



## A Banana? At This Time of Night?

こんな夜更けにバナナかよ 愛しき実話

2018/120min/Colour/English Subtitles

Distributor: **NTV**

Director: **MAEDA Tetsu**

Cast: OIZUMI Yo, MITSUKI Takahata, MIURA Haruma

### BROADWAY screening information

<b>Fri 20 Mar</b>	My Love Story!!	8.15pm
<b>Sat 21 Mar</b>	A Banana? At This Time of Night?	2.30pm
	Bento Harassment	5.45pm
<b>Sun 22 Mar</b>	Ride Your Wave	3.15pm
	Lying to Mom	8.15pm
<b>Mon 23 Mar</b>	I Go Gaga, My Dear	5.45pm
<b>Tue 24 Mar</b>	Sea of Revival	8.15pm
<b>Wed 25 Mar</b>	The Actor	8.15pm
<b>Thu 26 Mar</b>	Organ	8.15pm

### Dates & Venues:

31 January – 16 February <b>ICA, London</b>	16 February – 29 March <b>Square Chapel, Halifax</b>
1 February – 24 March <b>Phoenix, Leicester</b>	17 February – 5 March <b>Depot, Lewes</b>
2 – 23 February <b>Storyhouse, Chester</b>	19 February – 29 March <b>Queen's Film Theatre, Belfast</b>
2 – 25 February <b>Showroom, Sheffield</b>	24 February – 23 March <b>MacRobert Arts Centre, Stirling</b>
3 – 24 February <b>Watershed, Bristol</b>	4 – 25 March <b>Exeter Phoenix, Exeter</b>
3 – 29 February <b>Dundee Contemporary Arts, Dundee</b>	5 – 15 February <b>Eden Court, Inverness</b>
7 – 23 February <b>QUAD, Derby</b>	10-12 March <b>Belmont Filmhouse, Aberdeen</b>
7 February – 27 March <b>The Brewery Arts Centre Cinema, Kendal</b>	13 – 19 March <b>Filmhouse, Edinburgh</b>
8 February – 15 March <b>Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff</b>	20 – 26 March <b>Broadway, Nottingham</b>
8 February – 28 March <b>Firstsite, Colchester</b>	27 March <b>Stamford Arts Centre, Stamford</b>
11 – 29 February <b>HOME, Manchester</b>	
15 February – 1 March <b>Tyneside, Newcastle</b>	

This hit film took over one billion yen at the box office.

This quality piece of Japanese cinema prompts laughter, tears, sadness and sympathy, and is based on a prize-winning Japanese non-fiction book. A detailed record of the life of protagonist and muscular dystrophy sufferer Yasuaki Kano and the volunteers who support him, the film asks what it means to be alive, and was shot entirely on location in Hokkaido, where the author lived.

Director Tetsu Maeda made his theatrical debut in 1998 after a spell as a freelance assistant director. His films often deal with themes of life and living.

The director describes the film as a both a coming of age story centred on Yano, and a love story. It just happens that one of the characters has a disability. That character is played by Yo Oizumi, an actor with a theatre background. From the serious to the comedic, this versatile actor stands out among his peers in Japan for the breadth of his vocabulary and improvisation skills. His acting prowess has bewitched many a director.

In order to fully immerse himself in the role, Oizumi used contact lenses to blur his vision and wore prescription glasses during filming. Though he struggled to get used to his newly distorted vision, the actor says he relished the discomfort as part of the process. For actors so used to expressing themselves physically, it can be stressful to play a part that involves physical restrictions. And yet Oizumi's suppression of his physicality has made room for an impressive range of expression using eyes and eyebrows, volume of voice, and pauses.

Bridging the gap between fact and fiction are two of Japan's most promising young acting talents, Haruma Miura and Mitsuki Takahata. Miura, who plays medical student volunteer Tanaka, last year played the lead in the Japanese production of hit Broadway musical "Kinky Boots", which sold out every one of its 45 performances and led to rave reviews for his singing and dancing. Takahata also gives an excellent performance as the female volunteer with whom Kano falls in love, and was nominated for best supporting actress in the Japanese Academy Awards.

At the same time as impressing on us the seriousness of the protagonist's illness, the film seeks to entertain, and the director has selected and interwoven the most cinematically effective episodes from the book. He says he hopes it will appeal to everyone from primary school pupils to older audiences.

Major Supporters



**Yakult**

Sponsors in Kind

S U Q Q U ● JAPAN CENTRE

Cultural Partners



Celebrating



©2018 A Banana? At This Time of Night?" Film Partners

The film received 4 (out of 5) star reviews on its release, and as waves of emotion swept social media it received praise across the board, spreading sympathy for the protagonist's philosophy.

Freeing yourself to live life to the fullest may not look cool, but it is glorious.

NAKAZAKI Kiyomi



We have set up a new Instagram account specifically for the Touring Film Programme! Follow us to stay updated and tag us in your stories and posts!