



My Love Story!!

俺物語!!

2015/107min/Colour/English Subtitles

Distributor: **NTV**

Director: **KAWAI Hayato**

Cast: SUZUKI Ryohei, NAGANO Mei, SAKAGUCHI Kentaro

BROADWAY screening information

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

Dates & Venues:

31 January – 16 February
ICA, London

1 February – 24 March
Phoenix, Leicester

2 – 23 February
Storyhouse, Chester

2– 25 February
Showroom, Sheffield

3 – 24 February
Watershed, Bristol

3 – 29 February
Dundee Contemporary Arts, Dundee

7 – 23 February
QUAD, Derby

7 February – 27 March
The Brewery Arts Centre Cinema, Kendal

8 February – 15 March
Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff

8 February – 28 March
Firstsite, Colchester

11 – 29 February
HOME, Manchester

15 February – 1 March
Tyneside, Newcastle

16 February – 29 March
Square Chapel, Halifax

17 February – 5 March
Depot, Lewes

19 February – 29 March
Queen's Film Theatre, Belfast

24 February – 23 March
Macrobert Arts Centre, Stirling

4 – 25 March
Exeter Phoenix, Exeter

5 – 15 February
Eden Court, Inverness

10-12 March
Belmont Filmhouse, Aberdeen

13 – 19 March
Filmhouse, Edinburgh

20 – 26 March
Broadway, Nottingham

27 March
Stamford Arts Centre, Stamford

This film originated from 'Ore Monogatari!!' (My Love Story!!), a shojo (girls) manga included in Bessatsu Margaret (special sister comic magazine to Margeret) between 2012 and 2016, after the first instalment received high praise. The series have come to 13 comic books in total.

Some people may be surprised that this is a shojo manga. The English title is 'My Love Story' but the original title is 'Ore Monogatari!!' which seems to be better translated to 'A Story of the Big Guy' since the protagonist is not a young girl but a gorilla-like, huge man!

However, this story is a truly genuine shojo manga!

'Bessatsu Margaret' where this manga was included is the most popular shojo manga magazine in Japan. KAWAHARA Kazune who wrote the original story, and ARUKO who drew the manga are both top contributors to the magazine. Since KAWAHARA Kazune's 'Sensei ! (Teacher !)' became a hit, the sensitive expression of emotions in her work has made them all popular, especially 'Koukou debut (High School Debut)' was the very work of shojo manga by ticking all boxes to represent this genre. On the other hand, ARUKO is a new generation writer that shatters the boundaries of stereotypical shojo manga. She made herself famous for 'Yasuko and Kenji', a comedy about a fierce looking brother and his younger sister.

So how did these two manga artists end up collaborating? In casual conversation, KAWAHARA Kazune revealed to her editor that the men ARUKO drew in her work were handsome and her type; it was then suggested that she write the original story and quickly gained approval by ARUKO. The main character Sunagawa is the cool and good-looking guy beloved by KAWAHARA.

Takeo was created from the idea of 'the kind of boy that is popular among other guys and that does not fit the stereotypical shojo manga type, one that only ARUKO can draw'. In terms of appearance, only a rough concept of 'very wild' was specified and when the rough sketch of the character was faxed through from ARUKO, the writer KAWAHARA burst out laughing and was joined by the editorial team in laughter.

'My Love Story!!' -the miraculous collaboration combining KAWAHARA Kazune's delicate expression of emotions and the powerful force ARUKO holds- created a frenzy in the shojo manga world in Japan and ranked top as the most popular shojo manga in 2013. It also has won the prestigious awards in the shojo manga category set by two largest manga publishers, Kodansha and Shogakkan in 2013 and 2016 respectively.

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I always believe the essence of shojo manga lies in pureness. Although Takeo is a big guy looking like a gorilla, the attraction of “My Love Story!!” lies in pureness to which I am sure you agree. Takeo is always straightforward and pure, so delightful that people who are watching laugh and are moved. Rinko is also sweet and pure, will undoubtedly say ‘Takeo is handsome!!’ regardless of what others say. Both of them have no doubt about their feelings and share the same firm values of not being swayed by others around them.

The Film is even more shojo manga-esque than the original manga. Both have feelings for each other but the restlessness of that not being conveyed makes you feel ‘kyun-kyun’ (like heart-throbbing sound). ‘kyun-kyun’ is what you are feeling right now watching the film. Let’s enjoy this ‘kyun-kyun’ feeling of shojo manga that probably doesn’t exist in English language.

Professor FUJIMOTO Yukari, Meiji University

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