

GREAT ABSENCE



GREAT ABSENCE (2023 / Japan / Dir. Kei CHIKA-URA)

OFFICIAL SELECTION
tiff
TORONTO INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL 2023

Nominated for Competition in the Platform Section in 2023



Specifications

Title	: GREAT ABSENCE
Production Year	: 2023
Country / Language	: Japan / Japanese
Running Time	: 152 mins
Shooting Format	: 35 mm Film
Screening Format	: 4K DCP
Production Company	: CREATPS Inc. (Japan)
Starring	
Mirai MORIYAMA (<i>'Shin Kamen Rider', 'Inu-oh'</i>)	
Yoko MAKI (<i>'Like Father Like Son', 'After The Storm'</i>)	
Hideko HARA (<i>'Shall We Dance?'</i>)	
with	
Tatsuya FUJI (<i>'In the Realm of the Senses', 'Bright Future', 'Ryuzo and the Seven Henchmen', 'Complicity'</i>)	
Director / Writer / Producer	: Kei CHIKA-URA (<i>'Complicity'</i>)
Co-Producer	: Miho HORIIKE
Co-Writer	: Keita KUMANO
Director of Photography	: Yutaka YAMAZAKI (<i>'Nobody Knows', 'Still Walking', 'After The Storm'</i>)
Re-recording Mixer	: Miki NOMURA (<i>'Drive My Car'</i>)
Production Designer	: Sango NAKAMURA (<i>'The Outsider'</i>)
Original Music	: Koji ITOYAMA
Ending Theme Song	: <i>'WHERE ARE YOU NOW'</i> by Motoharu Sano & THE COYOTE BAND



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COOPULP

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Synopsis

When working actor Takashi receives a jarring call from the police, he is forced to reconnect with his estranged father of twenty years, Yohji — an esteemed academic slipping rapidly into dementia. As Takashi attempts to piece together the mystery of Yohji’s missing wife and the fractured life his father now inhabits, their reunion uncovers long-buried tensions and unspoken grief, forcing Takashi to trace the past of his father that he has long refused to accept.

Unfolding as a meditation on loss — of time, identity, and familial closeness never fully grasped — GREAT ABSENCE is a “delicately devastating” (*Variety*) award-winning drama from rising star director Kei Chika-ura that navigates the fragile terrain of memory, estrangement, and the quiet devastations of aging.





Production Background

Kei CHIKA-URA's Highly Anticipated Second Feature

Emerging Japanese director Kei Chika-ura is gaining international attention for his thought-provoking films. Though yet to be widely known, From his short films to his 2018 feature film debut, Chika-ura's works have been selected for A-list international film festivals such as Locarno, Berlin, and Toronto. "*Great Absence*" is his highly anticipated second feature film.

A Showcase of Japan's Finest Acting Talent

The film features a stellar ensemble of Japanese actors, including Mirai Moriyama, Tatsuya Fuji, and Yoko Maki. Moriyama, an actor and contemporary dancer is known for his voice acting role in the animated film "*Inu-Oh*," which was selected for the Venice Film Festival's Orizzonti section. He also showcased his contemporary dance performance at the 2021 Tokyo Olympics. Tatsuya Fuji, a legendary Japanese actor, has starred in iconic films such as Nagisa Oshima's "*In the Realm of the Senses*," Kiyoshi Kurosawa's "*Bright Future*," and Takeshi Kitano's "*Ryuzo and the Seven Henchmen*." Yoko Maki has worked with acclaimed director Hirokazu Kore-eda, playing leading roles in his films "*Like Father, Like Son*" and "*After the Storm*."

Legendary Cinematographer Yutaka YAMAZAKI at 83

Yutaka Yamazaki, the cinematographer for "*Great Absence*," is well known for collaborating with Hirokazu Kore-eda on many of his films, including "*After the Storm*," "*Still Walking*," and "*Nobody Knows*." Yamazaki and director Kei Chika-ura are collaborating for the second time, following their work on "*Complicity*." Yamazaki is considered one of the leading cinematographers in Japan.

A Unique 35mm Film Experience in the Digital Era

"*Great Absence*" was shot on 35mm film, a rare and unique choice in the digital age, with the support of KODAK. In addition, the project received a grant from the Japan Arts Council, a prestigious funding body for cultural and artistic endeavors. The involvement of the extraordinary cast and crew has generated high anticipation for this film in Japan.





About The Director



Kei Chika-ura embarked on his filmmaking career in 2013. His second short film, "*The Lasting Persimmon*," received recognition at the 2016 Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival. His third short film, "*Signature*," was selected for numerous international festivals, including the Locarno Film Festival and the Toronto International Film Festival in 2017. In 2018, Chika-ura premiered his debut feature film "*COMPLICITY*" at the Toronto International Film Festival (Discovery Section). In addition, he showcased the film at the Busan Film Festival and the Berlin International Film Festival. Chika-ura's second feature film, "*GREAT ABSENCE*," was shot on 35mm film and is set to have its World Premiere at the 2023 Toronto International Film Festival, where it has been nominated in the Competition (Platform Section).

Filomography

[Feature Film]

2023: "*GREAT ABSENCE*"

2023 Toronto International Film Festival - Platform Section (World Premiere)

2018: "*COMPLICITY*" (1st Feature Film)

2018 Toronto International Film Festival - Discovery Section (World Premiere)

2018 Busan International Film Festival - Asian Window Section (Asian Premiere)

2018 Tokyo Filmex - Audience Award Winner (National Premiere)

2019 Berline International Film Festival - Culinary Cinema Section (European Premiere)



[Short Film]

2017: "*SIGNATURE*"

2017 Locarno Film Festival - Pardi di Domani (World Premiere)

2017 Toronto International Film Festival - Short Cuts (North American Premiere)

2017 Encounters Festival - Competition Grand Prix Winner (UK Premiere)



2016: "*Lasting Persimmon*"

2016 Clermont-Ferrand International Short Film Festival - Int'l Competition (World Premiere)

2013: "*Empty House*"



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