

K A S A M A Y A K I  
( M A D E I N K A S A M A )



78 minutes • English & Japanese with English subtitles • HD Color • Japan & USA • 2014

[WWW.KASAMAYAKIFILM.COM](http://WWW.KASAMAYAKIFILM.COM)  
[FACEBOOK.COM/KASAMAYAKI](https://FACEBOOK.COM/KASAMAYAKI)

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## SYNOPSIS

Shaken by the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters of 2011, a young woman returns to Japan to make sense of her family's troubled past. In a rural artist community just 90 miles from the Fukushima Nuclear Reactors, she turns the camera on her aging parents who live a lifestyle centered around art and nature. Meditative moments at the pottery wheel, punctuated by tense conversations, sudden earthquakes and radiation level readings, *KASAMAYAKI* exposes the bittersweet process of coming to terms with an imperfect life, and the healing power of creativity.

2011年に起きた東日本大震災。地震、津波、そして原発事故に心を揺さぶられた一人の若い女性。震災後、故郷である茨城県笠間市へ戻り、家族の辛い過去と向き合う決意をする。ろくろの前で流れるゆっくりとした時間。それを途切らせる緊迫した会話、突然の地震と放射能レベルの測定。映画「笠間焼」は不完全な人生を受け入れるほろ苦さともものづくりの癒しの力を描いていく。

## DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

I was born in a rural artist community in the city of Kasama, a few hours north of Tokyo. When I was eight years old, my parents and I moved to New York City to fulfill their dreams of living as artists in the Big Apple. But it was very difficult to make ends meet. By the time I was sixteen, our family life in shambles, both of my parents returned to Japan and I remained in New York. As the years passed, our relationship further disintegrated and we saw each other less and less.

The 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters changed everything. I suddenly felt compelled to be close to my family, and to document what was going on in Japan. However, as I began interviewing my parents about the disasters, I slowly (and reluctantly) came to realize why I was really there – to find out who my parents were, and why our family had fallen apart. The camera became a powerful tool, as it allowed me to broach difficult topics that we had long avoided.

The result is a story of two tragedies: one about a broken family, and the other, about a nation grappling with catastrophic disasters – woven together in a way to find meaning amongst the wreckage. Through the making of KASAMAYAKI my parents showed me how they use their creativity to overcome difficulties in life, and I eventually understood that my film could be used to heal our family.

Although exploring and revealing my family's story has been at times, tremendously difficult, I hope that KASAMAYAKI will inspire others with painful stories to find healing in their own lives.

## GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

New York City Film & Video Grant, 2013  
Jerome Foundation

Independent Filmmaker Labs, 2013  
Independent Filmmaker Project

Individual Artist Grant, 2014  
New York State Council on the Arts

## RELEASE DATES

DOC NYC

(Viewfinders Competition)

November 16, 2014

New York, NY, USA

Thessaloniki Documentary Film Festival

March 16 & 17, 2015

Thessaloniki, Greece

Ashland Independent Film Festival

(THE Les Blank Award for Best Feature Documentary; The Best Editing in a Feature Documentary)

April 9 – 13, 2015

Ashland, OR, USA

Japan Society of New Orleans

August 17, 2015

New Orleans, LA, USA

Nashville Japanese Film Festival

August 30, 2015

Nashville, TN, USA

Japan America Society of San Antonio

University of Texas

September 25, 2015

San Antonio, TX, USA

University of Rochester

November 16, 2015

Rochester, NY, USA

Cinema Caixa Belas Artes

March 29, 2016

Sao Paulo, Brazil

Centro Cultural Carlos Fernandes de Paiva

March 30, 2016

Bauru, Brazil

## **BIOGRAPHIES**

### **YUKI KOKUBO**

DIRECTOR/ CINEMATOGRAPHER/ EDITOR

Yuki is a documentary filmmaker and photographer based in New York City. Raised in an artists' community in rural Japan, Yuki's family relocated to New York City in 1986. She began photographing as a teenager and attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago to study fine art photography. More recently, she attended School of Visual Arts to study Social Documentary Film. After the Japanese earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disasters of 2011, Yuki began working on her first feature length documentary, KASAMAYAKI (MADE IN KASAMA). In 2013, KASAMAYAKI received funding from the Jerome Foundation, and was selected as one of ten documentary films for IFP's Independent Filmmaker Labs. In 2014, Yuki received an Individual Artist Grant from the New York State Council on the Arts for her work on KASAMAYAKI.

### **KEIKO DEGUCHI**

CONSULTING EDITOR

Keiko Deguchi has edited over thirty feature-length films including award-winning documentaries such as Jeremiah Zagar's IN A DREAM, Linda Hattendorf's THE CATS OF MIRIKITANI and Jason DaSilva's WHEN I WALK. Deguchi's narrative film credits include Patrick Stettner's THE BUSINESS OF STRANGERS, Steven Shainberg's FUR: AN IMAGINARY PORTRAIT OF DIANE ARBUS and Bette Gordon's HANDSOME HARRY. She is the recipient of James Lyons Editing Award at Woodstock Film Festival in 2008.

### **JESSE PETERSON**

ORIGINAL MUSIC

Jesse Peterson is a musician living in Los Angeles. He writes and performs music that will brighten your day, or give you solace in times of trouble. His collaborations with Carlos Niño have recently been released under the name Turn On The Sunlight. He has performed solo and with TOTS in the US, Japan and Europe. He is currently working on a record with his wife, singer-songwriter Mia Doi Todd.

## CREDITS

Directed by **Yuki Kokubo**  
Featuring **Katsuji Kokubo**  
Featuring **Shigeko Kokubo**  
Executive Producer **Anneliese Popescu**  
Associate Producer **Andrew Kwon**  
Director of Photography **Yuki Kokubo**  
Original Music **Jesse Peterson**  
Editor **Yuki Kokubo**  
Consulting Editor **Keiko Deguchi**  
Creative Consultant **Lindsay Lindenbaum**  
Creative Consultant **Michel Negroponte**  
Proposal Development **Fernanda Rossi**  
Consultant **Marlo Poras**  
Consultant **Jason Goldman**  
Subtitles **Sahe Yoshioka**  
Title Animation **Jeffrey Chuang**  
Post Production Services **Goldcrest Post Production Facilities, Ltd.**  
Colorist **John J. Dowdell III**  
Online Editor **Michelle Ambruz**  
Technical Supervisor **Timothy Spitzer**  
Digital Intermediate Producer **Jeanne Sison**  
Supervising Sound Editor & Rerecording Mixer **Michael Suarez**  
Dialog Editor **Krissopher Chevannes**  
SFX Editor **Mark Amicucci**  
Special Thanks **Milton Tabbot**  
Special Thanks **Rose Vincelli Gustine**