

THE DEBUT FILM FROM SHUNJI IWAI

Love Letter

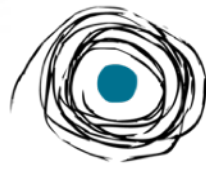
MIHO NAKAYAMA / ETSUSHI TOYOKAWA

NEW 4K RESTORATION

FUJII TELEVISION PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH ROBOT COMMUNICATION INC. "LOVE LETTER" A FILM BY SHUNJI IWAI WITH MIHO NAKAYAMA ETSUSHI TOYOKAWA MIKI SAKAI TAKAHASHI KASHIWABARA NATSUYUKI SHINOHARA
BUNJAKU HAN MARIKO KAGA CHIEF EXECUTING NOICHI MIYAKAMI SENIOR EXECUTIVES HAJIME SHIGEMURA JUICHI HORIGUCHI EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS CHIYAKI MATSUSHITA SHUJI ABE PRODUCERS JIRO KOMAKI TOMOKI IWEDA MASAHIKO NAGASAWA
LINE PRODUCER HIROYUKI KAMEI CO-PRODUCER TANAOKI KABUTO ASSOCIATE PRODUCER SHINYA KAWAI CINEMATOGRAPHY BY NOBORU SHINDO LIGHTING DIRECTION BY YUKI NAKAMURA PRODUCTION DESIGN BY TERUMI HOSOUCHI MUSIC BY REMEDIOS WRITER AND DIRECTED BY SHUNJI IWAI

FILM MOVEMENT
CLASSICS

"LOVE LETTER" WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY SHUNJI IWAI © FUJII TELEVISION NETWORK, INC.



FILM MOVEMENT[®]
CLASSICS

presents

THE DEBUT FEATURE FROM SHUNJI IWAI

Love Letter

NEW 4K RESTORATION

“Iwai possesses a directorial talent that is both technically assured and psychologically sensitive, youthfully bold and deeply aware of its cinematic predecessors.”

–The Japan Times

Japan | 1995 | Japanese with English Subtitles
Drama, Romance | 117 minutes | 2.35:1

4K remastering under the supervision of Fuji Television Network, Inc., with all analog and digital processes by Imagica Entertainment Media Services, Inc. Image digitization through high-resolution 4K scanning from the original 35mm camera negative. Restoration, color correction, and final sound finishing supervised by director Shunji Iwai.

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SYNOPSIS

Hiroko (Miho Nakayama) is still in the depths of grief from losing her fiancé Itsuki Fujii in a tragic mountain-climbing accident. On the day of his two-year memorial service, Hiroko finds an old address of Itsuki's, and sends him a letter. Shockingly, she receives a reply, from a woman who also happens to be named Itsuki Fujii (also played by Miho Nakayama). As the two women exchange letters, coincidences and memories of Hiroko's fiancé bring them together in ways they could have never imagined.

“Extremely attractive and succulently filmed” (*Variety*) by writer-director Shunji Iwai in his feature debut, LOVE LETTER was a box-office phenomenon upon its initial release and has been hailed as “gloriously brilliant” and the “greatest romance story from Japan” (*Asian Movie Pulse*).

ABOUT THE FILM

Concerning the film, Shunji Iwai said, “I wanted to try to make a film about love after the loved one is gone” with the audience asked to consider the question: “I loved someone, why did that person love me?” The power of attraction of Iwai's meticulously constructed world lies in such an enigma of lost memories.



SHUNJI IWAI BIOGRAPHY

Born in 1963, Shunji Iwai graduated from Yokohama National University in 1987. He wrote and directed numerous music videos, commercials and television dramas before he moved to cinema. His TV drama *Fireworks, Should We See It From the Side or the Bottom?* (1993) earned him the Director's Guild of Japan New Directors Award. He made his feature film debut with *Love Letter* in 1995. *Swallowtail Butterfly* (1996) was nominated for the Golden St. George at Moscow International Film Festival and *All About Lily Chou-Chou* (2001) received a Special Mention at the Berlin International Film Festival from the C.I.C.A.E. (International Confederation of Art House Cinemas) Jury in the Panorama section. Iwai's English-language debut, *Vampire* (2000), was nominated for the Sundance Grand Jury Prize. His film *A Bride for Rip van Winkle* (2004), he was inspired by internet dating and released in multiple versions, including a six-episode television series. Besides directing, he has written several essays, novels and screenplays, as well as composing the soundtrack for seven of his films. In 2006, he adapted one of his novels into Chinese-language film *Last Letter* before releasing a Japanese adaptation with the same name in 2007. In 2013, he released *Kyrie*, which had its world premiere at the Busan International Film Festival.



MIHO NAKAYAMA BIOGRAPHY

Miho Nakayama (1970–2024) was a Japanese singer, actress, and lyricist who rose to prominence during Japan's 1980s idol boom and remained a defining figure in J-pop and film for nearly four decades. Born in Saku, Nagano, she was discovered as a teenager and made her breakthrough in the 1985 television drama "Maido Osawagase Shimasu," quickly becoming one of the era's most popular idols. She launched her music career the same year with her debut single "C," going on to release over 20 studio albums and achieve multiple number-one hits. Alongside her music success, Nakayama built an acclaimed acting career. She received widespread critical praise for her dual role in Shunji Iwai's *Love Letter* (1995), earning multiple Best Actress awards, and later garnered a Japanese Academy Award nomination for *Tokyo Biyori* (1997). Over the course of her career, Nakayama became known for balancing mainstream popularity with artistic growth, contributing lyrics to her own work and exploring more introspective themes in the 1990s and beyond. She remained active in music, film, and television into the 21st century, continuing to influence generations of artists. Nakayama passed away in December 2024 at the age of 54, leaving behind a lasting legacy as one of Japan's most iconic pop idols and performers.



CAST

Hiroko Watanabe / Itsuki Fujii
Shigeru Akiba
Itsuki's Mother
Itsuki's Grandfather
Itsuki Fujii (as a young girl)
Male Itsuki Fujii
Abekasu
Ms. Hamaguchi
Sanae Oikawa
Librarian
Girl in Akiba's Workshop
Yoshida
Itsuki's Mother
Male Itsuki's Father
Kajiyoya

Miho Nakayama
Etsushi Toyokawa
Bunjaku Han
Katsuyuki Shinohara
Miki Sakai
Takashi Kashiwabara
Ken Mitsuishi
Kumi Nakamura
Ranran Suzuki
Emiko Osada
Kaori Oguri
Teppei Watara
Mariko Kaga
Keiichi Suzuki
Sansei Shiomi

CREW

Written & Directed by
Cinematographer
Lighting Director
Production Designer
Music

Chief Executive
Senior Executives

Executive Producers

Producers

Line Producer
Co-Producer
Associate Producer

Shunji Iwai
Noboru Shinoda
Yuki Nakamura
Terumi Hosoishi
Remedios

Koichi Murakami
Hajime Shigemura
Juichi Horiguchi
Chiaki Matsushita
Shuji Abe
Jiro Komaki
Tomoki Ikeda
Masahiko Nagasawa
Hiroyuki Kamei
Takaaki Kabuto
Shinya Kawai

ABOUT FILM MOVEMENT

Founded in 2002, Film Movement is a North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films based in New York City. It has released more than 300 feature films culled from prestigious film festivals worldwide including the Oscar-nominated films *Theeb* (2016) and *Corpus Christi* (2020). Film Movement's theatrical releases include American independent films, documentaries, and foreign-language arthouse titles. Its catalog includes works by directors such as Ryusuke Hamaguchi, Lee Isaac Chung, Hirokazu Kore-eda, Maren Ade, Jessica Hausner, Ciro Guerra, Bertrand Bonello and Mélanie Laurent.

In 2015, Film Movement launched its reissue label Film Movement Classics, featuring new restorations released theatrically as well as on digital platforms, Blu-ray and DVD, including films by such noted directors as Ang Lee, Chen Kaige, Luchino Visconti, Stanley Kwan, Peter Greenaway, Bille August, Marleen Gorris, Takeshi Kitano, Arturo Ripstein, King Hu, Lee Chang Dong, Hideo Gosha and Sergio Corbucci.

For more information, please visit www.filmmovement.com

