



NIKKATSU



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**36th MOSCOW INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
Kazuyoshi Kumakiri's *My Man* to screen in competition**



CANNES, FRANCE – Japanese director Kazuyoshi Kumakiri's *My Man (Watashi no Otoko)* has been invited as an official selection in the competition programme of the 36th Moscow International Film Festival (June 19-28). *My Man* will screen as an international premiere as the only film from Japan in competition. The 2014 MIFF lineup was unveiled today by festival organizers at the Russian Pavilion of the Cannes International Film Festival.

About the Film

Based on Kazuki Sakuraba's controversial best seller, *My Man* is a powerful motion picture directed by award-winning film-maker Kazuyoshi Kumakiri and starring three generations of Japan's greatest actors, all with strong overseas presence: Tadanobu Asano, Fumi Nikaido, and Tatsuya Fuji.

Kumakiri burst onto the scene with 1997's *Kichiku*, winning the Grand Prize at Italy's Taormina International Film Festival. *Hole in the Sky* (2001) marked Hollywood actress Rinko Kikuchi's debut lead role and won the FIPRESCI Prize and a Special Mention at the Rotterdam Film Festival. 2003's *Antenna* screened in the Venice competition and 2010's *Sketches of Kaitan City* won prizes in France and Asia. With *My Man*, Kumakiri carefully crafts the story of a man and little girl fatefully united by the 1993 earthquake and tsunami in Okushiri, Hokkaido.

Lead actor Tadanobu Asano's astounding filmography includes Takeshi Kitano's *Zatoichi*, Pen-ek Ratanaruang's *Last Life in the Universe* (Venice 2003, Upstream Best Actor), Hou Hsiao-Hsien's *Café Lumière*, Sergei Bodrov's *Mongol: The Rise of Genghis Khan* (Academy Award Best Foreign Language Film nominee, 2007) as well as major Hollywood releases *47 Ronin* and the *Thor* series. Asano gives a soulful performance drawing on 25 years of film acting. Co-star Fumi Nikaido rose to international prominence at 16 years old upon receiving the Marcello Mastroianni Award at the 2011 Venice Film Festival for her performance in Sion Sono's *Himizu*. In *My Man* she gives a bold performance ranging from cute to seductive as she transforms from girl to woman on screen. In the pivotal supporting role is veteran actor Tatsuya Fuji. Fuji's face became part of world cinema iconography with Nagisa Oshima's twin erotic masterpieces *In the Realm of the Senses* and *Empire of Passion*.

Synopsis

After losing everything in a tsunami disaster, 10-year-old Hana is taken in by 26-year-old distant relative Jungo Kusarino (Tadanobu Asano). The pair begin living together as father and daughter while sharing a profound sense of loss. Jungo works as a cook for the coast guard and has to leave teenaged Hana (Fumi Nikaido) alone for days at a time. Amidst the deep snows of Hokkaido, Jungo and Hana both desire to fill their empty, love-starved hearts as they set foot into a forbidden world.

Eventually, an elder benefactor in their small town, Mr. Oshio, learns of Jungo and Hana's illicit relationship. When he tries to separate them for Hana's own good, it provokes an emotional rage. Soon after, atop the ice floes in the Sea of Okhotsk, a murder quietly occurs. Keeping the secret between them, Jungo and Hana escape the north to start a new life in Tokyo. However...



Director's Statement

*"Owing to pioneers such as Akira Kurosawa and Kaneto Shindo, the Moscow International Film Festival has deep ties to Japanese cinema, so I'm extremely pleased that **My Man** will screen at such a respected festival. I'm greatly looking forward to reactions of audiences living in the wintry climate of Russia and beyond to this story of a father and daughter in the snowbound world of Hokkaido."* - Kazuyoshi Kumakiri

Tadanobu Asano comment

*"I'm grateful that the Moscow International Film Festival has selected **My Man** out of such a large number of films, and happy that many people will get to see it. I'm sure I have plenty of fans in Russia (laughs). Russia sent its ice floes south to us at the perfect time during filming, so we'd like to repay them by winning the Golden George."*

Fumi Nikaido comment

*"I feel I was destined to be in **My Man**, so even the thought of the film screening in Moscow gives me goosebumps!"*

MIFF PRESS & OFFICIAL SCREENING SCHEDULE: TBA

Downloads & Links:

Hi-res Images (24 film images + 1 director portrait, ZIP file, 22.2Mb):
http://www.loadedfilms.jp/downloads/MYMAN_images.zip (password to unzip file: myman_miff2014)

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