



The Voice Actress





THE VOICE ACTRESS

Short Narrative Film

15 minutes

Written, Directed, Edited by Anna J. Takayama

SYNOPSIS

Kingyo is a veteran voice actress working and living alone in Tokyo. She possesses a unique and otherworldly ability to see the soul in all things, living and inanimate. The voice acting world is rapidly changing and she must find a way to reconcile her way of living with the modern industry. As Kingyo prepares for an upcoming audition, she seeks inspiration from the world around her and from her pet goldfish, Asatte. In the face of professional and personal adversity, Kingyo looks decidedly inward for strength through empathy and kindness.





FILM TEAM

writer, director, editor

ANNA J. TAKAYAMA is an LA-based filmmaker born in New York and raised in Tokyo. Influenced by her international background, she has always had a keen interest in global storytelling and shedding light on stories untold. During the day, she works full-time in Post Production.



producer

JOE SKINNER is a producer, filmmaker, and podcaster. He co-founded his production company, Video Horse Films, with a passion for independent filmmaking. During the day, he leads digital content and strategy for the Emmy award-winning PBS documentary series, American Masters, and is the producer and host of the podcast, American Masters: Creative Spark, whose guests include M. Night Shyamalan, Miranda July, Errol Morris, among others.



FILM TEAM

actor

URARA TAKANO's notable voice roles include: "Raichu" in Pokémon, "Sisu" in Raya and the Last Dragon, "Insector Haga" in Yu-Gi-Oh!, "Ryo Ishizaki" in Captain Tsubasa, "Marler" in Oh My Goddess!, "Miss Sara Bellum" in The Powerpuff Girls, "Anastasia" in Disney's Cinderella, "Lois" (Jane Kaczmarek) in Malcolm in the Middle, "Celia" in Monsters, Inc., "Bellatrix Lestrange" (Helena Bonham Carter) in Harry Potter, and "Rose Weil" (Bonham Carter) in Ocean's 8.

cinematographer

CONOR MURPHY is a Brooklyn-based cinematographer originally from Philadelphia. His first feature film, MICKEY AND THE BEAR, premiered at SXSW in 2019 and was nominated for best feature film by a debut cinematographer at Camerimage. Conor has shot music videos for Jaden Smith, Brockhampton, Lil Yachty, Joey Bada\$\$, and others, and his music videos have screened at festivals such as SXSW and Sundance. Conor's commercial clients include Evian, Pfizer, American Express, and Jim Beam, to name a few. Conor is now represented by The Gersh Agency.





FILMMAKER STATEMENT

Anime has become one of the biggest global exports from Japan. It may even be the first thing that people think of when they think of Japanese culture. However, the world behind the screen, namely that of voice actors, is rarely documented.

My mother is, in real life, a voice actress working in Tokyo, and I grew up witnessing that world. In recent years, I believe there has been a shift in the industry favoring voice actors who are younger and "more visual," particularly for women. That bias is not unlike the ones that exist in the entertainment industry here in America.

As a first generation Japanese American, I emigrated to America leaving my family and my mother in Japan and have since then felt a strong desire to document life there. In particular, I have always wanted to document my mother's talent and her style of voice acting, which stems from empathy and imagination. For her, all things, living and inanimate, have a soul. At its core, this is arguably closely in line with fundamental Buddhist beliefs. Her style of voice acting gives voice to things in the world that don't have a voice and a voice to things that people don't hear.

I wanted to create this short film as a way to document her ability and also as a way to contribute in my own way, in giving a voice to those unheard.

- ANNA J. TAKAYAMA

CREW

WRITER, DIRECTOR, EDITOR	Anna J. Takayama
PRODUCER	Joe Skinner
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY	Conor Murphy
CO-PRODUCER	Kumi Nemoto, Jackson K. Segars
ASSOCIATE PRODUCER	Natsuki Kato, Kyo Yaoya
ASSISTANT CAMERA	Sunnie Kim
PRODUCTION SOUND MIXER	Andrew Yip
PRODUCTION DESIGN	Anna J. Takayama
GRAPHICS DESIGN & ANIMATICS	Jun Endo, Natsuki Kato, Kyo Yaoya
SFX ARTIST (Goldfish Design)	Natsuki Kato
D.I.T.	Jackson K. Segars
SCRIPT SUPERVISOR	Kiri Halebale
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT	Julian Pinault
RECORDING STUDIO CONSULTANT	Chaka
COLORIST	Marcy Robinson
ONLINE EDITOR	Rachael Black
D.I. ASSISTS	Myahdellese Jones, Rebecca Conner
D.I. PRODUCTION COORDINATOR	Tiffany Gale
VFX	Ariyan Hashemi, Martin Anderson
SOUND DESIGNER & RE-RECORDING MIXER	Ryan Billia

CAST

KINGYO	Urara Takano
DIRECTOR	Daisaku Hokura
IDOL	Otome
PRODUCER	Ujisuke
SOUND MIXER	Itsuki
SCREENWRITER	Ryuji Takahashi
ASSISTANT	Michiko Nonaka
EXECUTIVE	Michael Aaron Stone



OFFICIAL SELECTIONS

SXSW Film Festival 2022, Special Jury Award Winner

Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia 2022, Audience Award Winner (Japan Competition)

Palm Springs ShortFest 2022, Jury Special Mention for Best of the Festival Award

L.A. Shorts International Film Festival 2022

HollyShorts Film Festival 2022

Edinburgh International Film Festival 2022

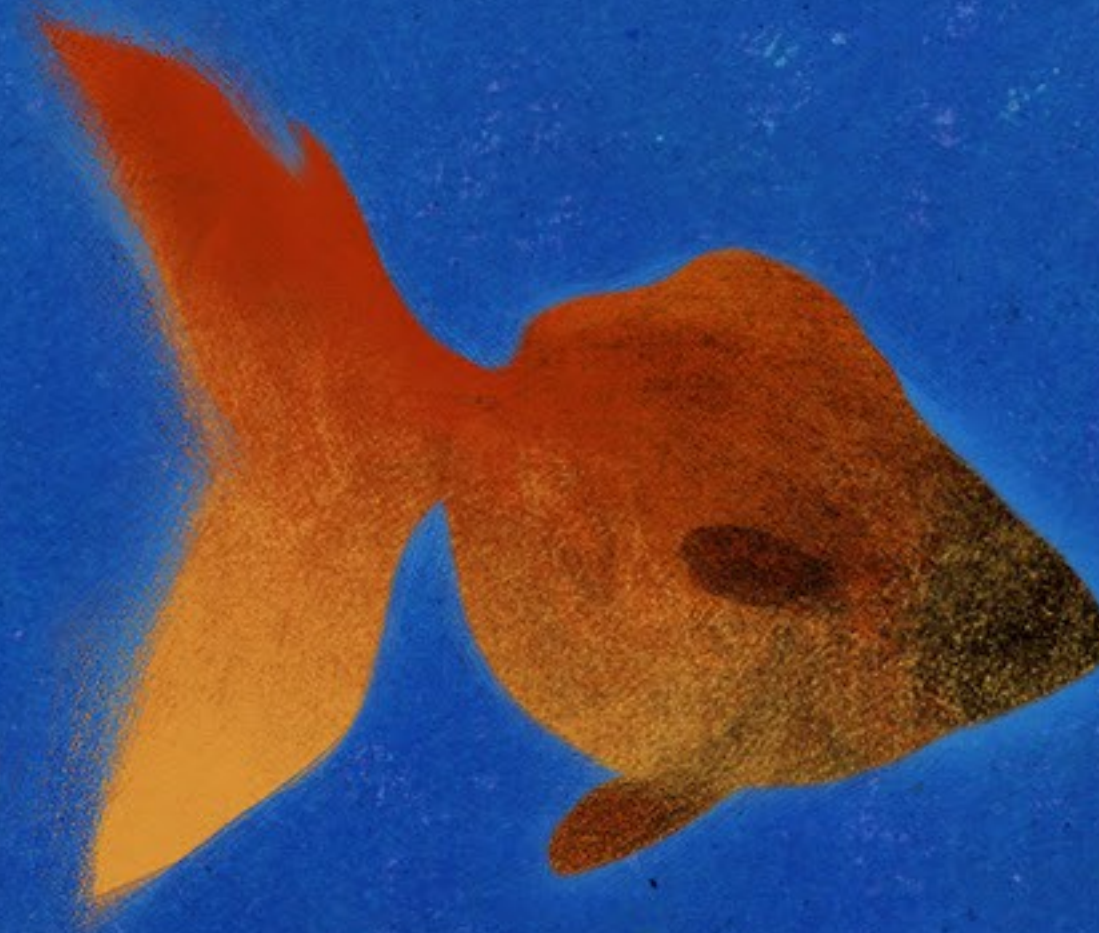
DC Asian Pacific American Film Festival 2022

Lighthouse International Film Festival 2022

The Martha's Vineyard Film Festival 2022

TECHNICAL INFO

YEAR	2022
LENGTH	15 Minutes
LANGUAGE	Japanese
COUNTRY	Japan, USA
PRODUCTION COMPANY	Video Horse Films
FILM FORMAT	Digital, Arri Alexa Mini
FILM RATIO	1.66:1
SOUND	5.1 Mix
EXHIBITION FORMAT	2K DCP



CONTACT

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**VIDEO
HORSE**



The Green Room





The
Voice
Actress