

Original Title:

Ao to Shiro (青と白)

English Title:

Blue and White



Synopsis

In the wake of losing his beloved wife of over 40 years, Ryusuke, an elderly salt craftsman, doggedly pursues his craft even on the day of her funeral, stoking the fires in his lone factory. His granddaughter, Midori, watching him with a mix of bewilderment and concern, silently questions his unrelenting dedication on such a day. Ryusuke sees his commitment to crafting this unique, locally-sourced salt and preserving its historical significance as his ultimate mission. He is resolute in his quest to pass down the centuries-old flavor of this salt to posterity. Accepting his determined stance, Midori decides to silently bear witness to his journey. Amidst the granules of salt and the flicker of flames, Ryusuke may be seeking solace, perhaps feeling the presence of his departed wife.

Film Overview

Set against Japan's stunning nature, rich culture, and heritage, this film explores universal themes, including the profound emotions of its inhabitants. It aims to depict emotional shifts that resonate across time and to reassess the meaning of life. Renowned actor Jun Kunimura, acclaimed for numerous international roles, takes the lead.

Director's Profile



Director / Producer / Screenplay

Hiroyuki Nishiyama

Born in 1974, Hiroyuki Nishiyama is a Japanese director and producer who began his career directing TV commercials. His teaching stint at Toho Gakuen Junior College of Arts for Stage Creation (2011-2014) laid the foundation for his successful theatre endeavors, notably his "In the BOX" series at New York's legendary La MaMa theater in 2015 and 2017. This series gained recognition as one of the "New York Times Top 10 Stages to Watch". A proficient filmmaker, Nishiyama has directed four films, with his debut, "20dB", making it to the Short Film category at the 23rd Shanghai International Film Festival for the prestigious Golden Goblet Award.

Filmography -Hiroyuki Nishiyama-

“20dB” (2020) 14min.43sec.

23rd Shanghai International Film Festival -Golden Goblet-

Tokyo CINEMASTERS International Film Festival 2020 (Best Drama Shorts)

13rd Abashiri Film Festival (Grand prix)

9th Kogurebito Internation Film Festival (Grand prix)

SHORTSHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & ASIA 2021

New York Japan CineFest 2020

8th The Angel Film Awards (The Special Mention Award)

Shinagawa International Cinema Festival

Arthoue Asia Film Festival

MEDIAWAVE International Film and Music Gathering

Sweden Film Awards

The 5th Meihodo International Youth Visual Media Festival

AMERTA FILM FESTIVAL

Damah International Film Festival 2021

“breath” (2020) 15min.40sec.

35th Edmonton International Film Festival 2021

Shochiku Remote Film Festival

Damah International Film Festival 2021

13rd Abashiri Film Festival

Rameshwaram International Film Festival (Finalist)

The 4th Meihodo International Youth Visual Media Festival (Honorable Mention)

Japan Web Fest 2021 (Special Mention)

Nakamaaru Short Film Contest 2021

“Tofu”(2022) 14min.56sec.

Hawai’i International Film Festival 2022

LA Shorts International Film Festival 2022

SHORTSHORTS FILM FESTIVAL & ASIA 2023

33th Yubari International Fantastic Film Festival 2023

30th Kineko International Film Festival 2023

19th Yamagata International Movie Festival 2023

Japan Indies Film Festival 2023

Cast



Jun Kunimura

as Ryusuke

Born on November 16, 1955, in Osaka, he made his film debut in 1981 with "Gaki Teikoku" directed by Kazuyuki Izutsu. His first leading role in "Moe no Suzaku" won the Camera d'Or at the 50th Cannes Film Festival. Subsequently, he has been active in a wide range of films, including "Black Rain" (directed by Ridley Scott), "Hard Boiled" (directed by John Woo), and "Kill Bill Vol. 1" (directed by Quentin Tarantino), among many others both domestically and internationally. He has also ventured into television, stage, narration, and more.

In 2017, he appeared in "The Wailing" (directed by Huh Jung) and won both the Best Supporting Actor and Popular Star awards at the 37th Blue Dragon Film Awards, the highest film awards in South Korea, marking a significant achievement as the first foreign actor to receive such recognition. He also received the Special Actor Award at the 2016 APAN STAR AWARDS.



Momoko Fukuchi

as Midori

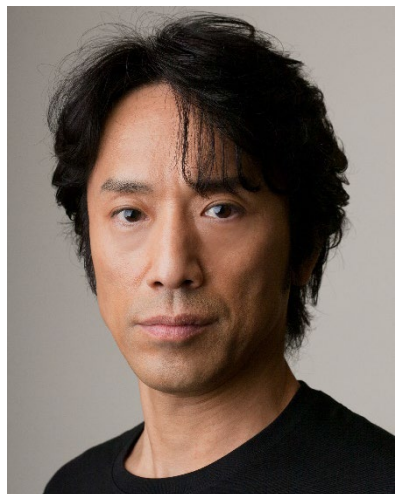
Born on October 26, 1997, in Tokyo, she made her debut in the 2019 NHK Asadora (morning drama series) "Natsuzora,"

In 2022, she appeared in films such as "Ano Musume wa Shiranai" directed by Aya Igashi and "Sabakan" directed by Tomoki Kanesawa. Additionally, she took on roles in TV dramas like "I Fell in Love with the Girl Who Gave Me an Eraser" (NTV) and "Kamakura Dono no 13 Nin" (TV Tokyo).

In 2023, she can be seen in the Netflix series "Maiko-san Chi no Makanai-san," as well as in TV dramas like "Sorette Pakuri Janai Desu ka?" (NTV) and "Kazoku Dakara Aishitan Janakute, Aishita no ga Kazoku Datta" (NHK BS Premium).

Looking ahead, she is set to participate in various projects, including the stage play "Hashi Kara no Nagame" and several other upcoming productions.

Cast



Toshio Kakei

as Shuji

Born on August 10, 1962, in Shizuoka, he joined the theatrical group ☆Shinkansen, which was a student theater troupe during his university days. After graduating, he became part of the theater group Daisan Butai, organized by Shogo Kawaguchi, and remained involved in nearly all of its productions until its dissolution in 2011.

He gained significant recognition for his role as Kentaro Shinjo in the "Bayside Shakedown" series, starting in 1997, which significantly boosted his popularity. Since then, he has expanded his career beyond acting, also excelling as a host in variety shows and engaging in various entertainment activities.



Keiko Takeshita

as Fujiko

Born on September 15, 1953, in Aichi Prefecture, she graduated from the Department of Sociology at Tokyo Women's University. After appearing on NHK's "Chugakusei Gunzo," she made her formal debut in 1973 with the NHK Galaxy TV Novel "Nami no To." She played the Madonna role in the "Tora-san" film series three times and won the Best Supporting Actress award at the 17th Japan Academy Prize for her role in "Gakko." In addition to her successful acting career in television, film, and theater, she received the Individual Prize at the 42nd Kinokuniya Theatre Awards for her performances in "Asayake no Manhattan" and "Umi to Parasol" in 2007. She also received the 66th Japan Broadcasting Culture Award in 2015 and was honored with the Agency for Cultural Affairs Commissioner for Cultural Affairs Award in 2019. Beyond her contributions to the entertainment industry, she has been actively involved in various humanitarian and ambassadorial roles, such as serving as the General Director of the Japan Pavilion at the 2005 World Exposition Aichi, the Vaccine Ambassador for the Japan Committee for UNICEF, and the Goodwill Ambassador for the United Nations World Food Programme.

Staff

Director of Photography: Arata Dodo

Music: Kenji Ichiyanagi

Title Calligraphy: Hicozoh Akamatsu

Production Designer: Shinichiro Shibata

Sound Designer: Takatsugu Sato

Production: nissy plus inc.

Copyright: nissy plus inc.

Country/Region : Japan

Year : 2022

Running Time : 27min.22sec.

Awards

25th Shanghai International Film Festival 2023 -International Panorama-

33th Yubari International Fantastic Film Festival 2023

Regina International Film Festival & Awards 2023

San Francisco IndieFest 2023 (Best Foreign Narrative)

27th Vancouver Asian Film Festival 2023

18th Sapporo International Short Film Festival and Market 2023

22nd Dhaka International Film Festival 2024

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