



THE NEW FILM BY NAKO YAMADA



THE COLORS WITHIN

PRESSKIT



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Original title: きみの色 (KIMINOIRO) / International title: The Colors Within

2024 | Japan | Color | 101mins

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SYNOPSIS

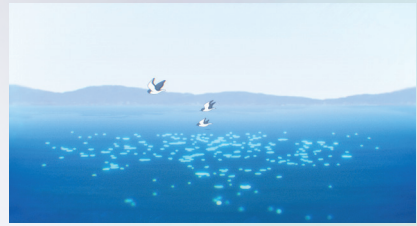
Totsuko is a high school student with the ability to see the ‘colors’ of others. Colors of bliss, excitement, and serenity, plus a color she treasures as her favorite.

She forms a band with two friends: **Kimi**, a classmate at her school who gives off the most beautiful color of all, and **Rui**, a music enthusiast whom she met at a used bookstore in a far corner of town.

Kimi has not told her family that she stopped going to school. Rui thrives when he’s playing music behind his mother’s back, as she expects him to become a doctor. Totsuko is not alone – they all have secrets held close.

As they practice at an old church on a remote island, music brings them together, forming friendships and stirring affections.

They try to blend in with others, pretend to be something they’re not, and hurt themselves by overthinking – all this as they prepare for a campus festival and their first live performance. **What colors will they show to the packed auditorium?**





STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Colors Within illustrates the important first step you take towards something through a story of three high schoolers playing music. It was born out of my desire to make a film that would connect with other people's experiences; those who were starting something new, or who had already embarked on a new journey.

The three protagonists, Totsuko, Kimi, and Rui, grew out of my initial inspiration for the project: you might not be able to see yourself objectively, but the friends who support you can. All three of them lack self-confidence and have their shortcomings, but they also have the fortitude not to blame others for those problems.

What brings the characters together is music. I believe that music is a powerful, captivating thing that can transcend all boundaries, may they be age, gender, or nationality. I think that music can be a personal, private experience, but also that the feelings you get can be shared with others. To me, there's nothing better than that - I believe wholeheartedly in the power of music.

Throughout this film, all the characters are concerned, or worried, or supportive of each other, sometimes even unconsciously; this dynamic was important to

me. In addition, as this is an original film, the viewers meet the characters when the film starts and say goodbye when it ends. I put a lot of care into making the characters feel like your friends for that reason.

I think everyone has a kind of sixth sense, something we feel subconsciously when we accept others into ourselves. Like enjoying their scent, or their eyes. For Totsuko, that's color. Totsuko's world of colors feels fuzzy and dreamlike, yet it has tangible qualities as well. It was incredibly fun to try and depict how she sees and understands the world in a different way, not just through words or sounds.

I feel there's a real compatibility between the idea of sins within Christianity and the impulsive passions and adolescent worries of a young girl like Totsuko. As she grows up and learns more, her faith helps create her, acting as both a light in the dark and a stumbling block. Her burgeoning awareness of her small guilts is a moment in life everyone goes through, and I hope seeing her going through it can help.

The way I approached religion in this film is greatly influenced by the local character of Japan, and by the Japanese way of thinking. Many Japanese people describe themselves as non-religious, while others have strong beliefs; the fact these two groups can coexist speaks to the open-mindedness of Japanese culture, an aspect of it I love. I have close friends from many different religions and belief systems, and in speaking to them I find a common spirit of honest belief; a desire to pray, to hope, to want things to be better, to want to be better yourself.

I myself am not religious, and I know it's a complicated topic that defies easy categorization, but one of the hopes I had when making this film was to bring people together, linking their hands in spite of their differences.

Whenever I'm given the chance to work on a project, I end up learning so much from the characters who inhabit the world of the story. About caring for others, about how it feels to have someone supporting you, about the parts of yourself that can easily get lost... it all gives me the courage to move forward.

The Colors Within has become a kind of strength for me, and it would be my pleasure if your encounter with the film is just as meaningful.

— Naoko Yamada, April 2024

INTRODUCTION

This hotly-anticipated original animated feature film from visionary director Naoko Yamada combines themes of music and adolescence, acting as both a culmination of all her work to date, and as a key that will throw open the doors to a new age of animated cinema. This summer 2024, we're all falling in love.

The 2011 theatrical version of *K-On!* was a 1.9 billion yen-grossing smash hit, creating a full-fledged social phenomenon. 2016's *A Silent Voice*, fueled by critical acclaim both domestic and international, went on to gross 2.3 billion yen, an unusual commercial feat, and was eventually nominated for Best Animation Film of the Year Award at the **Japan Academy Film Prize**, as well as being selected for official competition at the **Annecy International Animation Film Festival**.

Her directorial work on both films propelled her into becoming one of the most sought-after directors worldwide, recognized for her rare visual senses, depicting minute daily life in a fresh and vivid style and for her sensitive direction, picking up on the smallest movements of the soul. Her much-anticipated original animated feature film *The Colors Within* is a coming-of-age drama, **the genre which she is most known for, depicting the protagonists' independence, struggles, and romance in exquisite, almost painterly visuals.**



The script is written by her frequent collaborator Reiko Yoshida, who produced many hits at Studio Ghibli and Kyoto Animation, including on *K-On!*. The music is by Kensuke Ushio, whose scores include the soundtrack for Yamada's *A Silent Voice*, *Liz and the Blue Bird*, and the recent TV series *Chainsaw Man*, which received rave reviews. Takashi Kojima serves as the animation director, and character designs are credited to Daisuke Richard.

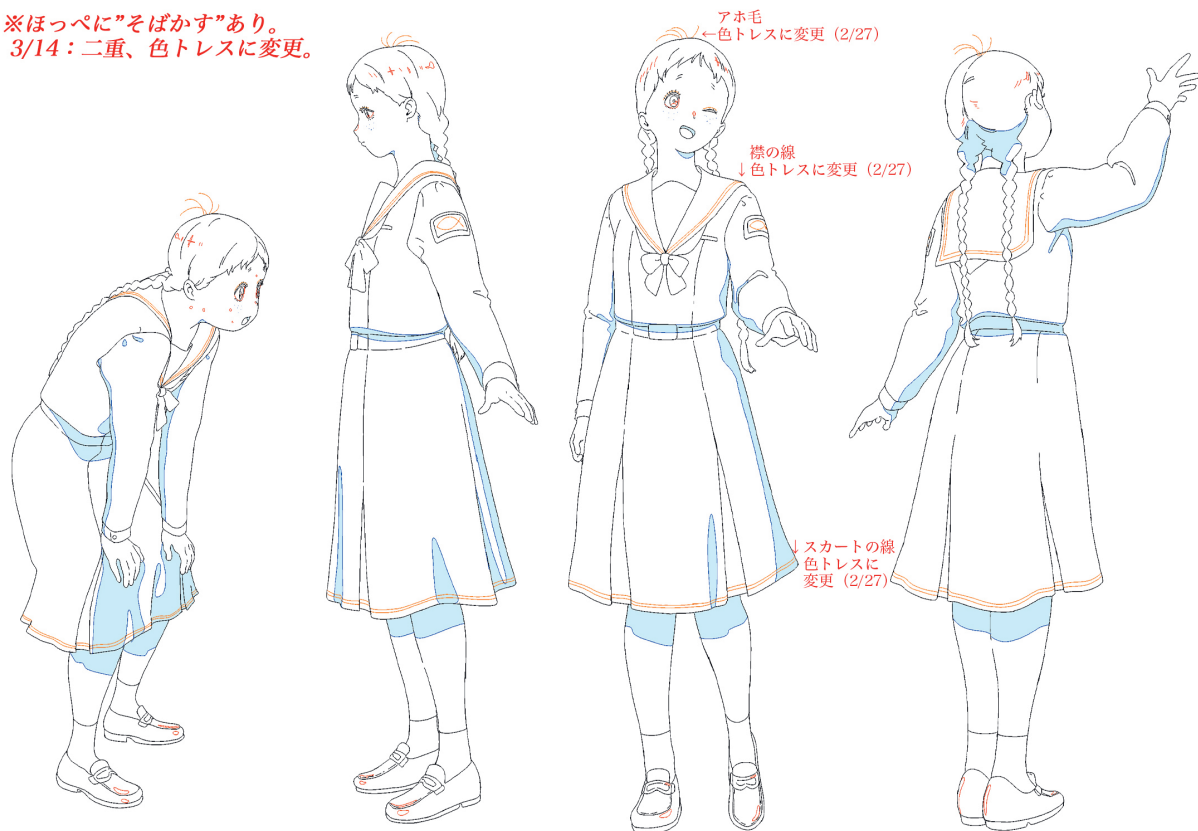
The voice cast includes Sayu Suzukawa as Totsuko, along with Akari Takaishi as Kimi and Taisei Kido as Rui, who form a band with Totsuko. 1600 actors auditioned for the roles and the final three garnered much attention for their close resemblance to their characters. Yui Aragaki voices Sister Hiyoko, a key figure that mentors and leads the three.

Universal themes and never-before-seen visuals that tug at the heartstrings of people of all ages, along with a soundtrack synchronized with the story itself are weaved together in the coming-of-age story of *The Colors Within*, **signifying the beginning of a new age for animated films.**

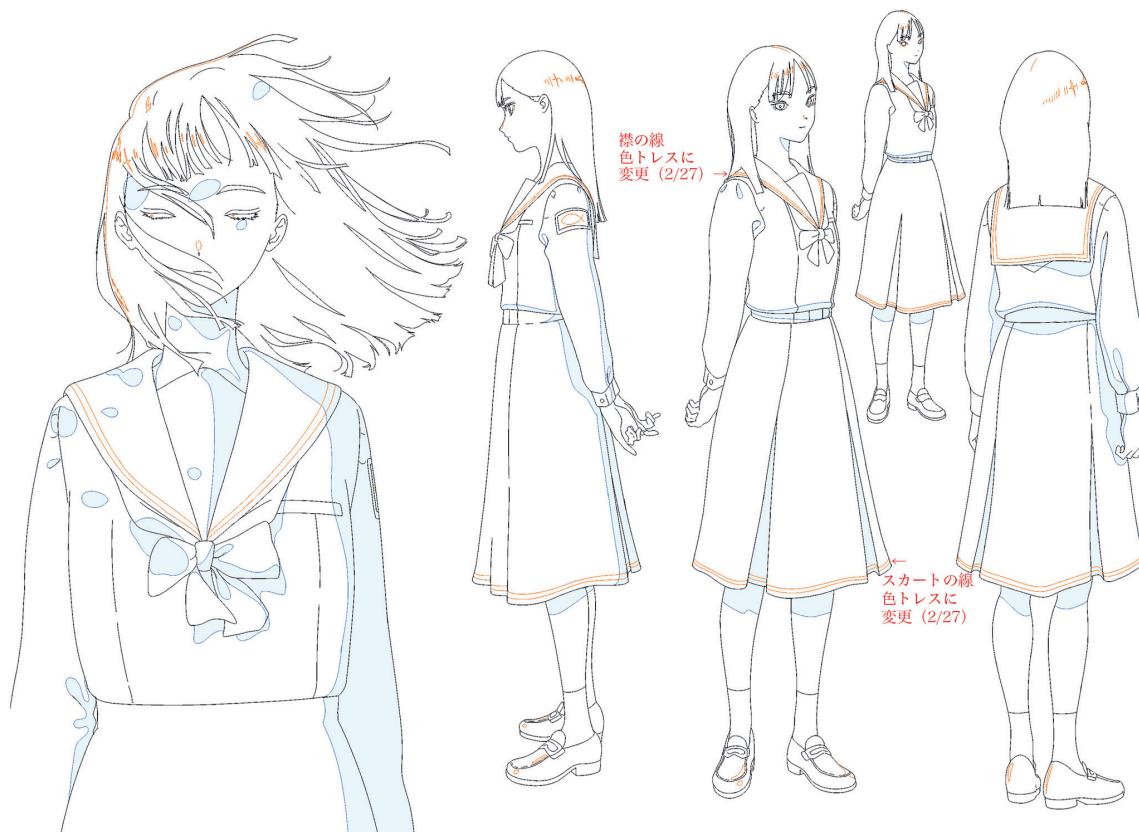


TOTSUKO

※ほっぺに”そばかす”あり。
3/14：二重、色トレスに変更。



KIMI

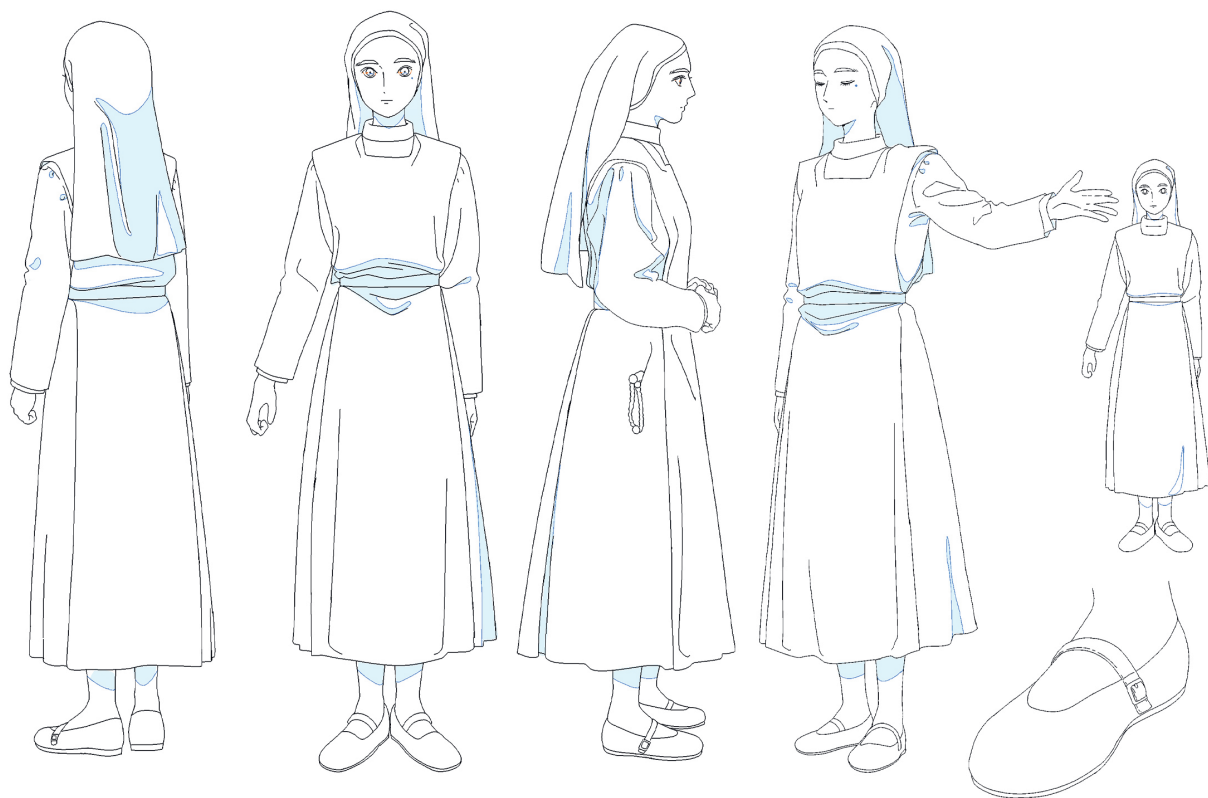


RUI

※3/14：メガネ下部
(レンズの輪郭部分)を
色トレスに変更



HIYOKO



DIRECTOR

Naoko Yamada

In 2009, **Yamada** made her debut as a director after being selected to direct the TV series *K-On!*. The series became a nationwide sensation and a social phenomenon, and in 2011, she helmed her first feature with the film version of *K-On!*, which while a limited release grossed over 1.9 billion yen at the box office and was nominated for Best Animation Film of the Year Award at the 35th Japan Academy Film Prize. She continued to blaze a new trail with her follow-up directorial features *Tamako Market* and *A Silent Voice*, which became a hit with 1.77 million admissions and a box office gross of over 2.3 billion yen. The title was nominated for Best Animation Film of the Year Award at the 40th Japan Academy Film Prize. and was selected for the competition section of the Annecy International Animation Film Festival. She is one of the most highly acclaimed female directors in the Japanese animation industry thanks to her visual sensibilities, vivid depiction of ordinary life, and strong, detailed direction.



SCREENPLAY

Reiko Yoshida

Yoshida began her career in 1993 after having her work selected by an NHK radio program writing competition. Her work on the TV series *Ojarumaru* in 1997 and *Magical DoReMi* in 1999 received high praise, and she also went on to write the film *The Cat Returns* in 2002 and the TV series *K-On!* in 2009. In 2014, she won the Best Screenplay / Original Story in the Anime of the Year category at the Tokyo Anime Award Festival. Her credits in recent years include the film *A Silent Voice* (2016), the TV series *Okko's Inn* (2018), and the TV series and film *Violet Evergarden* (2020). She has also recently collaborated with Science SARU on the TV series *The Heike Story* (2022) directed by Naoko Yamada. She is known for her versatility, working with both original titles, in which her meticulous storytelling ability is in full display, and adaptations, in which she elevates the source material, while always respecting it and keeping its world intact.





MUSIC

kensuke ushio

In 2008, **ushio** debuted with "a day, phases" under his solo name agraph. He is a member of the band LAMA, as well as an active supporting member of Denki Groove, remixing, providing music, and acting as their producer. Ever since 2014, when he scored the animated television series *Ping Pong the Animation*, he has been credited for many soundtracks to both animated and live-action titles. Highly acclaimed for his progressive yet serene sound, his music can be found in *Japan Sinks: 2020* (2020), *Words Bubble Up Like Soda Pop* (2021), and *Chainsaw Man* (2022). He partnered with Naoko Yamada for the first time in her *A Silent Voice* (2016) and continued to provide distinctive scores to *Liz and the Blue Bird* (2018) and *The Heike Story* (2022).



ANIMATION DIRECTOR & CHARACTER DESIGN

Takashi Kojima

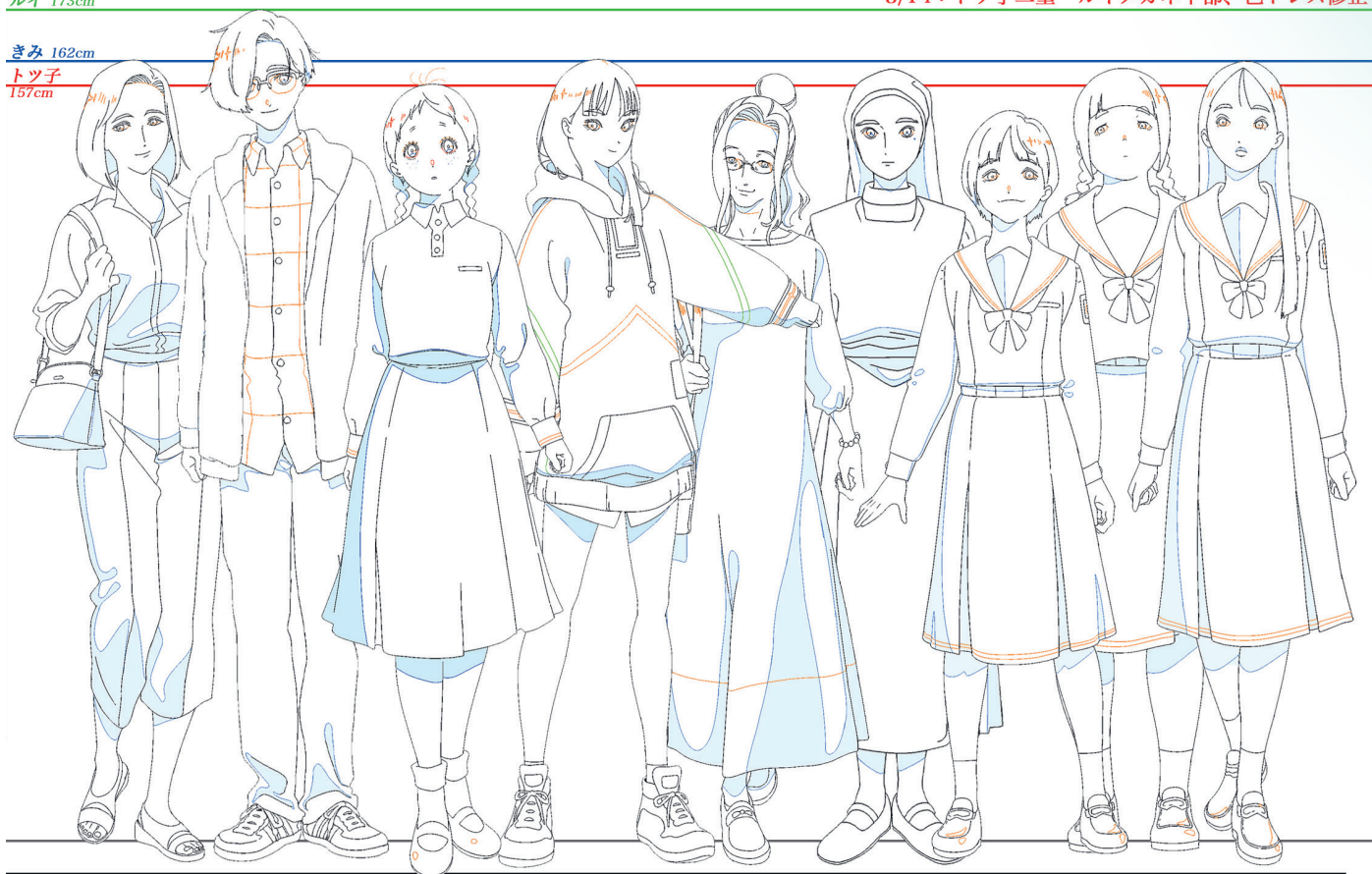
Kojima's credits extend to numerous works with various creative roles, including animation direction on episodes 2 and 9 of *Devilman: Crybaby* (2018) and character design for *Pokémon: Paldean Winds* (2023). He served as episode director, animation director, and the only key animator on episode 5 of *Your Lie in April* (2014-2015) and the opening of *Attack on Titan: The Final Season Part 2* (2022). His other credits as animation director and character design include *Ride Your Wave* (2019) and *Doraemon the Movie: Nobita's New Dinosaur* (2020). His first collaboration with Naoko Yamada was *The Heike Story* (2022) where he garnered attention for his delicate lines and precise model sheets, which brought Fumiko Takano's original characters to life.

ルイ 173cm

※3/6 : 服、色トレス修正
3/14 : トuzzi二重・ルイメガネ下部、色トレス修正

きみ 162cm

トuzzi
157cm



ORIGINAL CHARACTER DESIGN

DaisukeRichard

DaisukeRichard began releasing his illustrations in 2016. The way he weaves playful lines and pop colors together to depict the ordinary lives of girls garnered attention worldwide, especially from the younger generation. He has partnered with artists like Sangatsu no Phantasia and collaborated with different apparel brands. In 2020, he handled character design on a 60-second short for Netflix Anime, along with working on the 2021 music video for SixTONES' "Uyamuya". His published artbooks are *KIKANETSU* (2018), *SUISOU* (2019), and *USHIMITSUDOKI* (2021). He is currently on hiatus.



“Featuring this poetic instrument
- which is played without even touching -
makes sense in this universe where emotions
are presented in all their subtlety.”

MUSICIAN

Grégoire Blanc



Grégoire Blanc, a young French musician, is now one of the few ‘virtuosos’ of the theremin - a very special kind of musical instrument.

It uses an electromagnetic field on the left side of the instrument that acts as a bow, with a second on the right that acts like an invisible string... After a few years of playing the cello, his first encounter with this strange instrument, during a physics lesson at secondary school, was a revelation. Progress was rapid and after creating a few videos on YouTube it wasn’t long before he’d drawn quite the audience.

Grégoire is an engineering graduate of the École Nationale Supérieure d’Arts et Métiers, and holder of a Master’s degree in music science (ATIAM) from IRCAM, he decided to devote himself fully to music when he finished his studies. The theremin opened up a very wide field of artistic exploration for him. In addition to the classical music that has always been a staple for him, his artistic horizons have evolved in many other directions when he met new people and worked on a broad range of projects across the world and different platforms. On stage, in the studio, from Canada to Kazakhstan...

Alongside the theremin, he composes with classical instruments too, giving him a highly original signature.



PRODUCED BY

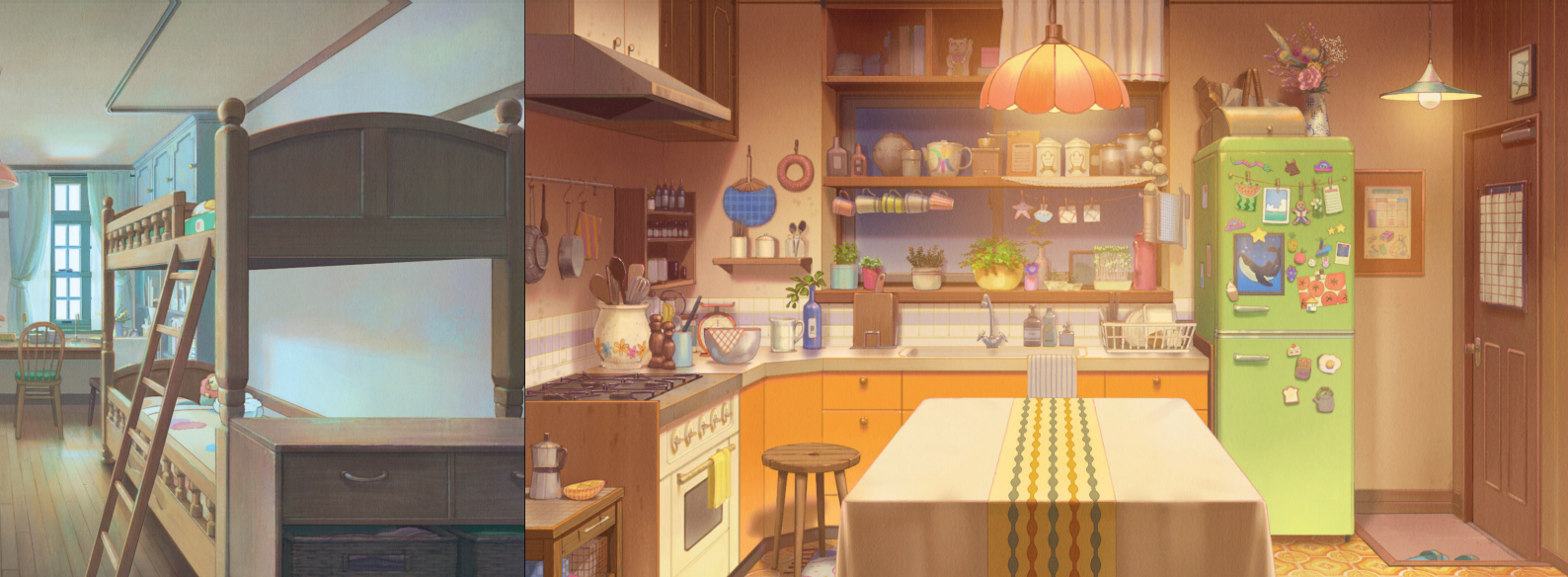
STORY inc.

STORY inc. is a film production company founded by Yoshihiro Furusawa and Genki Kawamura, the producers of the animated feature *Your Name*. (2016). STORY inc. develops and produces films with compelling story in association with Makoto Shinkai and CoMix Wave Films Inc., respectively the director and the production company of *Your Name*. (2016), and other talented creators/productions. In addition to *Suzume* (2022), STORY inc. has recently produced the Netflix series drama called *The MAKANAI* (2023) with director Hirokazu Kore-eda.

PRODUCTION

Science SARU

Science SARU is an award-winning animation studio with diverse and talented staff. Science SARU's debut feature film *Lu Over The Wall* received the Crystal award for Best Feature Film at the Annecy International Animation Film Festival in 2017. Other representative works include the animated series *DEVILMAN crybaby* (2017), *Keep Your Hands Off Eizouken!* (2020) and *Tatami Time Machine Blues* (2022). Their recent film *Inu-oh* (2022) was nominated for the Best Motion Picture – Animated award at the Golden Globes. Yamada's most recent collaboration with Science SARU is the TV series *The Heike Story* (2022), in which she succeeded in combining traditional Japanese aesthetics with cutting-edge visual direction.



EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Eunyoung Choi

Eunyoung Choi's journey in the world of animation is a testament to creativity, dedication, and the transformative power of art. As the Co-founder and CEO of Science SARU, a leading animation studio based in Japan, her journey began with a passion for fine art and animation. Her collaboration with the acclaimed director Masaaki Yuasa resulted in the creation of iconic works like *Kaiba* (2008), *The Tatami Galaxy* (2010), and *Ping Pong the Animation* (2014). Transitioning to a producer, Eunyoung continued to excel with projects like *Lu Over the Wall* (2017, Annecy Cristal winner) and *Night is Short, Walk on Girl* (2018). Her latest project is the eagerly anticipated Netflix series *Scott Pilgrim Takes Off* (2023).

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Yoshihiro Furusawa

Born in Tokyo in 1978, **Yoshihiro Furusawa** joined TOHO CO., LTD. in 2000. In 2012, he became the Section Chief of the animation division and spearheaded the TOHO animation brand, where he produced films such as *Your Name.* (2016) and *My Hero Academia: Two Heroes* (2018). In September of 2017, he founded STORY inc. while maintaining his position at TOHO CO., LTD..

PRODUCED BY

Genki Kawamura

Born in Yokohama, 1979. Genki Kawamura has produced films such as *Confessions* (2010), *Villain* (2010), *Wolf Children* (2012), *Your Name.* (2016), *Rage* (2016), and *Monster* (2023) throughout his career. In 2012, he published his first novel, "If Cats Disappeared from the World." And, most recently in 2022, his original film *A Hundred Flowers*, for which he wrote the screenplay and directed, won "Best Director" at the 70th San Sebastián International Film Festival.

CAST

With the voices of

Sayu Suzukawa : **Totsuko**

Akari Takaishi : **Kimi**

Taisei Kido : **Rui**

Yui Aragaki : **Sister Hiyoko**

STAFF LIST

Director: **Naoko Yamada**

Screenplay: **Reiko Yoshida**

Music: **kensuke ushio**

Character Design & Animation Director: **Takashi Kojima**

Original Character Design: **DaisukeRichard**

Chief Art Director: **Midori Shimada**

Art Director: **Yuuna Murooka**

Color Design: **Yuko Kobari**

Compositing: **Yoshimitsu Tomita**

Editor: **Kiyoshi Hirose**

Sound Director: **Eriko Kimura**

Sound Effects: **Hiromune Kurahashi**

Executive Producers: **Eunyoung Choi, Yoshihiro Furusawa**

Produced by: **Genki Kawamura**

Producers: **Wakana Okamura, Kohei Sakita**

Produced by: **STORY inc.**

Production & Produced by: **Science SARU**

About Anime Limited

Founded by Andrew Partridge and Cedric Littardi in 2012, Glasgow-based Anime Limited is PLAION PICTURES' Japanese animation arm in the UK, France, and beyond.

With a thoughtfully curated lineup of films, series, and soundtracks, Anime Limited has earned its title of Europe's favourite anime distributor. Whether through fan-centric cinema runs, beautifully packaged collector's editions, or sharing the best of anime music on vinyl, Anime Limited offers bespoke experiences for all fans for titles such as *Attack on Titan*, *BELLE*, *Cowboy Bebop*, *JUJUTSU KAISEN*, *Neon Genesis Evangelion*, *One Piece Film: RED*, *Spy x Family CODE: White*, *Your Name.*, and *Weathering with You*.

About PLAION PICTURES

PLAION PICTURES is one of Europe's leading independent film labels with headquarters just at the gates of Munich. We offer tailor-made marketing solutions for films and series on all channels, from cinema to TV and home entertainment to innovative digital offers.

Our goal is to entertain people with exciting, moving or humorous content – anytime and anywhere. Our unique and wide-ranging portfolio also includes a large number of renowned art house productions, numerous successful and award-winning theatrical releases and a library of over 1,600 titles. Moreover, movie fans also appreciate our high-quality special editions, which turn classics into new film experiences.

Plaion is headquartered in Planegg near Munich and has branches in Germany, the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Italy, Sweden, the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland, Poland, Australia, the United States, Japan and Hong Kong. For more information, visit www.plaion.com.

Synesthete *TOTSUKO*

can see others as colors.

Honor student *KIMI*

has dropped out of school but still pretends

to attend for her grandmother's sake.

They reunite and decide

to form a band with *RUI*,

who dreams of composing

on analog synthesizers but whose mother

expects him to become a doctor.

TOGETHER, they find

freedom, joy, and love.