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# SYNOPSIS

GKIDS proudly presents the highly-anticipated new film from director Makoto Shinkai and producer Genki Kawamura, the creative team behind the critically-acclaimed, global smash hit *Your Name*. The summer of his high school freshman year, Hodaka runs away from his remote island home to Tokyo, and quickly finds himself pushed to his financial and personal limits. The weather is unusually gloomy and rainy every day, as if to suggest his future. He lives his days in isolation, but finally finds work as a writer for a mysterious occult magazine. Then one day, Hodaka meets Hina on a busy street corner. This bright and strong-willed girl possesses a strange and wonderful ability: the power to stop the rain and clear the sky...

**Official Japanese Entry for 2020 Oscars Best International Feature Film**

**Toronto International Film Festival Official Selection - Special Presentations**



天気の子  
**WEATHERING  
WITH YOU**

## CAST

**Hodaka Morishima:** Kotaro Daigo

**Hina Amano:** Nana Mori

**Natsumi:** Tsubasa Honda

**Nagisa Amano:** Sakura Kiryu

**Yasui:** Sei Hiraizumi

**Takai:** Yuki Kaji

**Tomi:** Chieko Baisho

**Keisuke Suga:** Shun Oguri

## CREW

**Original Story / Screenplay / Director:** Makoto Shinkai

**Executive Producers:**

Minami Ichikawa

Noritaka Kawaguchi

**Planning:** Genki Kawamura

**Producer:** Yoshihiro Furusawa

**Co-Producers:**

Wakana Okamura

Kinue Ito

**Music Producer:** Sayoko Narukawa

**Music:** RADWIMPS

**Character Design:** Masayoshi Tanaka

**Animation Director:** Atsushi Tamura

**Art Director:** Hiroshi Takiguchi

**Unit Director:** Yuga Tokuno, Kenji Imura

**CG Chief Director:** Yoshitaka Takeuchi

**Camera Director:** Ryosuke Tsuda

**Associate Director:** Yoko Miki

**Sound Director:** Haru Yamada

**Sound Design:** Eiko Morikawa

**Production:** TOHO CO., LTD. / CoMix Wave Films Inc. /  
STORY inc. / KADOKAWA CORPORATION / East Japan  
Marketing & Communications, Inc. / voque ting co., ltd.  
/ Lawson Entertainment, Inc.

**Producing Company:** STORY inc.

**Production Company:** CoMix Wave Films Inc.

**Running Time:** 111 minutes

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# FILMOGRAPHY

## **Your Name** (2016)

- 20th Japan Media Arts Festival “Grand Prize”
- 40th Japan Academy Prize “Excellent Animation of the Year,” “Screenplay of the Year,” “Outstanding Achievement in Music”
- 59th Blue Ribbon Awards “Special Award”
- 71st Mainichi Film Awards “Best Animated Film”
- 41st Hochi Film Award “Special Award”
- 29th Nikkan Sports Film Award “Best Director”
- 26th Japan Movie Critics Award “Animation Director Award”
- 49th Sitges Film Festival “Best Animated Feature Length Film”
- 42nd Los Angeles Film Critics Association Awards “Best Animated Film”
- Currently in production for a live-action remake for Hollywood.

## **The Garden of Words** (2013)

- Canada Fantasia Film Festival “Satoshi Kon Award,” “Audience Award”
- Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film “Best Anime Feature Film”

## **Children Who Chase Lost Voices** (2011)

- 8th China International Cartoon and Animation Festival, “Golden Monkey King Award”
- Tokyo International Anime Fair 2012 “Best Art Direction”

## **5 Centimeters Per Second** (2007)

- Asia Pacific Screen Awards “Best Animated Feature Film”
- Future Film Festival “Lancia Platinum Grand Prize”

## **The Place Promised in Our Early Days** (2004)

- Canada Fantasia Film Festival “Silver Prize on Best Animated Film Section”
- 59th Mainichi Film Awards “Best Animated Film”
- Seoul International Cartoon & Animation Festival 2005 “Feature Film”

## **Voices of a Distant Star** (2002)

- Tokyo International Anime Fair 21 “Best Public Submission”
- 6th Japan Media Arts Festival “Special Award”
- 34th Seiun Award “Best Media”

# MAKOTO SHINKAI

DIRECTOR | ORIGINAL CONCEPT | SCRIPT

Makoto Shinkai was born in Nagano prefecture in 1973. In 2002, he debuted with self-produced *Voices of a Distant Star*, which won many awards including Best Public Submission at the Tokyo International Anime Fair 21.

His first feature released in 2004, *The Place Promised in Our Early Days* won Best Animated Film in the 59th Mainichi Film Awards.

In 2007, *5 Centimeters Per Second* won Best Animated Feature Film at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards and the Lancia Platinum Grand Prize at the Future Film Festival in Italy.

In 2011, *Children Who Chase Lost Voices* was released nationwide and won the Golden Monkey King Award at the 8th China International Cartoon and Animation Festival.

In 2013, *The Garden of Words* won Best Anime Feature Film in Germany's Stuttgart International Festival of Animated Film.

In 2016, *Your Name* was released to great commercial success, becoming the second-highest-grossing film behind *Spirited Away* (2001). At the 40th Japan Academy Prize, it won Excellent Animation of the Year and Screenplay of the Year, a first for an animated film. Also critically acclaimed overseas, it won many awards including Best Animated Feature Length Film at the 49th Sitges Film Festival, as well as Best Animated Film at the 42nd Los Angeles Film Critics Association Awards.







## MAKOTO SHINKAI | INTERVIEW

“I wanted to witness people just running through, in an undeviating way.”

In 2016, the moment my last film *Your Name* opened, I wanted to make a new film. A strong feeling I had inside of me was, “I want to try something again.” That was the foundation of *Weathering With You*.

Initially, I had a hunch that *Your Name* will go somewhere different from my previous films. I had a conviction that the film will show me different sceneries I haven’t seen before. And I didn’t have any grounds for this, but after the release of *Your Name* I experienced so much and, it was definitely new. To exaggerate a bit, I was able to feel the scale of the media industry and of Japan as a country.

And this is also my prejudiced impression, but while working on *Your Name* I had the sense that a baton was passed on to us. Or that the ball was in our court. We didn’t understand it, but it was like someone was saying, “It’s your turn now.” I don’t know how long this feeling will last, but I still do have the impression of having to run, since we have the baton.

When creating an animated film, various pillars are necessary: the pillar of the story, the pillar of the visual aesthetics, the pillar of the staff and crew. Among them, the pillar of film’s theme is the weather. Weather is such an animation-oriented motif, and I’ve always thought that it would make for catchy imagery if I took it on in a serious way. Also, anyone can relate to the weather. Most people would think about and mention the weather at least once a day. Weather is not only a vast, global cyclical phenomenon but also a personal event for humans. The weather of the day could change your mood and actions. I thought it would be interesting as a theme for an animated film.



*Your Name* started production around 2014, and *Weathering With You* began production in 2017. With regards to the characters, I wanted to reflect different positions in society in the two films. For example, the main characters in *Your Name* live in nice houses. But for this film, Hodaka and Hina don't have much money. The standards of society have changed a bit in three years. That mood is also reflected in the shaping of the characters. As a film to be watched by teenagers and young adults, I believe that there is more weight in matching the era instead of universality.

There is also one thing that I had decided when I started production on this film, and that is not to write a story about trauma driving the characters. The male protagonist, Hodaka, runs away from home to come to Tokyo, and the female protagonist Hina is also in a difficult familial situation. But they both don't stop and reflect on it. They keep moving forward as if they are rolling down a hill. There may be pros and cons in that way of living, but I wanted to depict a boy and a girl who started running. The lyrics in "Grand Escape (Movie Edit) feat. Toko Miura" that RADWIMPS wrote specifically for this film is exactly how they feel:

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**"Of course it's not that we're not scared, but we can't stop.**

**Even if we anticipate perils, there's nothing we can do about them.**

**Our love, our voices, are telling us to go."**

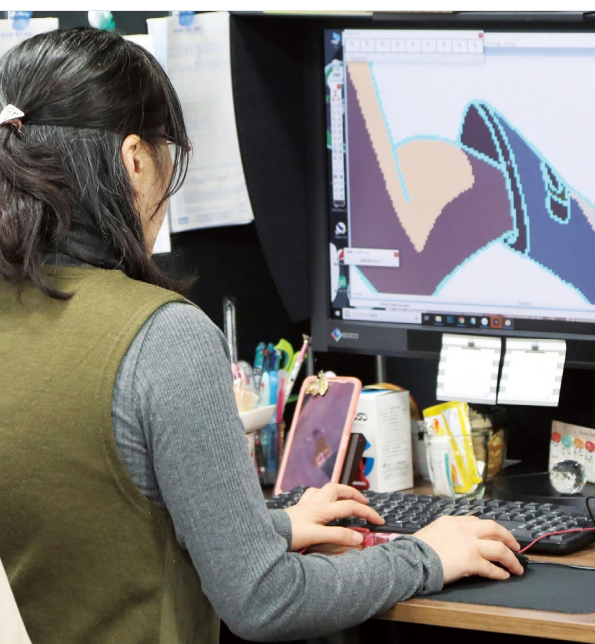
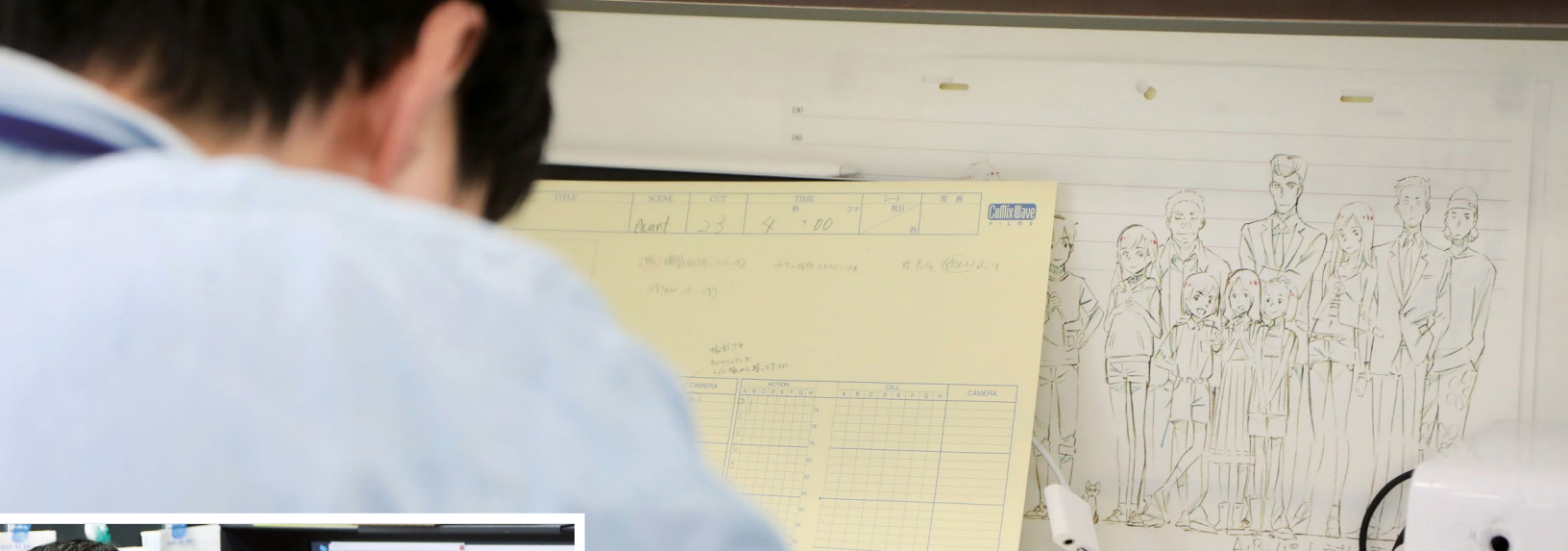
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Hodaka and Hina are those kinds of teenagers. They don't care about running out of batteries. Even if their battery life is down to a single digit, they won't stop and charge. I wanted to witness people just running forward, in an undeviating way.

I don't know how the audience is going to take the epilogue of the result of them running forward. I may get various opinions that include both praise and criticism. I tried to build the story carefully, but I still cannot guess how the audience will react to the ending. But what I believe is the most original about *Weathering With You* is that it is outside the theory of what a summer movie is supposed to be, but nevertheless we're releasing it as part of the Toho summer movie lineup. What I realized with *Your Name* is how films ought to be. Films, especially a Toho summer movie, are something like a festival in which the media and audience all take part in. That in itself is very topical, and I wanted to make a film that would resonate in that atmosphere. If *Weathering With You* was going to be released independently like my earlier films, even if the setting was the same, the story would have been different. It's not about which film is better than another, but the way it's distributed changes what story I depict. That is what I realized from *Your Name*. This is a film that many will experience together at the same time. It's a festival, and that's what I'm throwing to the audience. I believe this to be my motivation behind my work on *Weathering With You*.





# PRODUCTION

## THE TITLE

Three years passed since *Your Name*. The entire world was waiting for Makoto Shinkai's new project, *Weathering With You*. The story is set in an era where the weather has gone crazy. With precise art direction and sophisticated visual expression, Shinkai nurtured the motif of weather, and in this film, he treats it as the subject matter. In his past films, the weather projected what the characters were feeling or the direction of the story. In addition, it was something that made us re-acknowledge the beauty, fleeting nature, and preciousness of the world by using the specific medium of animation. The weather was also the one thing connecting the story of our lives with what Shinkai portrayed in his works. Shinkai and the production team could not decide on the title for a long time. Various directions were suggested, but they all reached a point where they realized that the weather is not just a natural phenomenon, but a symbol of feelings, fate, and the world itself. The weather tells the story of everyone. And that is how the title *Weathering With You* came about.

## THE THEME

*Weathering With You* shows the threat and mystery of nature, the adventures of a boy and girl who live in poverty but vigorously in the city, and a pure but heartrending love story. And in all of that, there is a unique theme and message. In the story, the protagonists explore their way of life and "select," speak "words," and make "decisions." Those were all decided in the planning stages, and the project itself was based on these words. What the protagonists face when they need to select, speak, and decide may be outside of the norms of society. But Shinkai and the production team knew that and still wanted to make this film because we are in this era. Of course, having the familiar humor and emotion while being challenging is what makes this film embody the spirit of the contemporary world.





## THE SETTING

Shinjuku, a place that everyone is familiar with, has appeared in many of Shinkai's works. One of the biggest stages this time is the entertainment district of Kabukicho, which would be a first, even though it is a part of Shinjuku. The opulent yet disorderly bustle is drawn in the animation and is a highlight of this film. The production team scouted many places and landscapes that would suit their vision to decide on the setting. People who know Tokyo, as well as those who don't, will experience a sense of familiarity. Another point of interest is the scenery above the clouds. The audience should expect to be amazed by the depiction.

## THE STAFF

A team of experienced and skilled staff was gathered to bear the responsibility of creating entertainment that will lead this era. Like with the previous film, Masayoshi Tanaka was tasked with character design. Shinkai puts a lot of trust in him to be the best in choosing the finest details from the facial structure to hairstyles and outfits. This is Shinkai's first time teaming up with Atsushi Tamura as the animation director, but his past work on Studio Ghibli films and *Mobile Suit Gundam: The Origin* proved him more than worthy. Not only that, but Shinkai appreciated his work ethic. The art director, Hiroshi Takiguchi, had beautifully depicted a rainy Shinjuku and a sunny city center in *The Garden of Words* before. He was the perfect choice to portray the Tokyo scenery and weather that plays a big part in this film. Animation is a medium in which the imagery itself becomes the story. The portrayal of humans artistically is a distinctive quality of Shinkai films, and *Weathering With You* continues to showcase it.





## THE MUSIC

When the first draft of the script was done, Shinkai first thought of RADWIMPS' Yojiro Noda to read it. After Noda read the script, he wrote the songs "Is There Still Anything That Love Can Do?" and "We'll Be Alright (Movie Edit)." After Shinkai received the songs, he felt that this film would be something he must make, and the story and the music influenced each other to completion. The music of RADWIMPS became a necessary part of this film, more than the last collaboration in *Your Name*. And as a new challenge this time, they appointed a female vocalist. Toko Miura, an actress and singer, was chosen in an audition to much acclaim from both Shinkai and Noda.

## RADWIMPS

**Yojiro Noda** (vocals, guitar, piano)

**Akira Kuwahara** (guitar)

**Yusuke Takeda** (bass)

RADWIMPS was formed in 2001 and made their major debut in 2005. They worked on the music for the 2016 animation film *Your Name* to critical acclaim, winning the Outstanding Achievement in Music award at the 2017 Japan Academy Prize.





## YOJIRO NODA

I didn't receive any requests about the music from director Shinkai. So I believe I was able to create a different world from my interpretation of the screenplay, not a summary or a report, to give back to the director. As a new challenge, we had Toko Miura participate in our music as a vocalist. Her singing voice has the strength to envelop the audience and is truly the world of *Weathering With You*. Regarding the soundtrack, we expanded our use of instruments and melody compared to the last film, so I am very satisfied. What we sing about and what director Shinkai creates seem to resonate, and the small galaxies we make combine to become a larger galaxy. It makes me think that the world works that way too by connecting to individual humans, and *Weathering With You* touches upon that.

## TOKO MIURA

When I first met everyone on the team of *Weathering With You*, I felt how much time and effort was put into this film as well as the love toward the project. I am honored and thankful that they entrusted those feelings to my voice. I spent about two months under the direction of Yojiro Noda to record carefully. I was sent the song he wrote, listened to it, sang it, was sent again, then I sent it back...the process was like exchanging letters and was fun. The song is gentle as if it's watching over the two protagonists but also giving them a nudge when needed. I am looking forward to the day when this song can be delivered to everyone.

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Toko Miura was born in 1996 in Hokkaido. She was chosen to be the vocalist of Makoto Shinkai's latest work, *Weathering With You*.

Shinkai: "Her voice is more than that of a singer. It's the sound of the world itself, a voice that could bring you something that transcends the emotion of the individual."

RADWIMPS' Noda: "Her singing voice has the consuming and mysterious power that can bring upon a sunny day."







## 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](http://www.gkids.com)    [@gkidsfilms](https://www.instagram.com/gkidsfilms)

[www.WeatheringWithYouMovie.com](http://www.WeatheringWithYouMovie.com)



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