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**Atsuko Hirayanagi's *Oh Lucy!* wins Short Film Jury Award: International Fiction
Sundance Film Festival 2015**



(l) Director Atsuko Hirayanagi receives her award
(r) Director Atsuko Hirayanagi with jury member Alia Shawkat

PARK CITY, UTAH, USA – Atsuko Hirayanagi's *Oh Lucy!* has been awarded the top prize in the International Fiction short film category at the 2015 Sundance Film Festival (Jan 21 – Feb 1). Atsuko Hirayanagi is the first female filmmaker of a Japanese financed film to win a short film award at Sundance.

This year's short film program was comprised of 60 titles selected from 8,061 submissions. The jurors were: production designer K.K. Barrett, actress Alia Shawkat, and photographer Autumn de Wilde.

The jury praised *Oh Lucy!*, which stars veteran Japanese actress Kaori Momoi, in its comments: "*Loaded with strong directing and powerful, unpredictable performances, this film creates an unconventional, moving hero with a late awakening.*"

The award marks *Oh Lucy!*'s fourth major accolade following the Cinéfondation Selection Second Prize at the 2014 Cannes International Film Festival, Short Cuts International Special Mention at the 2014 Toronto International Film Festival, and Best International Short Film at the Academy® Accredited Flickerfest International Short Film Festival in Sydney.



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Background



Atsuko Hirayanagi graduated from NYU Tisch School of The Arts Asia with a MFA in film production. Her short films have played at numerous film festivals, including Clermont-Ferrand and Tokyo Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia, where her MFA 2nd year project, *Mō Ikkai*, won the Grand Prix as well as the Japan Competition Best Short (Governor of Tokyo Award) and the Audience award. ***Oh Lucy!*** marks Hirayanagi's Cannes debut.

Oh Lucy! stars film veteran Kaori Momoi as Setsuko, a middle-aged office worker who discovers new facets of herself as English student alter-ego "Lucy." However, Setsuko is eventually forced to come to terms with her true identity.

Momoi has worked with some of Japan's great film directors, including Akira Kurosawa, Shohei Imamura, Yoji Yamada and Takashi Miike. Among her outstanding credits are *Kagemusha*, *The Sun*, *Emperor*, *Memoirs of a Geisha* and *Sukiyaki Western Django*. In ***Oh Lucy!*** Momoi gives a superb performance that's equally humorous and touching.

Oh Lucy! is also being developed as a feature film project which has already gained significant attention. The project participated in the Tokyo Talents (Asian branch of Berlinale Talents). It was also one of three scripts nominated for the Sundance Institute/NHK Award and 2014 Sundance Lab.

DIRECTOR ATSUKO HIRAYANAGI IS AVAILABLE AT SUNDANCE FOR INTERVIEWS OR PHOTO SESSIONS UNTIL JANUARY 29

Downloads & Links:

Hi-res Images (4 film images + 1 director portrait + 1 poster, ZIP file, 10.2Mb):
http://www.loadedfilms.jp/downloads/OHLUCY_images.zip

Cast & Crew Listing
http://www.loadedfilms.jp/documents/LF_OHLUCY_CANNES_CAST-CREW.pdf

January 28th 2015 press release (PDF format)
http://www.loadedfilms.jp/documents/LF_OHLUCY_SUNDANCE_012815.pdf

May 22nd 2014 press release (PDF format)
http://www.loadedfilms.jp/documents/LF_OHLUCY_CANNES_052214.pdf

May 9th 2014 press release (PDF format)
http://www.loadedfilms.jp/documents/LF_OHLUCY_CANNES_050914.pdf

Oh Lucy! Official Sites
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