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SYNOPSIS

After losing her parents in a car accident, Okko goes to live in the countryside with her grandmother, who runs a traditional Japanese inn built on top of an ancient spring said to have healing waters. While she goes about her chores and prepares to become the inn's next caretaker, Okko discovers there are spirits who live there that only she can see – not scary ones, but welcoming ghosts who keep her company, play games and help her navigate her new environment. The inn's motto is that it welcomes all and will reject none, and this is soon put to the test as a string of new guests challenge Okko's ability to be a gracious host. But ultimately Okko discovers that dedicating herself to others becomes the key to taking care of herself.

The latest feature from famed anime studio Madhouse and director Kitaro Kosaka, who was a key animator on numerous classic films at the venerable Studio Ghibli, seamlessly blends immersive, idyllic landscapes with the storybook charm of Okko's beloved ghosts. *Okko's Inn* delivers a rare ghost story that – despite several floating characters – is firmly grounded in the trials and joys of humanity.



ENGLISH CAST

Oriko Seki (Okko): Madigan Kacmar
Matsuki Akino: Carly Williams
Uribo (Makoto Tateuri): KJ Aikens
Miyo Akino: Tessa Frascogna
Suzuki: Colleen O'Shaughnessey
Mineko Seki: Glynis Ellis
Mineko Seki (Young Version): Fiona Fatuova
Etsuko Tajima: Noelle M. DePaula
Konosuke Minoda: Scott Williams
Torako Kise: Erica Schroeder
Seishiro Sumikawa (Torii): Ryan Shanahan
Akane Kanda: Ethan Jack Berman
Shota Kise: Michael Deaner
Hiromi Izumi: Noa Fé Williams
Yoriko Ikezuki: Courtney Chu
Mayuka Sakisaka: Emma Rosemond
Yuna Morino: Catie Harvey
Kosui Kanda: Nicolai Gorden
Glory Suiryō: Brittany Cox
Okko's Mother: Alyson Leigh Rosenfeld
Okko's Father: James Weaver Clark
Bunta Kise: Lex Woutas

TECHNICAL CREW

Director: Kitaro Kosaka
Screenplay: Reiko Yoshida
Production Designer: Kyoko Yauchi
Animation Director: Shunsuke Hirota
Art Director: Youichi Watanabe
Color Design: Terumi Nakauchi
CGI Director: Tomohisa Shitara
Director of Photography & VFX Supervisor: Michiya Kato
Editor: Takeshi Seyama
Music: Keiichi Suzuki
Sound Director: Masafumi Mima
Sound Effects: Shizuo Kurahashi, Sachiko Nishi
Animation Production: DLE MADHOUSE
Produced by: WAKAOKAMI Project
Original Novel by: Hiroko Reijo
Character Design for Original Novel: Asami
English Language Producers
Michael Sinterniklaas
Stephanie Sheh
Voice Director & Recording Engineer: Michael Schneider
Additional Voice Directing & Casting Director
Stephanie Sheh
Additional Casting: Michael Schneider
Audio Mixer: Oscar Garcia
Re-recording Mixer: Printmaster
ADR Script Adaptation: Michael Schneider
Production Supervisor: Clark Cheng
Production Assistants: Ryan McCabe, Rachel Slotky
Recorded at NYAV Post NY • LA
Running Time: 94 minutes
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WAKAOKAMI Project





KITARO KOSAKA | DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I wanted to depict a girl, at a self-conscious and impressionable age, growing up and learning that there are things you can and cannot manage by yourself. Her growth will come from opening up to society and accepting others in a small hot spring town called Hananoyu.

These days, a lot of conflicts arise from the self-centered attitudes of individuals and nations; however, one business that cannot survive with such attitudes is the hospitality industry. This is because customer satisfaction circles back to benefit the business, but more importantly, the dedication to others brings out the best in people. I think that is the great charm and value of human beings.

I hope children growing up to be the adults of tomorrow will watch this film and reflect on it together.



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Born in 1962, Kitaro Kosaka started his career as an animator at Oh! Productions. After leaving the company in 1986, he began working as animation director and key animator on many titles at Studio Ghibli, such as *Spirited Away*, *Grave of the Fireflies*, and *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* to name a few. He had also worked on many Madhouse productions, such as *Yawara!* and *Master Keaton* among others. He made his directorial debut with *Nasu: Summer in Andalusia* which premiered at Cannes' Directors' Fortnight in 2003. In 2014, Kosaka was awarded Best Animator for Hayao Miyazaki's *The Wind Rises* at Tokyo Anime Award Festival.





KITARO KOSAKA | INTERVIEW WITH DIRECTOR

What was your start in adapting the children's novel Wakaokami wa Shogakusei! into film?

KOSAKA: It started five years ago as I drew its illustrations requested by a friend of mine, while working on other projects. Since then, it had not been developed for years, until I received the offer as the director when I least expected it. Though I haven't worked as a director for the past 10 years, I accepted the offer because it was both good timing for me and I felt a kind of "flow."

As this film's original novel is for children, did you feel any difference on the production between this film and the previous films that are mainly for adults?

KOSAKA: I avoided conveying strong shock and the darker aspects of humanity such as envy and jealousy. I focused on conveying in a straightforward and diligent manner.

How did you work on creating the characters and background art?

KOSAKA: I created the facial expressions and gestures based on the original novel's illustrations with a clear picture of "kawaii" (cuteness) in mind. For the background art, I consciously avoided the muted colors that are grounded in reality and made them clear and colorful.

Is there any difference in the production process when you worked at Studio Ghibli previously as animation director and on this film?

KOSAKA: An animation director only manages the animation departments, but the director of a film needs to oversee and manage all departments and communicate with the staff from each section of the production. The weight of responsibility is completely different.





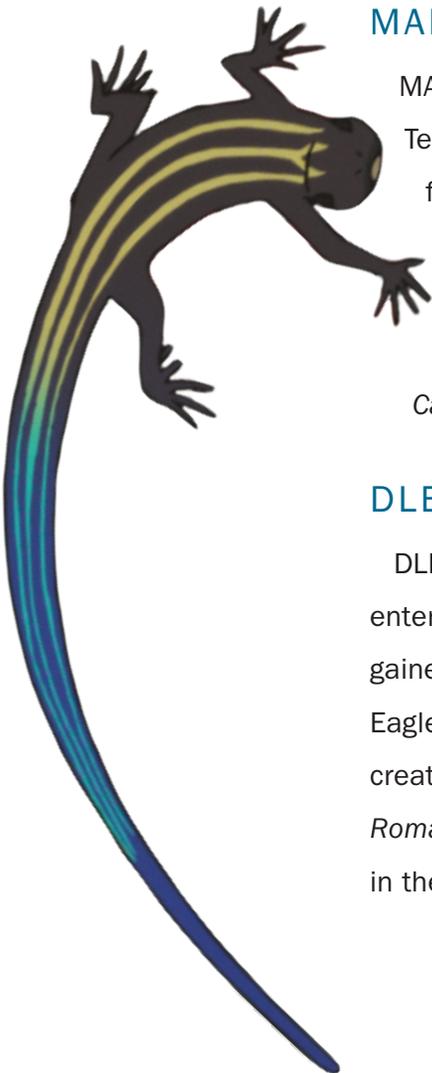
PRODUCTION COMPANIES

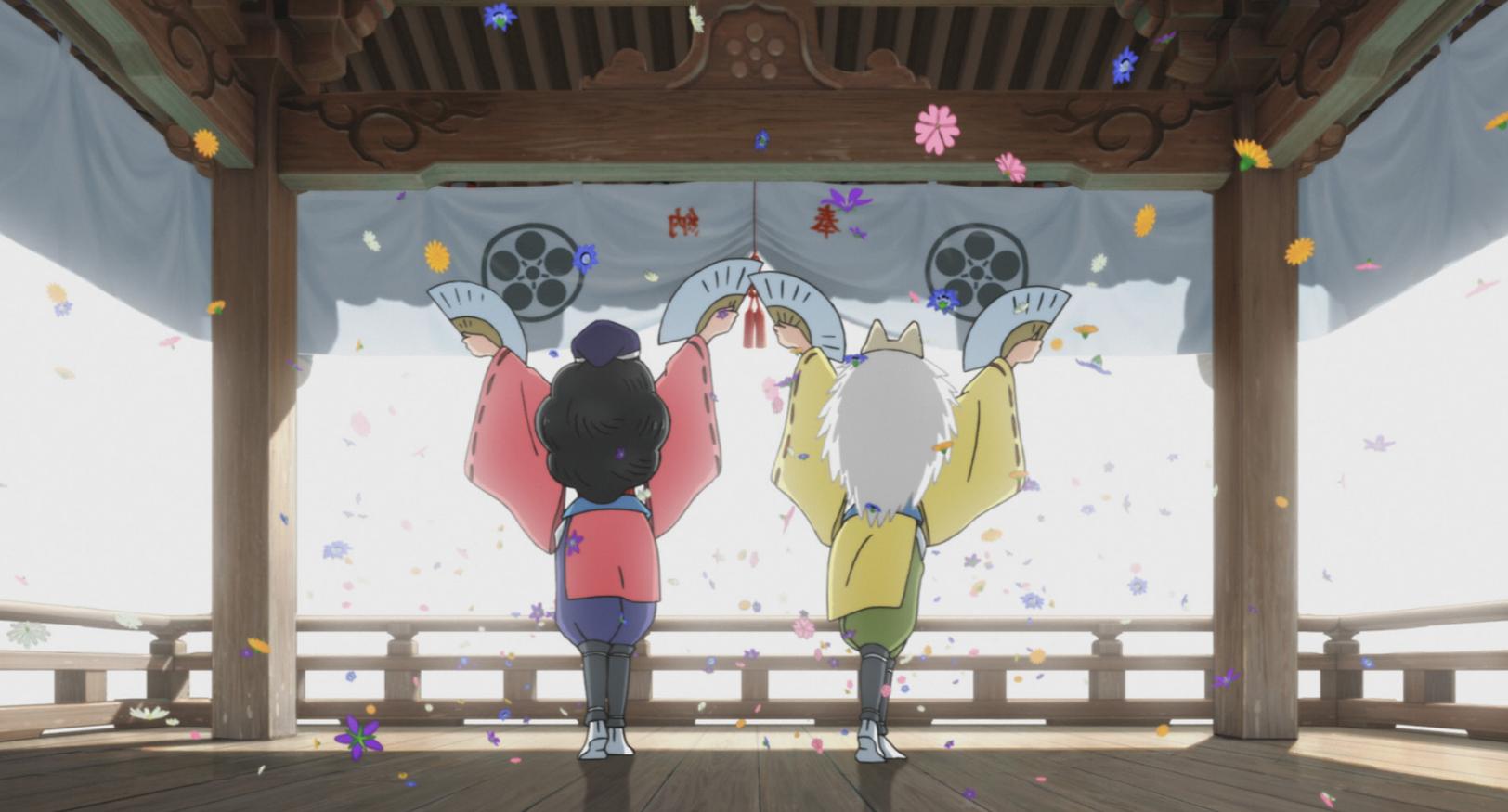
MADHOUSE INC.

MADHOUSE studio was founded in 1972 by former employees of Osamu Tezuka. In the 1980s, it stood out by producing acclaimed animated feature films such as *Barefoot Gen*, *Kamui*, *Ninja Scroll* and *Metropolis*. Renowned directors who made their early films in the studio include Satoshi Kon (*Perfect Blue*, *Paprika*) and Mamoru Hosoda (*The Girl Who Leapt Through Time*, *Summer Wars*). MADHOUSE has also produced hit TV series: *Card Captor Sakura*, *Monster*, *Death Note* and *One Punch Man*.

DLE INC.

DLE Inc. (Dream Link Entertainment) is a Tokyo-based animation and entertainment company founded in 2001 by former Sony member. DLE has gained acclaim in Japan for their flagship animated television and film series *Eagle Talon*, a surreal sitcom created entirely in Flash animation by popular creator. Currently, DLE has produced thirty programs for television (*Thermae Romae*, *Sword Gai*), but also for the cinema. The company has also developed in the field of music, fashion and all which relates to entertainment.





ABOUT GKIDS

GKIDS is a distributor of award-winning feature animation for both adult and family audiences. The company has scored eleven Best Animated Feature Academy Award® nominations – the most for an independent distributor – with these acclaimed films:

- *The Secret of Kells* (2010)
- *A Cat in Paris* (2012)
- *Chico & Rita* (2012)
- *Ernest & Celestine* (2014)
- *The Tale of The Princess Kaguya* (2015)
- *Song of the Sea* (2015)
- *Boy and the World* (2016)
- *When Marnie Was There* (2016)
- *My Life As A Zucchini* (2017)
- *The Breadwinner* (2018)
- *Mirai* (2019)

GKIDS also handles North American theatrical distribution for the Studio Ghibli library of films, one of the world's most coveted animation collections with titles *Spirited Away*, *My Neighbor Totoro*, *Princess Mononoke*, *Howl's Moving Castle* and others.

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