



Filmmakers in Focus: Mamoru HOSODA and Shunji IWAI

29th TIFF to Celebrate Two Iconic Directors



The Boy and the Beast (2015)



Mamoru HOSODA



Shunji IWAI



A Bride for Rip Van Winkle (2016)

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The Tokyo International Film Festival (TIFF) is pleased to announce that we will be highlighting the work of **two iconic directors: Mamoru HOSODA and Shunji IWAI** at the 29th TIFF, running October 25 - November 3, 2016.

This year's Animation Focus will shine a spotlight on **Mamoru HOSODA**, the brilliantly inventive director whose *Summer Wars* (09) and *Wolf Children* (12) were local and international hits, and whose latest masterpiece, *The Boy and the Beast* (15), became the highest-grossing local film at the Japanese box office in 2015, as well as being distributed in nearly 50 territories overseas. Hosoda's universal themes and storytelling genius have attracted all-age audiences worldwide and his devoted fan base continues to expand with each exhilarating new release.

In TIFF's Japan Now section, following his recent experiences in Hollywood and in animation, the Director in Focus will be internationally acclaimed creator **Shunji IWAI**, whose groundbreaking style and youth-focused vision are known as the "Iwai Aesthetic." From *Love Letter* (95), which put him on the world stage, through the enduringly acclaimed *All About Lily Chou-Chou* (01) and *Hana and Alice* (04), to his latest masterpiece, *A Bride for Rip Van Winkle* (16), Iwai's films have continued to be in a class all their own, each a mesmerizing work of transcendent power, applauded across the globe by fans and critics alike.

TIFF is dedicated to discovering and cultivating new filmmakers from around the world, whose work is highlighted in our Competition section, as well as to presenting internationally acclaimed titles during our 10-day festival. In the past two years, we have launched new sections to showcase Japanese filmmakers who are also in the international spotlight.

With the Japanese Classics section, which highlights masterpieces ripe for rediscovery, and Japanese Cinema Splash, a competitive section that introduces new work by independent Japanese filmmakers, TIFF also showcases talent and films from the past to the present, and beyond.

The 29th TIFF will take place from October 25 - November 3, 2016 at Roppongi Hills and other venues in Tokyo.

29th Tokyo International Film Festival: Oct. 25 – Nov. 3, 2016
tiff-jp.net

For further information or inquiries, please contact: TIFF Public Relations Division
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The World of Mamoru HOSODA (Animation Focus)

TIFF revived its Special Focus on Japanese Animation in 2014 with acclaimed director Hideaki ANNO, the writer/supervising director of the upcoming "Godzilla Resurgence." This year, our focus is on Mamoru HOSODA, and we will be screening all his major films.

"Mamoru Hosoda is a director who evolves with the times. Using as motifs universal themes such as romance, marriage, childrearing and family, he deftly wields the power of expression only available to the form of animation to spin stories that are emotive, more than anything. Now is an opportunity to once again follow the path of this artist's diligence and growth, to take a close look at his art, and bring it to the world."

— **Ryusuke HIKAWA**, Anime Critic/Visiting Professor, Meiji University Graduate School

Mamoru HOSODA Profile

Born in 1967, Mamoru Hosoda began his career as an animator at Toei Animation, before making his directorial debut with **Digimon Adventure** (99). After leaving Toei, he directed **The Girl Who Leapt Through Time** (06), which became a record-breaking hit in Japan, as well as receiving a Special Mention at the Annecy Animation Film Festival. In 2009, Hosoda's **Summer Wars** was selected for the Berlin Film Festival's Generation section. In 2011, he cofounded the Studio Chizu animated film studio with producer Yuichiro SAITO. In 2012, **Wolf Children** was a big hit around the world, with admissions in France alone topping 220,000. His latest film, **The Boy and The Beast** (15), tallied nearly 5 million admissions in Japan, became the first animated film in the main Competition at the San Sebastian Film Festival, and is still playing in theaters all over the world.

Director in Focus: Shunji IWAI (Japan Now section)

Newly launched in 2015 to showcase outstanding Japanese films from recent and upcoming months, Japan Now displays the diversity of Japanese film and conveys unique facets of Japanese culture, as well as providing a multifaceted look inside today's Japan. Last year, internationally acclaimed directors, including Hirokazu KORE-EDA, Sion SONO, Shinya TSUKAMOTO and Isao YUKISADA, screened new work and participated in TIFF Q&A sessions and special talk events.

"Shunji Iwai is a rare director who renders fable-like tales of contemporary Japanese youth and paints memory, time, space and society with his distinctive visual style. In *A Bride for Rip Van Winkle*, his most recent film, he continues to create universal worlds that are rooted in Japanese aesthetics. He has always had an eye on the international market, and now, more than ever, he is a director who deserves greater overseas attention." — **Kohei ANDO**, TIFF Programming Advisor

Shunji IWAI profile

Born in 1963, Shunji Iwai's directing career began in 1988 with commercials, music videos and TV dramas, soon earning him acclaim for his cinematic style and vision, which came to be known as the "Iwai Aesthetic." In 1995, he scored a huge hit across Asia with **Love Letter** and in 1996, **Picnic** won him a second consecutive award in the Forum section of the Berlin Film Festival, bringing him to even greater international attention. **Swallowtail Butterfly** (96) blazed a new trail in movie and music collaboration, and **All About Lily Chou-Chou** (01) won awards at Berlin and Shanghai. Other major works include **Hana and Alice** (04), a segment in the omnibus film **New York, I Love You** (09) and his first English-language film, **Vampire** (12), which played in competition at Sundance and in the Berlin Panorama section. Iwai's first feature-length animated film, **The Case of Hana & Alice**, was invited to the 2015 Annecy Animation Festival. His latest film, **A Bride for Rip Van Winkle** (16), was released in Hong Kong and Taiwan prior to domestic release in Japan.