JULIETTE BINOCHÉ
MASATOSHI NAGASE

A FILM BY NAOMI KAWASE
Duration: 109 min - Japan/France - Image: Scope - Sound: 5.1

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A FILM BY NAOMI KAWASE

JULIETTE BINOCHÉ  MASATOSHI NAGASE
SYNOPSIS

Jeanne travels to Japan to search for the rare medicinal plant ‘Vision’, which according to legend only appears once every 997 years under special conditions. On her trip, she meets Tomo, a forest ranger, who joins her in her quest and helps retrace her past. Twenty years earlier, in the same forests of Yoshino where Jeanne now hopes to find Vision, she experienced her first true love.
DIRECTOR’S NOTE

It occurred to me when I was driving a car one day. Contemporary society may be perfecting a world in which we can live alone. In movies made on the theme of the Destruction of Humanity, a sudden explosion occurs or a virus arrives that causes the destruction. But which if that destruction takes place with our full acquiescence?

It’s a bother to get involved with people. Life is easier without marriage or children. Rather than being attached to a company, there’s more freedom in working freelance, responsible only to yourself. Without contributing to your community, you can pay money and get all the extravagant service you desire. Thus the era has begun where people can live without seeking connections to others.

But...

Is that what humanity has been striving toward?

Is this the «abundant future» promised by the accumulation of wisdom? I wonder.

The exclusion of connection, refusing to pass on one’s genes, sharing none of your neighbor’s pain, a faceless society begins to be taken for granted, and beyond one’s life, nothing more is required. Isn’t this evidence that we have already quietly entered the age of Destruction?

If life forms exist elsewhere in the universe, why hasn’t a developed life form come to Earth to encounter our likewise developed humanity? There is only one answer. When a civilization develops
too far, Destruction begins. The phenomena mentioned above fit this theory.

What influence does Art have on humanity? Artists across the spectrum of genres have pursued this question through the centuries, but they have yet to guide us to an answer. No matter what exceptional Art is employed, war has not been eliminated, while inequality and poverty rooted in the idea of stratification have not been wiped from the Earth. However, when I place my hope in that potential and engage in creative activity that explores the role of Art, I make discoveries within the realm of that film, and I share the doors that lead toward «true abundance».

This film spotlights the “discomfort” that emerges within contemporary society, while embracing our differences and suggesting the next moment that humanity should welcome.
CAST

Juliette BINOCHÉ
Masatoshi NAGASE
Takanori IWATA
Mirai MORIYAMA
Mari NATSUUKI
MINAMI
KOH
Kazuko SHIRAKAWA
Jiji BOO
Min TANAKA (Special Appearance)
## TECHNICAL SHEET

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Director, Writer, Editor</td>
<td>Naomi Kawase</td>
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<tr>
<td>Producers</td>
<td>Satoshi Miyazaki</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Marianne Slot</td>
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<td>Naomi Kawase</td>
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<td>Executive Producer</td>
<td>EXILE HIRO</td>
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<td>Cinematography</td>
<td>Arata Dodo</td>
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<td>Lighting</td>
<td>Yasuhiro Ota</td>
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<td>Set Design</td>
<td>Setsuko Shiokawa</td>
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<td>Sound Recording</td>
<td>Roman Dymny</td>
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<td>Eiji Mori</td>
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<td>Music</td>
<td>Makoto Ozone</td>
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<td>Editor</td>
<td>François Gedigier</td>
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<td>Yoichi Shibuya</td>
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<td>Sound Designer</td>
<td>Roman Dymny</td>
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<td>Sound Mixer</td>
<td>Niels Barletta</td>
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<td>Costume Designer</td>
<td>Meg Mochiduki</td>
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<td>Hair &amp; make up</td>
<td>Setsuko Yoshino</td>
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<td>Céline Planchenault</td>
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<td>VFX Supervisor</td>
<td>Kazuyori Kosaka</td>
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<td>VFX Director</td>
<td>Tetsuya Shiraishi</td>
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<td>Supported by</td>
<td>Masato Odake</td>
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<tr>
<td>Post Production Supervisor</td>
<td>Christina Crassaris</td>
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<td>Production companies</td>
<td>LDH</td>
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ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Naomi KAWASE is a filmmaker based in Nara, where she was born and raised.

In 2013, KAWASE became the 1st Japanese filmmaker to be invited as the juror for the Festival de Cannes, where she has won her international recognitions through her films such as “SUZAKU” (1997) and “MOGARI (The Mourning Forest)” (2007). ”HANEZU” (2011), “FUTATSU ME NO MADO (Still the Water)” (2014) and her latest, “HIKARI (Radiance)” (2017) also were invited to the main competition program of the Festival de Cannes.

Beside her filmmaking career, KAWASE is the founder of NARA International Film Festival started in 2010.

Official Website: www.kawasenaomi.com

Official Twitter: @KawaseNAOMI
1997: “SUZAKU”, her 1st feature film won the Camera d’or at the Festival de Cannes. KAWASE became the youngest filmmaker to receive the award.

2007: “MOGARI”, won the Grand Prix at the Festival de Cannes.

2009: Received the Carrosse d’Or at the Director’s Fortnight at Cannes for her lifetime achievement.

2010: “GENPIN”, won the FIPRESCI Prize at the 58th San Sebastian International Film Festival.

2011: “HANEZU”, was invited as an Official Selection for the official competition at the Festival de Cannes.

2012: Retrospective of Naomi KAWASE at the Cinémathèque Française.

2013: Participated as a jury for the competition at the Festival de Cannes.

2014: “FUTATSU ME NO MADO”, was invited as an Official Selection for the official competition at the Festival de Cannes.

2015: “AN”, was the opening film of the Un Certain Regard (Film d’ouverture) at the Festival de Cannes.

2016: Served as a jury president for Cinefondation and short film competition at the Festival de Cannes.

2017: “Hikari” received the Ecumenical Jury awards at the Festival de Cannes.
FILMOGRAPHY

FEATURE FILMS:

HIKARI (RADIANCE) (2017)
Festival de Cannes – Official Selection, in competition / Ecumenical Jury awards

AN (2016)
Festival de Cannes – Un certain regard (Film d’ouverture)

STILL THE WATER (2014)
Festival de Cannes – Official Selection, in Competition
Vladivostok International Film Festival – Best Feature Award

HANEZU (2011)
Festival de Cannes – Official Selection, in competition
Sguardi Altrove Film Festival – Best Feature Film

MOGARI - THE MOURNING FOREST (2007)
Festival de Cannes – Official Selection, Grand Prix

SHARA (2003)
Festival de Cannes – Official Selection, in competition
Festival del film Locarno, 2000 --
FIPREPSCI BAFICI
Buenos Aires International Independent Film Festival, 2001 – Best Actress Award for Yuko NAKAMURA

**SUZAKU (1997)**
Festival de Cannes 1997 – Caméra d’Or

**DOCUMENTARIES :**
Chiri / Trace (2012)
Genpin (2010)
Tarachime (Birth/Mother) (2006)
Kya Ka Ra BaA (Sky, Wind, Fire, Water, Earth) (2011)
Letter from a Yellow Cherry Blossom (2002)
Mangeko--Kaleidoscope (1999)
The Weald (1997)
This World (1996)
Sun on the Horizon (1996)
See the Heaven (1995)
Katatsumori (1994)
Embracing (1992)

**SHORT FILMS :**
Koma (2009)
Wasure Nagusa (2011)
Home (2011)
A Field of Wasabi (2012)
Inori (2012)