

Seaside Serendipity／海辺へ行く道

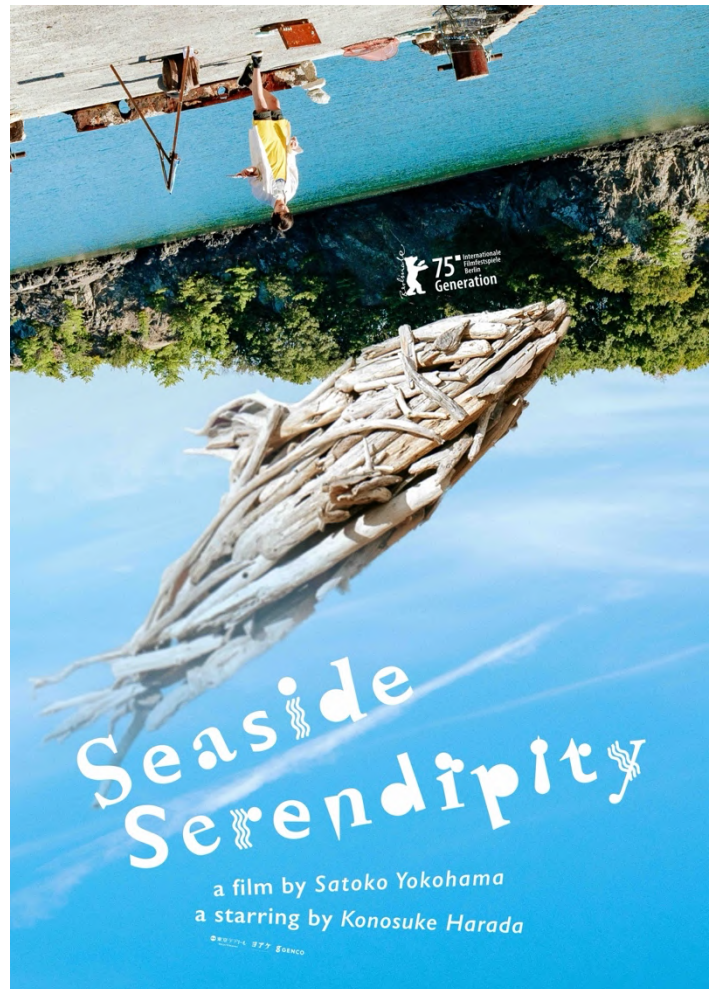
<Production Notes>

The latest film from exceptional talent, director Satoko Yokohama, eagerly anticipated by fellow filmmakers and creators!

Satoko Yokohama, who made her commercial film debut in 2008 with *Bare Essence of Life*, is back with her latest creation. Her unique perspective, capturing intangible elements in daily life, combined with thoughtful, humorous direction and visual expression, has led some to call her the “Japanese Kelly Reichardt”. She has a strong following among creators in Japan, such as film directors Kiyoshi Kurosawa and Nobuhiro Yamashita, as well as musician Yoshihide Otomo. Because she has only directed four feature films during her 18-year career, fans have been eagerly anticipating her latest film, *Seaside Serendipity*. 14-year-old Konosuke Harada makes his feature film debut, chosen among 800 who auditioned for the role. Harada, the

grandson of legendary actor Yoshio Harada—known for his roles in films by director Seijun Suzuki—was chosen without the judges knowing of his family background. At the heart of the story are young teenagers passionate about creation. Set in a small, sunlit seaside town, the film portrays the interactions between free-spirited children and adults who carry lies and secrets, showcasing boundless imagination that brings endless joy to this world. The adult cast includes diverse, talented actors, such as Kumiko Aso, Kengo Kora, Erika Karata, Ayame Goriki, Koharu Sugawara, Jun Murakami, Kankuro Kudo, and Maki Sakai. Film director Nobuhiro Suwa also makes a playful appearance as an actor. This film has also been officially selected for the Setouchi Triennale 2025, one of Japan’s largest art festivals held once every three years and marking its sixth installment. The exceptional film is positioned as a contemporary art piece and will be exhibited as part of the art festival. It is the first time the festival has selected a film for its lineup.

Please look out for the uniquely talented Satoko Yokohama, an exceptional Japanese independent filmmaker who has earned high acclaim domestically but has yet to have the opportunity to reach a global audience.



<Story>

In a seaside town, the lives of free-spirited children intersect with enigmatic adults entangled in secrets and lies.

Boundless imagination brings endless joy to the world!



The story is set in a coastal town promoting relocation to artists. 14-year-old Sosuke, an easygoing teenager who belongs to the school art club, and his friends are busy despite it being summer vacation, such as painting a backdrop for the drama club and helping with interviews for the school newspaper. The town is home to a curious assortment of “artists” living here and there. As the lives of carefree children and adults burdened by secrets and lies cross and intersect, there is the dazzling ocean

shimmering under the sun. The children dive headfirst into the challenges before them, while the adults fumble and search for “the right answer.” In this divided society that we live in, every character is endearing in this quirky yet heartwarming ode to life, filled with kindness and humor.



<Director's Biography>

Satoko Yokohama

Born in 1978 in Aomori Prefecture, Satoko Yokohama graduated from a university in Yokohama before working for a year as an office employee in Tokyo. In 2002, she enrolled in the Elementary Fiction Course at The Film School of Tokyo and graduated in 2004.

Her graduation short film, *Chiemi and Kokkumatcho* (2006), won the Grand Prize in the 2nd CO2 (Cineastes Organization Osaka) Open Competition. Using a grant from CO2, she independently produced her first feature film, *German plus Rain* (2007), which earned the 3rd CO2 Cineastes Osaka Mayor's Award. Remarkably for an independent film, it received a nationwide theatrical release.

In 2008, she directed her first commercial film, *Bare Essence of Life* (starring Kenichi Matsuyama and Kumiko Aso), which was released nationwide in June 2009. That same year, the film was featured at several international film festivals, including the Toronto and Vancouver International Film Festival.

In 2016, she released *The Actor* (starring Ken Yasuda and Kumiko Aso).

The 2021 film *ITO*, entirely produced in Aomori and starring Ren Komai, a native of the prefecture, won both the Audience Award and the Grand Prix (Best Picture Award) at the 16th Osaka Asian Film Festival, as well as several other honors, including Special Prize at the 13th TAMA Film Awards and the 36th Fumiko Yamaji Cultural Award. Known for her talent in capturing intangible elements of everyday life with unique and expressive storytelling, Yokohama has earned a dedicated fan base in Japan, including renowned director Kiyoshi Kurosawa, who describes her as a genius. Despite being recognized by domestic film fans, her work has had limited exposure on the global stage. We hope this opportunity allows you to discover the exceptional artistry of Satoko Yokohama.



<Cast>

Konosuke Harada (Sosuke Minami)

Kumiko Aso (Sumiko Minami) / *Hafez*, *Pulse*, *Dr. Akagi*, etc.

Kengo Kora (Takaoka) / *Shoplifters*, *A Story of Yonosuke*, *Sad Vacation*, etc.

Erika Karata (Yoko) / *Desert of Namibia*, *ASAKO I&II*, etc.

Ayame Goriki (Risako) / *Kiyosu Conference*, *GATCHAMAN*, etc.

Koharu Sugawara (Meg) / *YA BOY KONGMING!*, *Tower of the Sun*, etc.

Shun Aoi (Teruo Nashimoto) / *Who's That Girl*, *Brats Be Ambitious!*, etc.

Toma Nakasu (Ryoichi Tachibana) / *Stay Mum*, *Fish tale*, etc.

Nanami Yamazaki (Honoka Hirai) / *THE BRIGH +ES+SUN*, *Drought*, etc.

Chise Niitsu (Kana Nashimoto) / *Performing KAORU's Funeral, Mrs. Noisy, etc.*

Nobuhiro Suwa (Mr.A) / *Voices in the Wind, Le lion est mort ce soir, etc.*

Jun Murakami (Ken) / *Sin and Evil, ritual, Nabbie's Love, etc.*

Kankuro Kudo (Goro) / *THE BRIGH +ES+SUN, A Town Without Seasons, etc.*

Maki Sakai (Shizuka) / *Let's Go Karaoke! , The Father of the Galactic Railway, etc.*

<Crew>

Produced by **Daisuke Wada**

Producers **Asako Nakano, Masayoshi Jonai**

Based on a manga by **Gin Miyoshi**

Cinematographer **Yuta Tsukinaga**

Editor **Keiko Okawa**

Music by **Zo Zhit**

Sound Mixer **Hisashi Iwamaru**

Sound Editor **Keisuke Shibutani**

Lighting Designer **Kenta Gokan**

Production Designer **Syusaku Tsukamoto**

Set Decorator **Sakura Sakaki**

Costumes **Maya Yabuno**

Hair and Make-up Artist **Kumiko Sawada**

Casting Director **Naoya Ito**

Production Manager **Toshiya Sugai**

Assistant Director **Tetsuya Okabe**

Written & Directed by **Satoko Yokohama**

Japan Release: 2025

2025 / Japan / 140min. / Drama / Color / 1.33:1 / 5.1ch

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