

## HAF 07 Forgiveness



**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Japan

**GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:** Drama | Digital Format | Japanese | 100 mins

**DIRECTOR:**

SATO Yoshinori

**PRODUCER:**

SUZUKI Masaki

**HAF GOALS:**

Funds, Co-producers, Sales agents

**BUDGET:**

US\$ 500,000

**SECURED BUDGET:**

US\$ 50,000

**DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

2016 *Her Mother*

2013 *Bad Child*

**ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS**

She forgave a woman who killed her husband 20 years ago. But now she regrets it.

## SYNOPSIS

Miki, a 45-year-old woman, arrives in a sad town in Hokkaido as it begins to snow in November. She begins to keep watch over Rena, a 43-year-old woman, living in this town. Rena killed Miki's husband 20 years ago. Forced into the depths of misery, Miki turned to religion for salvation. Therefore, Miki forgave Rena and also helped to mitigate her sentence from death penalty to imprisonment. After Rena was released from prison, however, another murder occurred in the town where Rena lives. Miki suspects Rena is involved in the murder case. Miki starts talking with Rena again and grapples with "forgiveness" she has done.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This project began with meeting a woman. She saw the screening of my previous work, *Her Mother (2016)*. The film tells a story where the victim's bereaved mother is posed to the death penalty of the criminal, but the criminal eventually will be executed. It is based on a true story. The woman said she had a similar experience. However, in her case, the death penalty was actually averted and the criminal eventually was released from prison. Now the woman does not know where the perpetrator lives, but she feels a responsibility for her forgiveness.

This story always remained in my head. Forgiveness carries responsibility with it. I had been thinking about "forgiveness" in my previous work, but I did not think of its responsibilities. Thus, I decided to face the concept of "forgiveness" again. I think humans are full of contradictions. Even though we hate others, simultaneously feel mercy and sympathy for them. I want to film such a moment that cannot be explained with logic. And what is behind it.

## DIRECTOR

### **SATO Yoshinori**

Sato Yoshinori was born in Aichi, Japan on February 1975. After graduating from high school, he went to the U.S. to study filmmaking at University of Southern California. His second feature film, *Her Mother (2016)*, was screened at Busan International Film Festival and other festivals all over the world.

## PRODUCER

### **SUZUKI Masaki**

Suzuki Masaki graduated from California State University in the U.S. He majored in anthropology of media. Now he runs a wedding film company and has produced several ethnographic films. He is also the founder of the Chitahanto Film Festival in Aichi, Japan, which introduces Asian short films.

## **PRODUCTION COMPANY**

### **Aerial Films**

A production company that Sato Yoshinori established 15 years ago to protect his vision and creative freedom. The company name means that imagination should have no boundary, like air.