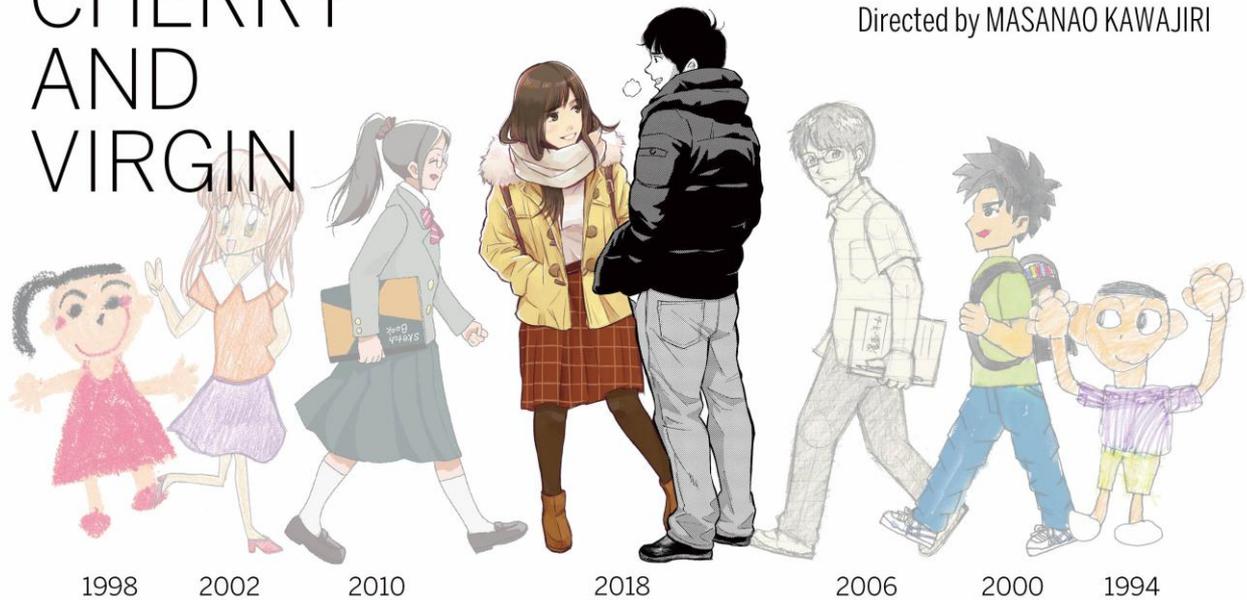


HAF 05 Cherry and Virgin

CHERRY AND VIRGIN

A nervous romance animation.
Directed by MASANAO KAWAJIRI



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Japan

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Animation | Digital Format | Japanese | 70 mins

DIRECTOR:

KAWAJIRI Masanao

PRODUCER:

NAKAMURA Yosuke

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Co-producers

BUDGET:

US\$ 400,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

First Feature Director

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

Animated "otaku" version of *Annie Hall* (1977) where Cherry, an illustrator, meets Virgin, a male-phobic illustrator. Influenced by *manga* and *anime*, they date, form a relationship and eventually break up.

SYNOPSIS

Cherry, an amateur illustrator in his early 30's meets Virgin, also an amateur illustrator in her late 20's, via SNS. They are attracted to each other; however, both are shy and afraid of the opposite sex. Cherry has an average interest in women, but his low self-esteem and boyhood trauma has prevented him from approaching them. Virgin grew up in an ordinary family and has never faced discrimination as an otaku (nerd), since her mother was also into manga and anime culture. Yet, because she went to a girl's school and college, she has had no chance to date or form relationships with men. Getting advice from his nerd buddies and imitating his favorite manga and anime heroes, Cherry tried to ask Virgin to go out with him. Virgin, while shy, has feelings for Cherry but stumbles and sometimes becomes awkward because her knowledge of love is biased on her favorite yaoi (a male to male romance) manga.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

“Animation with multiple designs”: it is common to use a single design to create a style of work in animation. In this film, I differentiate the designs of characters to portray the differences of male and female, the conflict that emerges from such difference, and the joy that comes when the two understand each other. By using multiple designs in a single animation, I will highlight the many styles that exist while creating an ordinary drama that praises life itself. This form of expression is popular elsewhere in the media world, in the Marvel Universe or *Ready Player One* (2018). It also has become a trend to use sub-cultural references or to show a love for the history of pop culture, as we see in *Under the Silver Lake* (2018) by David Robert Mitchell.

“Ironic but light style”: I want to make a film that both animation and movie fans can love. I want to make tragedy or suffering comical in a cinematic way. I also believe jazz music perfectly matches with the theme. Most of all, I have to differentiate this from other animation projects and to make a film that adult audiences can bear watching.

DIRECTOR

KAWAJIRI Masanao

Kawajira Masanao was born in 1987. After graduating from the Osaka University of Arts, Kawajira worked at the Japanese Animation Studio and made a directorial Debut with the animated TV Series *Stella Women's Academy, High School Division Class C3* (2013). Kawajira established a production company in 2017 and has won awards in several film festivals including PFF, the Shimo-Kitazawa Film Festival, and the Odawara Film Festival with the short-film *A Story of A Japanese Drawing Boy* (2018).

PRODUCER

NAKAMURA Yosuke

Born on 27 August, 1972, Nakamura started as film buyer at Gaga Communications. After producing TV mini-series for SHOWTIME's *Masters Of Horror* (2005-2006), Nakamura has produced the Japanese feature films *Dive!!* (2008), *Sunshine Ahead* (2010), *Permanent Nobara* (2010), and *Love Scenario* (2010).

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Nekonigashi.inc

A Japanese production company mainly producing Animation and Video Games.