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Children of the Sea

SYNOPSIS

CHILDREN OF THE SEA is the latest feature from Japan's STUDIO4°C (known for *Tekkonkinkreet*, *MFKZ*, *Mind Game*, *Animatrix*, *Batman: Gotham Knight*, and others), and is directed by Ayumu Watanabe, with a score by award-winning composer and longtime Studio Ghibli collaborator Joe Hisaishi (*Spirited Away*, *Howl's Moving Castle*, *My Neighbor Totoro*). *CHILDREN OF THE SEA* is adapted from the manga of the same name by author Daisuke Igarashi, which won the Excellence Prize at the Japan Media Arts Festival.

When Ruka was younger, she saw a ghost in the water at the aquarium where her dad works. Now she feels drawn toward the aquarium and the two mysterious boys she meets there, Umi and Sora. They were raised by dugongs and hear the same strange calls from the sea as she does. Ruka's dad and the other adults who work at the aquarium are only distantly aware of what the children are experiencing as they get caught up in the mystery of the worldwide disappearance of the oceans' fish.



Children of the Sea

CAST

Ruka: Mana Ashida

Umi: Hiirō Ishibashi

Sora: Seishū Uragami

Anglade: Win Morisaki

Masaki Azumi: Goro Inagaki

Kanako Azumi: Yu Aoi

The Teacher: Toru Watanabe

Jim: Min Tanaka

Dehdeh: Sumiko Fuji

CREW

Original Comics: Daisuke Igarashi - "Children Of The Sea (Kaiju No Kodomo)" (Shogakukan IKKICOMIX)

Director: Ayumu Watanabe

Music: Joe Hisaishi

Theme Song "Spirits Of The Sea": Kenshi Yonezu

Character Design, Supervising Animation Director,

&Co-Director: Kenichi Konishi

Art Director: Shinji Kimura

CGI Director: Kenichiro Akimoto

Color Design: Miyuki Ito

Sound Director: Koji Kasamatsu

Producer: Eiko Tanaka

Animation Production: STUDIO4°C

Running Time: 111 minutes

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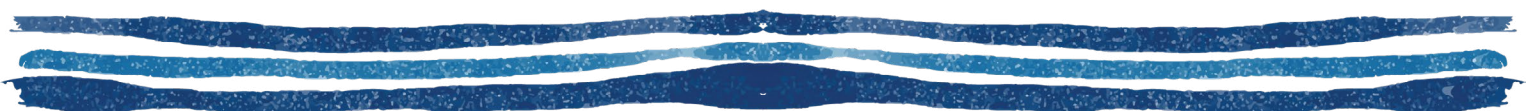


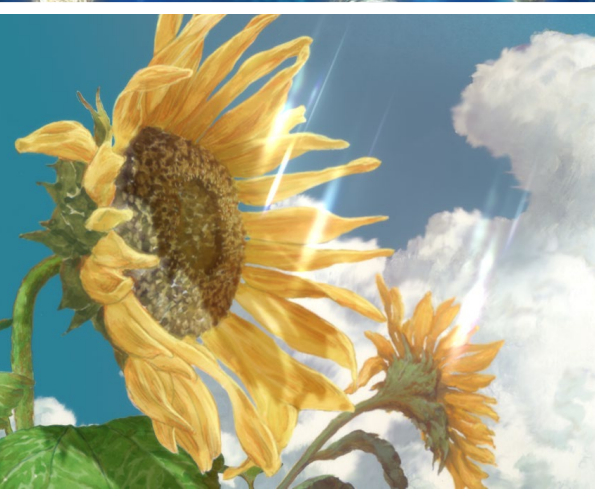
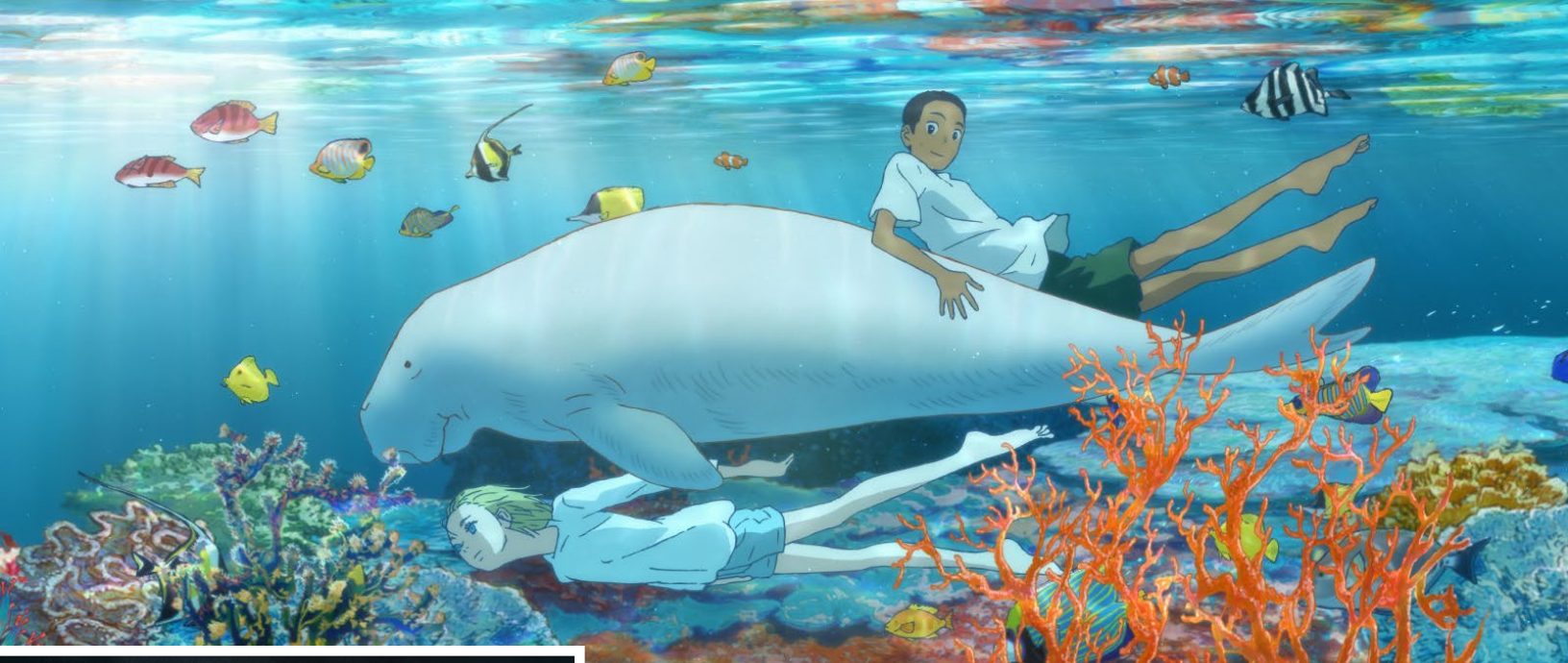
INTRODUCTION

Manga artist Daisuke Igarashi continues to enchant readers with his unique line work and artistic expressions. His first long-form work, *Children of the Sea* (published by Shogakukan IKKICOMIX) tells the story of a summer encounter between a 14-year-old girl and two brothers raised by dugongs. With a theme of respect for nature, this masterpiece transforms into pure entertainment through mysterious story development and the overwhelming power of art. The film engrosses its audience with animation and music that overflows from the screen. It brilliantly realizes themes that were present in the original manga, such as the silence and roughness of the sea and the scent of the ocean. This latest work is from STUDIO4°C, known for producing films such as *Tekkonkinkreet*. The studio has received international praise for its cutting-edge visual expressions. What they created is an ocean adventure tale born from the interweaving of the Japanese animation world's greatest treasures.

The Japanese cast is full of renowned talent. Mana Ashida, an actress who appeared in Hollywood movies after first becoming known from the television drama *Mother*, plays the female protagonist. Hiroyuki Iwata, a voice actor who gained notoriety for his angelic voice as Miguel in the Japanese dub of Disney's *Coco*, and Seishu Uragami, an actor who portrayed Sanada Yukimaru's eldest son Daisuke in the NHK Taiga drama *Sanadamaru*, play the mysterious brothers. Win Morisaki, an actor whose talents were recognized by Steven Spielberg and cast as Toshiro in the movie *Ready Player One*, is also part of the film. Most of the main voice actors were close in age to the characters they portray in the film. Supporting them is a team of talented actors who each contribute their unique personalities, including Goro Inagaki, Yu Aoi, Tohru Watanabe, Min Tanaka, and Sumiko Fuji.

World-famous Joe Hisaishi composed the film's music, his first time working on a feature-length animation film since last composing music for Studio Ghibli's *The Wind Rises* and *The Tale of The Princess Kaguya*. Additionally, musical artist Kenshi Yonezu was so smitten by the film that he was inspired to write his first-ever theatrical theme song, *Spirits of the Sea*. One could say that the sounds developed by this team, which add so much color to the dangerous, dense, and profound world of the story, serve as an alternative face to the film.





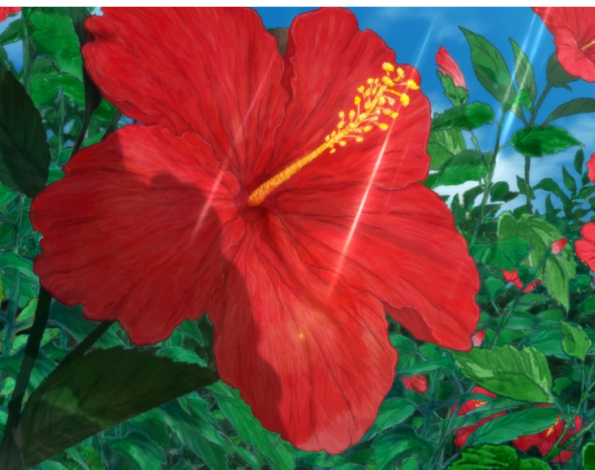
DAISUKE IGARASHI | ORIGINAL BOOK

Born in 1969, Igarashi made his debut in 1993 when he received the Shiki Award from *Gekkan Afternoon* (Kodansha). He is known for *Witches*, which won the Japan Media Arts Festival Manga Category Award, and *SARU* (Shogakukan), which he created in collaboration with novelist Kotaro Isaka. His series *Little Forest* (Kodansha), which ran from 2002 to 2005, was made into a live-action movie in Japan and Korea. In 2009, Igarashi received the Japan Cartoonists Association Award for his first long-form work, *Children of the Sea*. His most recent work is *Designs* (Kodansha).

AYUMU WATANABE | DIRECTOR

Born in 1966, Watanabe joined Studio Mates in 1986 and debuted his first original picture with the same studio. In 1988 he moved to Shinei Videos and was active in a wide range of roles including key animator, animation director, and director. Watanabe directed the short theatrical release *Obachan no Omoide* (2000), and the feature film *Doraemon: Nobita's Dragon* 2006 (2006) and became a free agent in 2011. After that time, he tirelessly built up his directing portfolio with projects such as the TV series *Mysterious Girlfriend X* (2012), *Danchi Tomoo* (2012-15), *If Her Flag Breaks* (2014), *Space Brothers* (2012-14), and *Ace Attorney* (2016). Three TV series directed by Watanabe aired in 2018, including *After the Rain*, *Gurazeni*, and *Major 2nd*. *Children of the Sea* is his fourth time directing a full-length theatrical release.





STUDIO4°C | ANIMATION PRODUCTION

STUDIO4°C is a celebrated animation production company, who's ambition to take on projects that span multiple genres, and its high-quality, cutting-edge animation has captivated audiences globally. STUDIO4°C won the Japan Media Arts Festival Animation Category Award for its 2004 production *Mind Game*, directed by Masaaki Yuasa, and its 2006 release *Tekkonkinkreet* won the Japan Academy Prize for Animation of the Year. After that, STUDIO4°C has been regularly shaking up the animation world with productions such as *Genius Party*, *Harmony*, and last year's *MFKZ*.

The studio chose "4°C" (the temperature at which the density of water is the greatest) for its name to reflect its goals of guaranteeing the highest possible quality in their work.

JOE HISAISHI | MUSIC

Born in 1950, Hisaishi is a composer, conductor, and pianist who graduated from Kunitachi College of Music with a major in music composition. Hisaishi became interested in minimal music since his time as a student. His career as a contemporary music composers started after his graduation.

Starting with *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind*, Hisaishi has been a frequent collaborator with Hayao Miyazaki. In addition, he worked on domestic and international productions including *Departures* directed by Yojiro Takita, *Villain* directed by Lee Sang-il, *The Tale of The Princess Kaguya* directed by Isao Takahata, and *What a Wonderful Family!* directed by Yoji Yamada. He has also received several awards, such as the Japan Academy Prize Music Award and the Medal of Honour with purple ribbon from the Government of Japan.

As well as performing as a piano soloist and in orchestras, in recent years Hisaishi has been conducting. Hisaishi started leading a concert series "Music Future" which introduces cutting-edge music from all over the world.



THEME SONG: SPIRITS OF THE SEA SONY MUSIC LABELS | KENSHI YONEZU

Born in 1991, Kenshi Yonezu is an illustrator and musician who started on the internet.

Yonezu wrote “Lemon” as the theme song for the 2018 drama *Unnatural*, which swept all the major charts for that year.

He received the award for Best Theme Song at the 96th Television Drama Academy Awards. The Recording Industry Association of Japan recognized him for achieving 2 million downloads faster than any other artist in history. His music video has been replayed more than any other in Japan, and Yonezu continues to set records that will live on in music history.





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 N. 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.

www.gkids.com



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www.ChildrenOfTheSeaMovie.com