

“Heartbeat”(Original title: SHOKO)



Summary

Japan is renowned as a suicide nation where around 80 people daily and 30,000 people annually commit suicide.

13 years ago, Fumie (Aska Kurosawa ("A Snake of June" by Shinya Tsukamoto, "Cold Fish" by Sion Sono)) lost her daughter who committed suicide as a result of being bullied at her school.

After the ordeal, Fumie, together with his son, returned to her parents' home in the mountainous area, to create an organization called "Heartbeat." She pursues to rescue people with suicide attempts.

Fumie who supports them while living in a communal life is also experiencing her sorrow and emotional conflicts through the loss of her own daughter.

One day, a man who is attempting to commit suicide calls Fumie.

The man who is rescued by her takes violent and insolent attitudes. Fumie feels anxious but takes him back home. That night, an unexpected situation hits her...

Director, cinematographer, editor: Katsumi Sakaguchi

Sakaguchi has made more than 200 documentaries dealing with the problems of young people and families in difficult circumstances as TV director and producer. He has written and directed four feature films and two documentary film. BLUE TOWER (2000 /Silver Award at the 2001 Houston IFF, Mar del Plata IFF, Vienna IFF etc.) portrays a young man suffering from self-inflicted isolation and CATHARSIS (2002, Munich IFF, Vienna IFF etc.) portrays a boy who committed a crime. Both are independent films, made on very low budgets but both films were very well received at festivals and had theatrical releases in Japan and Germany. SLEEP (2011, IFF Rotterdam, Chicago IFF etc.) portrays the despair and rebirth of a girl who was born as a result of the rape of her mother. The film received a rave review in Screen International. A chief critic Mark Adams said, "SLEEP is an impressively subversive and grim tale, but also well made and disturbingly watchable".

ATOMIC BOMB HOME (2012, with a 6 week long run in Tokyo) is a documentary about aged Atomic-bomb victims in Nagasaki who pass down the message of the preciousness of peace to younger generations.

All of them portray the people living in the dark corners of society through a unique perspective and visual style. Since making SLEEP, he has also worked as Cinematographer.

Documentary film WALKING WITH MY MOTHER (2014/ 2014 Tokyo IFF "Japanese Cinema Splash", Bunkacho (Agency for Cultural Affairs of Japan) Film Award) portrays his mother who lost her daughter and husband. Sakaguchi's camera captures her mental fluctuations and conflicts over the span of four years with aching intimacy. All of them portray the people living in the dark corners of society through a unique perspective and visual style. Since making SLEEP, he has also worked as Cinematographer.

Project Information Original title: "SHOKO" Format: 4K,Color, 2.35:1

Running Time: 120min Delivery: June.2018 Genre: Feature

Language: Japanese (with English subtitles available)

Production Company SUPERSAURUS

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