

HAF 12 A Mountain Splits



COUNTRY OF ORIGIN: Japan

GENRE | FORMAT | LANGUAGE | RUNNING TIME: Drama | Digital Format | Japanese | 90 mins

DIRECTOR:

TOMINA Tetsuya

PRODUCER:

HATANAKA Mina

HAF GOALS:

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

BUDGET:

US\$ 1,000,000

SECURED BUDGET:

US\$ 30,000

DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

2018 *Blue Wind Blows*

ONE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS

A mountain splits in two. A woman divides in two.

SYNOPSIS

Sitting by a window, Midori looks out at nothingness. Through a window glass, a mountaintop is splitting into two: the former gold mine of Sado Island, Japan.

Although she is married, Midori's husband never comes home. She sometimes goes secretly to the place where he and his woman live together. However, all she does is just to peep through a window.

One day, a mysterious man with no name appears before Midori. As days pass, they become close. She calls him "NOBODY".

One dusk, NOBODY takes her to the mine and forces her to dig the ground. Strangely, digging becomes her obsession after that.

At the factory where Midori works, her husband's woman starts to work. The angrier she gets, the deeper the hole goes.

Midori asks NOBODY to erase her.

One night, her husband comes home. He just stares at Midori, then leaves. Running after him, she finds him sobbing on the edge of a hole. Midori sympathetically reaches out her hand. But it goes through his body like breeze.

Policemen gather at a hole, investigating. From a distance, Midori looks at it with NOBODY. A dead body is found and carried away. Gazing at it, it is Midori.

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

This story is set in Sado Island, Japan which was once called a golden island. After a gold vein was discovered in 1601, the island went through a rapid economic boom. The mine has now been turned to a museum after it shut down in 1989. When I first visited there, my attention was drawn beyond historical architecture to a graveyard located right outside it. This cemetery is named Mushukubito-no-Haka, which turns out to be for the homeless. In those days, a number of homeless people were sent there from the mainland because of a manpower shortage and made to work under extremely severe conditions. The graves were built for some of those who died from a fiery accident.

Wandering spirits. That is what first came across my mind. Then, I started to wonder: do we really get to know that we are dead when we die or we will never notice it? These questions have led to the theme of this project.

In this film, I want to explore a conflict and a dilemma between “the visible” and “the invisible” that live in the same world yet are unable to intersect.

DIRECTOR

TOMINA Tetsuya

Tomina Tetsuya's short film, *At the Last Stop Called Ghost Chimney* (2013), was in competition at the 18th Busan International Film Festival's Wide Angle section, won the Blencong Award in the 8th Jogja-NETPAC Asian Film Festival and was screened in many film festivals across the world.

His first feature film, *Blue Wind Blows* (originally titled *Smoke on the Water*, 2018) won the Asian Cinema Fund 2015's Script Development Fund and was selected in the Asian Project Market, Busan International Film Festival 2015. It world premiered in the Generation Kplus competition at the 68th Berlin Film Festival.

PRODUCER

HATANAKA Mina

Hatanaka Mina started her career as a designer for an architectural design firm in Tokyo. Then, she shifted to wide ranges of an entertainment industry activities, such as planner and publicist of the martial arts organization UWF International; one of producers for the closing ceremony of the 1998 Nagano Winter Paralympics; and an agent of the Japanese star actor Matsuda Ryuhei. In 2013, she started a production company, TETSUYA to MINA film, with the director Tomina Tetsuya.

PRODUCTION COMPANY

TETSUYA to MINA film

TETSUYA to MINA film is a production company founded in 2013 by the producer, Hatanaka Mina and the director, Tomina Tetsuya. Their short film *At the Last Stop Called Ghost Chimney* (2013) was invited in many international film festivals. *Blue Wind Blows* (2018) is their first feature film and had the world premiere at the 68th Berlin Film Festival.