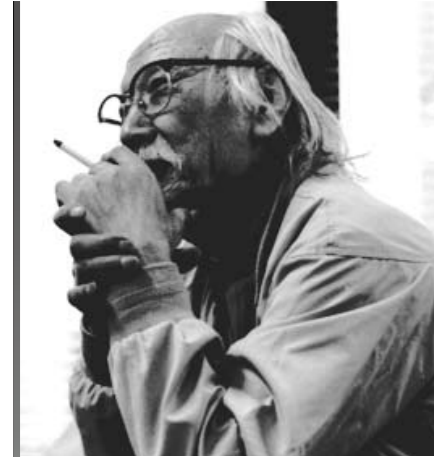


# A Sense of Honey

Japan

## SUZUKI Seijun



Genre: Drama  
Format: 35mm, HD  
Estimated Running Time: 95 min.

Budget:  
US\$ 2,200,000 (HK\$ 17,160,000)  
Funds Secured:  
US\$ 120,000 (HK\$ 936,000)

Producers:  
KITO Yukie  
KANDA Yuji  
HIRATA Mikihiko

Writing Credit:  
MUROO Saisei

Production Company:  
Arcimboldo Inc.

HAF Goals:  
Funds, Sales agents, Pre-sales

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## INTRODUCTION

The fantastic and alluring world created by an aging novelist and a mysterious young woman who is actually a goldfish, slowly moving past mere passion and crossing the line that separates life and death. It is a one-of-a-kind film that breaks the boundaries between dream and reality, love and sex, life and death that could only be created by one of cinema's most influential, experimental and revered high stylists, SUZUKI Seijun.

## SYNOPSIS

"Good morning, uncle." Every morning, a beautiful girl appears before the aging novelist. "What do you want so early in the morning?" The novelist asks, the peevish tone of his voice not completely hiding his joy. In truth, the young girl is an incarnation of a goldfish the novelist bought and released in a pond in his backyard. In goldfish years she is only three, but in human years she says she is probably around twenty years old. Always referring to herself as "Myself", the girl is needy and spoiled, but the novelist cannot help but want to fulfill the bewitching creature's every desire. His devotion can be described as a mixture of kindness towards the young, compassion for an irreplaceable friend, and affection for an ideal woman. The girl, on the other hand, is eager to toy with the novelist's emotions. She makes coy suggestions such as "Make me your lover, why don't you?" and she rocks his heart with her passionate plea, "Tonight is my very first night so you must be gentle with me." With each passing day, the strange bond between the girl and the novelist continues to deepen.

While the novelist has assumed that he and the owner of the goldfish store where the girl was raised are the only two people aware of her true identity, one day a woman named TAMURA Yuriko appears before them and reveals the truth. Yuriko is a ghost who died 15 years ago, and she too had a relationship with the novelist. Suspecting Yuriko's feelings for the novelist, the goldfish girl tries to bring the two together. But the emotional gulf between them cannot be bridged. And soon, another female ghost besides Yuriko appears in the novelist's life.

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In the restless and claustrophobic world that we live in today, personal freedom exists only as an illusion. In fact, illusions are the only way we have left to resist the shackles placed on us by others. *A Sense of Honey* is a story about illusions that transcends time and space to erotically delineate the wet, glistening contact of flesh between a middle-aged novelist confined to his manuscript and a goldfish confined to a glass bowl. Through this story I hope to not only provide a refreshing prescription for the congestion of our contemporary culture, but also present the beautiful poem of life and death to the general masses which consist of both old and young, of both male and female spectators.

## DIRECTOR

Born in Tokyo in 1923, SUZUKI Seijun started his career as an assistant director at Shochiku's Ofuna Studio before becoming a full-fledged director at Nikkatsu. He went on to make several seminal action films. After the release of *Branded to Kill* starring SHISHIDO Joe in 1967, SUZUKI distanced himself from the film industry to work in television. He returned to theatrical films with *A Tale of Sorrow* in 1977. He acquired a new fan base in 1980 with *Tsgoineruwaizen*, a film which went on to receive several awards including an Honorable Mention at the Berlin International Film Festival, as well as winning Best Film and Best Director at the Japanese Academy Awards. A master in the Japanese film industry who has also influenced many renowned directors overseas, his bizarre imagery and experimental yet stylish filmmaking is known as the "Seijun Aesthetic." In 2006 he received the 24<sup>th</sup> Kawakita Film Award for directing.

## PRODUCERS

KITO Yukie started her career at JVC Entertainment Inc. in Los Angeles. In 1999 KITO joined the Tokyo-based Media Suits Inc. where she worked with directors Mira NAIR, Richard LINKLATER and David CRONENBERG. In 2004 she joined Entertainment Farm as the Managing Director of the International Division and partnered with Fox Searchlight and India's UTV to finance Mira NAIR's *The Namesake*. She went on to produce Ethan HAWKE's *The Hottest State*, which premiered at the 2006 Venice International Film Festival. She also produced the award winning film *Tokyo Sonata* with one of the leading international film/TV/video sales organizations, Fortissimo Films. Directed by the world-renowned master of horror and suspense, KUROSAWA Kiyoshi, *Tokyo Sonata* premiered at the 61<sup>st</sup> Cannes International Film Festival and won the Jury Prize in the Un Certain Regard section. The film also won Best Film at Osian's Cinefan Festival of Asian and Arab Cinema and was an official selection of the Toronto International Film Festival, the San Sebastian International Film Festival, and the New York Film Festival.

Born in 1965, KANDA Yuji began his film career as a child actor and in high school he started directing films, which were screened at the acclaimed PIA Film Festival in Japan. KANDA founded a theater company during his college years and took a long hiatus from the entertainment business. He returned to the film industry at the age of 32 and is now working at the casting agency Gambit. He was the associate producer of two of SUZUKI Seijun's films - *Pistol Opera* and *Princess Raccoon* - as well as of HARADA Masato's *The Shadow Spirits*. He also produced *Ubumé no Natsu* by JISSOUJI Akio.

HIRATA Mikihito was born in 1957 and began his career at Nikkatsu in 1985. In 1988 he joined Geneon Entertainment, acquiring Western films for distribution while producing Japanese films. In 1995 he founded Panorama Communications and served as CEO for 11 years, in 2006 he became the Vice President. He is in production of the American remake of the Japanese series *Kamen Rider Ryuki*. He also helped producing the *Tomie* franchise and director OIKAWA's hit horror film *Shrill Cries of Summer* (2008) and the sequel *Shrill Cries - Reshuffle*.

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

Founded by award-winning producers NARITA Naoya and HIRATA Mikihiko in 2003, Arcimboldo Inc. aims to produce quality and innovative films by both new and veteran directors. NARITA Naoya, who started at Nikkatsu, is an experienced producer and his acclaimed films include *Night at Nude* by ISHII Takashi(1993), *L'amant* by HIROKI Ryuichi (2004) and *God's Left Hand, Devil's Right Hand* by KANEKO Shusuke (2006). Together with HIRATA Mikihiko, who also started his career at Nikkatsu and worked on many films with NARITA, Arcimboldo has been producing films with a variety of talent over the past six years and garnered much critical acclaim for films like *Bakushi* by HIROKI Ryuichi (2008) which was an official selection of the Rotterdam International Film Festival and they also enjoyed commercial success with *Shrill Cries of Summer* (2008) and *Shrill Cries - Reshuffle* (2009) by OIKAWA Ataru.