

Director: Yurugu Matsumoto

<Biography>

Born in 1969 in Tachikawa City, Tokyo, Japan.

In the '90s, he started filming original movies with 8 mm films as a student at Image Forum Institute of the Moving Image. Then, he became a freelance assistant director for commercial films working with directors such as Takashi Ishii, Takashi Yamazaki, Yoshihiro Nakamura, Hitoshi Yazaki, Banmei Takahashi, and Shinsuke Sato. The last piece he worked for was Nobuhiko Obayashi's HANAGATAMI as a chief assistant director.

Now he focuses on directing his own works, mainly documentary TV dramas. His short film MIX, an original movie for the first time in 20 years, became the nominee for many film festivals. The next film GACHA GACHA won a lot of awards at film festivals, followed by another short PAY PHONE that was well-received and screened at over 30 national and international film festivals, winning 11 awards including 4 Grands Prix. Its sequel CASSETTE TAPE premiered at 6th Hachioji Short Film Festival won both Grand Prix and Audience Award. After that, it won Grand Prix and Best Actress at 23rd Yokohama Cinema Paradise, making Matsumoto become the very first director of the festival who won four Grands Prix in a row.

From an idol movie to a socially aware drama, he directs a wide range of films: VIRGIN BREEZE which he wrote and directed for the Japanese female idol group called Nogizaka 46 was favorably received, and a feature film STARRY SKY captured untold situations that people with disabilities had experienced after the Great East Japan Earthquake in 2011.

In writing, his script TSUREZURE was nominated for a synopsis competition called 3rd MPA/DHU Film Workshop, and director Carlos Saldanha (ICE AGE: THE MELTDOWN and RIO, etc.) highly recommended it. The project was selected for the last stage as one of the best nine scripts at Sundance Institute/NHK Award 2017.

In his hometown Tachikawa City, he energetically contributes for developing movie culture as a teacher at the local Movie Production Workshop and as a judge for Tachikawa Meigazadori Cinema Festival.

<Filmography>

AZUSA (1992), CRIMSON TEARS (1993), OPEN TO VISITORS (1993), MIX (2015), GACHA GACHA (2016), VIRGIN BREEZE (2017), PAY PHONE (2018), CASSETTE TAPE (2018), STARRY SKY (2019)

MIX

<Synopsis> It's a short trip of a five-year-old girl Yuhi and a forty-year-old office worker Osamu. What's on their mind? And what will await them?

<Length> 30 min.

<Production year> 2015

<Award> 20th Yokohama Cinema Paradise - Grand Prix

PAY PHONE

<Synopsis> Saki in her late twenties unexpectedly gets an incoming call from a pay phone. The caller is her father Sizuo, who lives apart from her. Reunited for the first time after a long time, they are both clumsy and two of a kind. A small night's small story where their feelings intersect.

<Length> 16 min.

<Production year> 2018

<Awards> 22nd Yokohama Cinema Paradise - Grand Prix

5th Iwatsuki Film Festival - Grand Prix and Audience Award

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2018 Japan - Best Actor (Takashi Irie) in Official Competition Japan

Zoo Cinema under the Stars - Grand Prix

Tokyo Kanda Fantastic Film Festival – Jimbocho Eiga Award

11th Omoigawa-Cinema-Festival – Director Award

14th Yamagata International Movie Festival 2018 - NID Tohoku Award

3rd Myozenji Film Festival – Grand Prix and Best Audience Award

11th O!!ido Film Festival Tokyo – Special Award (Takashi Irie) in Short Competition Acting