

Miyu Productions
& New Deer
present

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Bird in the Peninsula

A film by Atsushi Wada

Synopsis

Children dance to music under the supervision of their teacher.
A young girl attends the scene and comes to disturb their ritual.

Technical sheet

Director : Atsushi Wada

Produced by Miyu Productions (France) & New Deer (Japan)

Duration : 16' · Year : 2022 · Sound : 5.1 · 2D digital animation





Atsushi Wada

kankaku.jp

Born in 1980, Atsushi Wada graduated from Osaka kyoiku University, Image Forum Institute of Moving image and Tokyo University of the Arts. He began to create short animated films in 2002. He likes to make comfortable movements and is always thinking about the Japanese traditional concept called “Ma”, the tension produced between movements.

Day of Nose (2005) won the Best Short Film at Norwich International Animation Festival and *Well, That's Glasses* (2007) won the Best Film of the Young Jury at Rio de Janeiro International Short Film Festival. *In a Pig's Eye* (2010) has been nominated at Zagreb, Annecy, Hiroshima, and Ottawa, and won the Best Film at Fantoche International Animation Film Festival, and Grand Prix at London International Animation Film Festival. *The Mechanism of Spring* (2010) premiered at the Venice Film Festival and *The Great Rabbit* (2012) won the Silver Bear at the Berlin International Film Festival. His new film *Bird in the Peninsula* will premiere in Berlinale 2022.



Intention note

I like “rituals”. Strictly speaking, I like to see people doing them. Their purpose doesn’t matter for me. The strangeness, humorousness, and loveliness of people (sometimes animals) doing rituals matter. I have been attracted to how people in the rituals do the same movement together in accordance with the decided manners and customs. They don’t have a doubt about their actions. In my previous films, the motif of rituals appears many times. Also in these cases, what was the most important thing is the action itself. A ritual is not for anything. A ritual as a ritual itself.

I saw a documentary film that shows a practice scene of a performance of dances at a traditional festival in a village. The performance is that the children dance to the sound of whistles, drums, and shouts. I forgot the details of the performance and what kind of dance it was but I remember clearly how one adult looked at the children who practiced the decided movements forming a circle really carefully as if he was a judge as he walked round and round. There was no expression in the eyes of the children as if they were dead.

By watching this scene, a lot of inspiration and the ideas of the scenes was born in my brain. I found out that ritual itself can be a main subject of a film, not as a part of a film. What is a ritual for human-being? It’s the question I never had although I have loved it but now I can have a part of the answer by making this film.

In this film, my focus will be on rituals as rites of passage or an initiation to become an adult from childhood. Then the rituals in this film contain universal themes like growth, identity, life, death, and rebirth. Arnold van Gennep said in his book *Les rites de passage* that a ritual of passage has a structure of these processes: separation (death), transition, and integration (reborn), but in the case of passage from children to adults, how will be the separation from the state of children (death as a child), integration into adults (reproduction as adult), and the transition between them? Each of us has experienced (or will experience) an unstable period of time when we grow up as adults.

Everyone has a doubt if they grow right and properly even after becoming an adult. The film depicts a series of events happening in a village in a certain time but they tell a universal theme that makes everyone think of something about their own life.

Now I have a child. I am worried that he can become a decent adult. There is always anxiety if I am raising him in a proper way or if I guide him in the right direction. It is difficult to grow others, but then I become not sure if I myself grew as a decent adult or not. Looking at my child, now I start to realize the period should be full of contradictions. It should be the mixtures states of children and adults, life and death, self and others.

Then now I am sure it is time to think about ritual properly: ritual as transforming into something.

Atsushi Wada



Miyu Productions

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Miyu Productions is an animation film production company created in May 2009, directed by Emmanuel-Alain Raynal, its founder, and Pierre Baussaron. The company has a demanding editorial line, focusing on films with strong artistic proposals. Miyu Productions is known for its animated shorts, many of which have been recognized and awarded worldwide. It is currently developing a portfolio of some 20 short films, including six international co-productions. The company is currently producing several feature films, including Pierre Földes' *Blind Willows*, *Sleeping Woman*, adapted from several short stories by Haruki Murakami, Momoko Seto's *Planets*, Sébastien Laudenbach and Chiara Malta's *Chicken for Linda!* and Koji Yamamura's first feature film, *Dozens of Norths*. Miyu is also involved in several major television projects, including *Claudy*, a 52x13 minute series by Luce Cote Colisson and Lucie Rouxel, and *Patouile*, a 26x5 minute series by Ines Bernard Espina, Mélody Boulissière and Clémentine Campos.

New Deer

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New Deer is a Japanese distribution and production company based in Tokyo. Founded by Nobuaki Doi, the company aims to help independent animation talents to the world. The company's activities cover a wide range from theatrical distribution, production, managing animation film festivals, and other related events. The company has distributed these animated features so far: *Boy and the World*, *Girl without Hands*, and *Ville Neuve*. Miyu Productions and New Deer team up to produce new short films by Japanese independent animation artists: Yoriko Mizushiri, Atsushi Wada, Sawako Kabuki, Ryo Orikasa, and Masanobu Hiraoka. In 2020, New Deer released an indie game *My Exercise* directed by Atsushi Wada. Currently developing a feature film *Journey to the West* (director: Mirai Mizue) and series for children *Ikimono-san* (creator: Atsushi Wada). Nobuaki Doi himself is active as a journalist, critic, lecturer, curator, festival director/producer focusing on the front-line of animation. He found New Chitose Airport International Animation Festival and now is working as the Producer of the newly founded animation festival in Hiroshima: Hiroshima Animation Season.



Credits

Director / storyboarder / animator / editor

Astushi Wada

Animators

Chikako Iwasaki, Margot Barbé, Marilou Soller, Josselin Facon

Sound director

Masumi Takino

Music

Mio Adachi

Musical advisor

Hiraki Tamaki

Musicians

Yuya Ishimori, Kazuya Fujita, Hikari Tamaki

Voices

Laura Rincon (Granny), Astushi Wada (Boy, Girl, Father, Dog)

Color director / Title design

Misa Amako

Coloring coordinator

Mirai Mizue

Coloring

Mariko Masuda, Momo Takenoshita, Yuka Sato, Mizuki Jin,

Kurumi Nakaya, Feiran Cao

Producers

Emmanuel-Alain Raynal, Pierre Baussaron, Nobuaki Doi

With support from

Centre National du Cinéma et de l'image animée

Distributed by

Luce Grosjean - Miyu Distribution



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