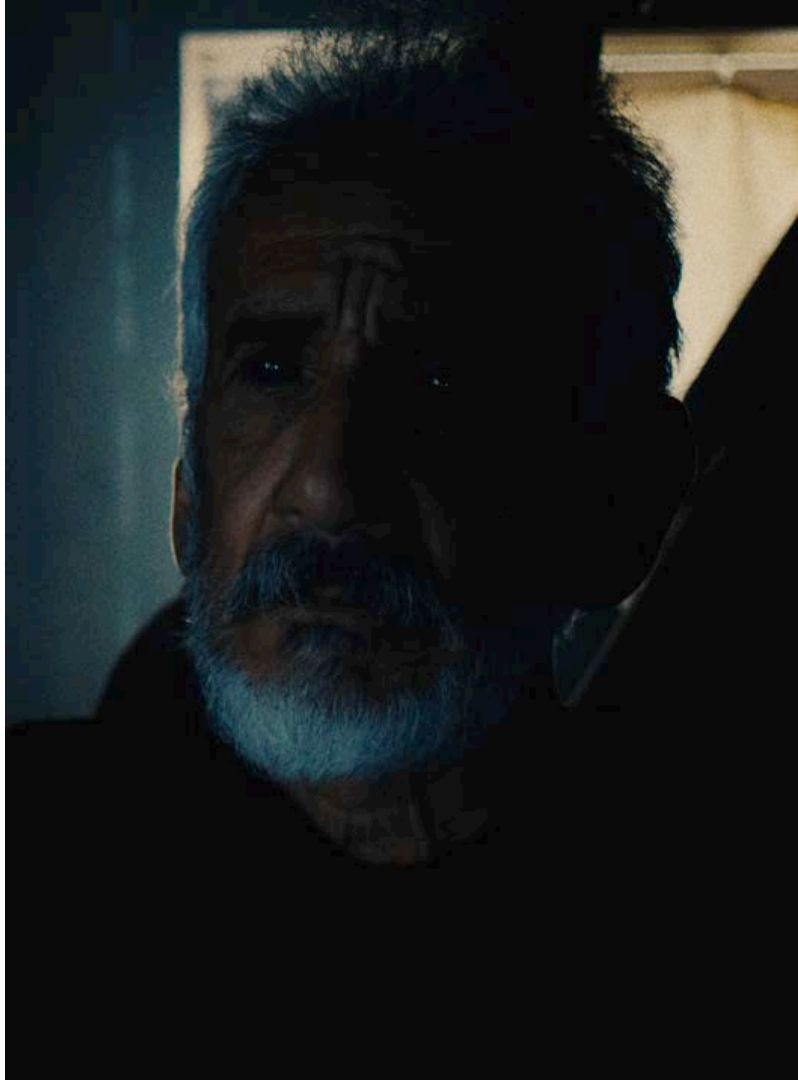
*Male Reaper* GLEN CASPILLO

*Ghost* MIO KIYOTA

*Man* EIGO TANAKA

*Doctor* TAKESHI MASAGO

*Little boy* ARASHI SHIMONOSONO



*Production Manager:* KANA MIYAMOTO IROHA FUKAYA

*Driver:* HIROKAZU MINOWA

*1st Assistant Camera:* KOYA YOKOYAMA

*2nd Assistant Camera:* RYOSUKE SATO

*Gaffer:* KAZUKI ENDO

*Best Boy:* RYUTO IWABUCHI

*Digital Colorist:* NICHOLAS MATTHEWS

*Post Production Sound:* MATT BRODNICK (BAMFSOUND)

*VFX:* KOJI YAMAMOTO

*Camera Equipment:* SONY NAC RENTAL TOYO RENTAL

*Grip Equipment:* CINE SERVICE

*Website:* [www.makarisu.com](http://www.makarisu.com)

