

2020 Tokyo 12 Actors

Overview:

Due to the worsening COVID-19 pandemic, director Yurugu Matsumoto and twelve collaborating actors were forced to suddenly suspend film production. In place of the canceled film, Matsumoto and his team shifted their energies to an alternate mode of filmmaking, focusing instead on how the actors would survive this chaotic situation. In this new film, the twelve actors play themselves day-after-day, confessing to the audience their untold thoughts and emotions through monologues they capture on their phones. Traipsing back and forth between the real world and fiction, they grasp documentary reality, sublimate that into fiction, and bring the resulting truth to light. That is what this docufiction is all about.

Receiving the actors' raw footage as they create it each day, Matsumoto experiences a powerful urge to see his actors perform again in theatrical roles. So, the director hammers out his own film production guidelines designed to lower the risk of COVID-19 transmission on the set. As soon as the Japanese government lifts its state of emergency, the twelve actors and crew make a short film all the while observing the appropriate prevention measures. The resulting short, *Palette*, is shown as a part of the docufiction.

Synopsis:

This movie was shot during the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic in Tokyo. Each having recorded their own footage, the twelve actors appear in the film as themselves. The film now becomes a memory of their two months, living between reality and fiction. This is the docufiction they made.

A Message from the Director:

Are the episodes you see in this movie the reality of the actors or just a fiction? Only the actors who played themselves in this film know the answer. Each actor performs their own person in the film's "real" section while they pursue a theatricalized version of themselves in the fiction section. Be it reality or fiction, each of the film's episodes leaves something in the audience's heart, something that becomes truth.