

WIP E Odoriko



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Japan

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Documentary | Digital Format | Japanese | 180 mins

DIRECTOR:

OKUTANI Yoichiro

PRODUCER:

SHIOBARA Fumiko

HAF GOALS:

Funds, Sales Agents, Pre-sales

PRODUCTION BUDGET:

US\$ 180,000

SECURED BUDGET:

US\$ 130,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2013 *Children of Soleil*

2012 *Nippon no Misemonoyasan*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

An immersive journey into the dressing rooms of the Japanese strip theater, where odoriko dancers bare all, painstakingly filmed over four years.

SYNOPSIS

Odoriko are dancers of the dying art of the Japanese strip theater. Once a popular form of entertainment alongside standup comedy (with the likes of young Takeshi Kitano), today all but 20 strip clubs nationwide have closed. Still, the women travel solo with their costume cases from one dressing room to another in ten-day shifts, performing on stage to a dwindling but devoted group of fans. This observational film captures the everyday lives of the odoriko backstage as they rehearse, chat, cook and eat, pack suitcases, mend costumes, and look into mirrors, often naked but without concern for the camera. The life questions that the odoriko face daily are modest and ordinary – work, children, family – yet the uncommonness of this traditional trade is undeniable. Like dancers' bodies disappearing into darkness when the stage spotlight dims at a show's end, the future of the strip theater seems destined to follow. Deliberately filmed on mini-DV tape in an archaic frame ratio, this third feature documentary by director Yoichiro Okutani will be a poignant and artful portrait of a vanishing culture behind the curtains.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

All things constantly change in the cycle of birth and death, and nothing stays in one place even for a moment. I am drawn to contrast – young naked bodies in old strip clubs of a past generation; transforming city landscape as new architecture takes over traditional neighbourhoods; elder odoriko passing on their art to the young. Strip clubs are no longer popular in Japan. They are restricted by ordinance from rebuilding or advertising. Many will close their doors before long. Nevertheless, there are still many young women who enter the odoriko trade. They don't provide sexual services, but resolutely train their bodies and choreograph shows to provide professional entertainment. This film aims to present an ensemble of many such women. Some appear only in one scene, but each body is unique and different. Time will fly by in this mass consumption society, but this film will serve as testament that these naked women existed before my eyes.

DIRECTOR

OKUTANI Yoichiro

Born 1978 in Japan, Okutani studied at the graduate documentary course at the Film School of Tokyo under filmmakers Sato Makoto and Tsutsui Takefumi. *Nippon no Misemonoyasan (The last Sideshow Troupe in Japan)* (2012), a feature-length documentary about a freak show troupe and its family, obtained a cult following in the cinemas. *Children of Soleil* (2013) was invited to Yamagata IDFF 2011 (New Asian Currents) and Cinéma du Réel 2012 (First Films Competition). Both films have been theatrically released in Japan.

PRODUCER

SHIOBARA Fumiko

She started her career as a CPA, working for Ernst & Young. After receiving her MFA in Film Producing from Tokyo University of the Arts, she started producing films in 2005. Fumiko's producing credits include the Japan/Singapore documentary co-production *The 84-Year-Old Super Idols* (2017), the NHK World's *The Failure of Atoms for Peace* (2017), the Japan/Taiwan documentary co-production *Living the Game* (2016), the Japan/US feature film co-production *The King of Fighters* (2010), and the award-winning Japan/Korea co-production *Nozoki* (2007).

PRODUCTION COMPANY

Shiobara Office, Inc.

Shiobara Office, Inc. has been offering production services (Producer/Co-producer) and consultation services (Consultant) since its establishment in 2010. Production services (Producer/Co-producer) include development and production of film, television, and other video content; accurately understanding and approaching foreign markets to co-produce with overseas production companies and broadcasting companies; and promoting finished works internationally. Consultation services (Consultant) include supporting the creation of funding plans for film, television, and other video content, developing strategies for domestic clients looking to expand business abroad and providing support for putting them into action.