



Ride Your Wave

きみと、波にのれたら

2019/96min/Colour/English Subtitles
Distributor: **Anime Limited**

Director: YUASA Masaaki
Cast: KATAYOSE Ryota, KAWAEI Rina, ITO 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

Masaaki Yuasa's fourth feature film 'Kimi to, nami ni noretara/Ride Your Wave' (June 2019) was the product of his own studio. Science SARU was co-founded in 2013 with Eunyoung Choi, who has worked with Yuasa since 2008. The studio uses both traditional hand-drawn animation and digital techniques.

Yuasa's trademark is a "no rules" approach, refusing to be bound by conventions unless they further the characters and their story. The crazy people and situations in his movies have a real, human core; where other film-makers repeat endless tropes of high school angst or magical romance, Yuasa's work involves characters who are caught up in the process, not of repetition, but of transformation.

His career began modestly in 1987, as an inbetweener, drawing the frame that connect key animation drawings to create smooth movement. He worked his way up the ladder: key animator, layout artist, character designer, animation director. First employed on staff at Ajia-do Animation Works, by the early 90s he was freelancing, accumulating experience on hit TV series 'Crayon Shin-chan' and 'Chibi Maruko-chan' and movies including Isao Takahata's 'Tonari no Yamada-Kun/My Neighbours the Yamadas'.

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Celebrating



Chapter Arts Centre, Cardiff	13 – 19 March Filmhouse, Edinburgh
8 February – 28 March Firstsite, Colchester	20 – 26 March Broadway, Nottingham
11 – 29 February HOME, Manchester	27 March Stamford Arts Centre, Stamford
15 February – 1 March Tyneside, Newcastle	

Despite the critical acclaim and strong overseas following for 'Mind Game', its distribution was patchy and its reputation outmatched its earnings. Yuasa would not make another feature film for a decade. In a Japan Times interview in 2018 he commented wryly "I originally thought that if I made something I found interesting myself, everyone else would find it interesting too, but I discovered that often wasn't the case."

Instead he explored the TV series, making 'Kemonozume' and 'Kaiba' for satellite channel Wowow, then 'The Tatami Galaxy' and 'Ping Pong The Animation' for terrestrial broadcaster Fuji TV. He experimented with crowdfunding for his wacky wrestling romance short 'Kick-Heart' (2012.) An invitation to make an episode of US series 'Adventure Time' led to the foundation of his own studio.

Science SARU is gathering momentum, with new series 'SUPER SHIRO' launched in October 2019, and 'Eizouken ni wa Te o dasu na!/ Keep Your Hands Off Eizouken!' starting its TV run in January 2020, with a feature film due in the autumn. A Netflix series adapting Sakyo Komatsu's renowned disaster novel 'Nihon Chinbotsu/Japan Sinks' is also due in 2020, and a musical animated feature adapting Hideo Furukawa's novel 'Heike Monogatari: Inu-Oh no Maki/ Tales of the Heike: Inu-Oh' is scheduled for release in 2021.

Yuasa's wave hasn't broken yet. It promises to be a long and fascinating ride.

Helen McCarthy



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