

## HAF 01 The Asadas



(The movie is inspired by the photography collection Asada Family by Asada Masashi.)

**COUNTRY OF ORIGIN:** Japan

**GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME:** Drama | HD | Japanese | 90 mins

**DIRECTOR:**

NAKANO Ryota

**PRODUCER:**

OGAWA Shinji

**HAF GOALS:**

Funds, Co-producers, Sales agents, Pre-sales

**BUDGET:**

US\$1,440,000

**SECURED BUDGET:**

US\$290,000

**DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY**

2016 *Her Love Boils Bathwater*

2012 *Capturing Dad*

## ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

Human drama filled with humor, based on an original story inspired by the photographer Asada Masashi, recipient of a prestigious photography award for his unique family photos.

## SYNOPSIS

A dropout from a provincial city, Asada Masashi created a unique family portrait style, featuring photographs of his family, himself included, dressed in a variety of costumes and in different settings. His photobook, *Asada Family*, receives the prestigious Ihei Kimura Award in its 34<sup>th</sup> installment, launching his career as a professional photographer. He then started to shoot other families and continued to enjoy success in his career. Then, the Great East Japan Earthquake happens, and he loses the desire to continue taking photographs. However, he ends up volunteering in a photo cleaning program. He finds muddy photo albums, cleans each image inside, and returns them to the owners if they can be found. This work and an encounter with two sisters leads to a brand new approach to his photography and his subject matter.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In this film, I'm asking "What is a family?" humorously depicting "love and ties" and "past and present" through one photographer.

The protagonist, Asada Masashi, became famous with the unique style of his photos in which his family members dressed up as firefighters and superheroes, among other things. Afterwards, he started to shoot many other families, and these unique "family photos" with warmth and humor became his style.

In 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake happened. Many survivors lost their family members and houses. When they came back to their houses, what they did first of all was look for their "family photos." It was because they could see their lost families in them... When I heard of this truth, I was very shocked and also understood the power and importance of photos. They are not mere records of the past.

Asada stayed in the places damaged by the Earthquake and then started cleaning photos covered with mud. He realized the power of photos when he saw the people crying with happiness after finding the photos of their lost family members. What are "family photos" for him? When a kid who lost her parents asked him to take family photos, what family photos could he take?

I want to show the way of one photographer who releases the shutter in pursuit of the ultimate "family photos."

## DIRECTOR

### NAKANO Ryota

Born July 27, 1973 in Kyoto, Nakano Ryota studied filmmaking at the Japan Institute of the Moving Image, and his thesis film, *As We Go Cheering Our Flaming Lives* (2000), won the school's Shohei Imamura Award. Six years after his graduation, he directed *Rocket Punch* (2006), which won seven domestic film festival awards. In 2008 he made the highly-acclaimed *The Sparkling Amber* (2009) under the auspices of the New Directions in Japanese Cinema project conducted by the Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan. His first feature film, *Capturing Dad* (2012), won the Best Director at the Skip City International D-Cinema Festival 2012 and had its international premiere at the 63<sup>rd</sup> Berlin International Film Festival. The film was globally recognized, receiving 14 awards, including the Best Supporting Actress for Makiko Watanabe at the 7<sup>th</sup> Asian Film Awards. His second feature film, *Her Love Boils Bathwater* (2016), with Miyazawa Rie and Odagiri Jo, premiered at the 21<sup>st</sup> Busan International Film Festival and then received four Hochi Film Awards including Best Film, both Best Director and Best Screenplay prizes at the Yokohama Film Festival, and the Kaneto Shindo Gold Medal Prize as Best New Director of the Year.

## PRODUCER

### OGAWA Shinji

In 1987, after graduating from Waseda University, Ogawa Shinji began his career at Asmik Ace Entertainment. In 1998, his first assignment in film production was as an assistant producer on Nakata Hideo's hit horror film *Ring 2* (1999). He then went on to produce *Ring 0: Birthday* (directed by Tsuruta Norio, 2002), a take on the same franchise. In 2001, he produced the all-ages breakout hit *Ping Pong* (2002), which was nominated for 8 awards, including Best Feature, at the Japanese Academy Awards. Following the success of that film, he began a multi-film collaboration with indie favorite Inudo Isshin. Their films include *Josee, the Tiger and the Fish* (2003) and *La Maison de Himiko* (2005). During his tenure at Asmik Ace Entertainment, he also produced *Honey and Clover* (dir. Takada Masahiro, 2006), and Vietnamese auteur Tran Anh Hung's adaptation of Haruki Murakami's masterpiece *Norwegian Wood* (2010). In July 2012, after serving on the board of Asmik Ace Entertainment, he established the film-production company Bridgehead Inc. aimed at creating high-quality film entertainment and fostering new talents. He recently produced *La La La at Rock Bottom* (directed by Yamashita Nobuhiro, 2015) and *Pink and Gray* (directed by YUKISADA Isao, 2016).

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

### Bridgehead Inc.

Bridgehead is a film-production company founded in July 2012 by Shinji Ogawa, one of Japan's leading filmmakers. Director Matsunaga Daishi's film *Pieta in the Toilet* (2015) became its first production.