

# TELLING THE WOMEN'S STORY

## 監督・河瀨直美が映像美で描く女の物語。

2011年にスタートしたMIU MIUのショートフィルムプロジェクト『MIU MIU WOMEN'S TALES』。「女性たちの物語」をテーマに、 これまで世界的に活躍する女性監督たちが独自の物語を紡いできた。そして11回目を迎えた今年、日本人として初めて 河瀨直美がこのプロジェクトに参加。『SEED』と題された気づきと目覚めの物語とは?

Text: Rieko Shibasaki Editor: Shizue Hamano







	た。なので、当初思い描いていしっかり入れていけば映像のっているので、そういうとこしっかり入れていけば映像のが生まれ育った時間の中で 「思います。ただ、奈良でした思います。ただ、奈良でした	っ。グ紅はととく良ジうい場よもたもで葉紅思こなにユなか所ねう	「「そう」であっていた。 うるのでした しんしょう うろの しんしょう しんしょう しんしょう しんしょう しんしょう しんし しんしょう しんしょ しんしょ	そうかみない。 そので、 で、 で、 で、 で、 で、 で、 で、 で、 で、 で、 で、 で、 で
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服に、だんだん好みがシフトして触りを重視した自然素材を使ったのよさってありますよね。その肌られているときに感じる、肌触り ションというよりも、自然の状態はとてもラッキーでした。ロケー こみつつ、観ている人の記憶に印る服も、奈良の自然の風景に溶け じです。 短編ですが、短い映像と最小限の とても楽しいんです。 つなぎは楽だし、一番ですよ(笑)。 るので、つなぎを愛用しています。 スカラーが中心という感じです。 りました。自分が誰かに抱きしめ ンよりも素材にこだわるようにな ッションがお好きなのですか? 浮かんでいましたので、比較的ス ては、はっきりとしたイメージが も気に入っています。衣装に関し かなチュールのスカートを選びま 要はないと感じ、風に揺れる軽や できますので、衣装として纏う必 カラフルな服は奈良の紅葉で表現 ました。コレクションに登場する 白っぽいものがいいなと思ってい と主人公の無垢さを表現するのに 象づける素敵なセレクトですよね。 がうまくハマってくれたという感 た一番いい状態で撮影ができたの また3~4年前から畑をやってい が、最近は機能的で、優しいアー 洋服を選ぶことも多々ありました たり、奇抜なデザインに惹かれて きました。若いころは色合いだっ した。ナチュラルで柔らかな感じ ムーズに決まったと思います。 子どもを出産してから、デザイ 物語に着想した当初から、漠然 - 『SEED』は約10分という -河瀨さんご自身はどんなファ 安藤さんが劇中で着用してい

たいね」という話をしていたんでうになり、「いつか一緒に仕事をし人的に山口さんとやり取りするよ たびありました。 の音楽が好きで、ライブに行ったもともとは私がサカナクション 楽しいんです。 っていく気がして、それがとてもるよりも表現の幅がどんどん広が 音楽とも新しいコラボレーション そうですけど、サカナクションの合は安藤サクラさんとの出会いも アントの求める世界にコミットす いものを撮るということができて 間で自分の信頼するスタッフたち 30分以内のショートフィルムの場 しさというのはありましたか?言葉で表現を明確にすることの難 す。 ライブが終わってから彼らとお話 りしていたんです。そんなある日、 うにして実現したのですか? ナクションとのコラボは、どのよ っています。やはり自分一人でや 与えていただけたからこそだと思 ができた。それはこういう機会を を楽しめているんです。今回の場 ど、自分の中ではそういうすべて る難しさというのもあるんですけ いる。もちろんその場合はクライ と小回りをきかせながら、深くい 合、長編と比較してですが、短時 時間がかかってしまうのですが、 ら映像製作を依頼されることが増 葉が少ない映像の中で音楽が語り にぴったりとマッチしていて、言 しする機会があった。そこから個 えているんです。長編だと膨大な トムービーを作ったり、 最近は韓国からの依頼でショー 軽快で澄んだサウンドが映像 今回音楽を手がけているサカ 諸外国か

#### Naomi Kawase 河瀨直美

奈良県出身。1997年に「研の朱雀(もえのすぎく)」でカン 又国際映画祭カメラ・ドール(新人監督賞)を史上最年少 受賞。2007年には「預(もがり)の森」でカンズ国際映画祭 グランプリを獲得。また、2013年には同映画祭では日本人 監督初の客弦委員を務めている。2015年フランス芸術文 化勲宣「シュヴァリエ」を受勲。最新作「あん」は大ヒット を記録。BV・DVDが発売中。Twitter: @KawaseNAOM

#### [SEED]

そうなんです。サカナクション

Photos: Courtesy of Miu Miu

**背**台は奈良と東京の新宿。一人の少女(安藤サクラ)が、



人生の旅の途中でワイルドな自然と戯れ、そこで出会った さまざまな人や物事となにかを交換をすることで新しい感 情に気づき、目覚め、日の当たる場所を目指していく――。

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# 徐奈良の大地のように、いろんなものを吸収して存在させる器でありたい。 ア

ていて、実際に私も映画館で作品は『バクマン。』の音楽も手がけ ないのがとても残念でした。 での生演奏を楽曲にしたんです。 自由に歌ったり踊ったりして、 こでも楽しめたことが私にとって 普段はやらない映像表現を試みた。 にして上下を逆さにしたりして、 画」とカテゴライズされた場合、 当のアーティストなんですよね。 うものを中心に表現をしている本 オーマンスだけでなく、音楽とい 段のサカナクションとしてのパフ コレの音楽などもやっていて、普心に響いたんです。ほかにもパリ を観たときに、彼らの音がすごく りつく物語ですが、河瀨監督にと きながら光のあたる場所へとたど る女性が、さまざまな感情に気づ そんな映像作りがしたい。 ヨンだったので、誰にも見せられなかなかない贅沢なシチュエーシ 奈良の三笠山の前にあるお堂にサ うことでは、万葉集にも詠われた 「これはありえないだろう」とい 当に楽しかったですね。それから はとても新鮮でした。 編集タイミングをいつもよりもス です。ですから、私のほうはサカ 相まみえない感じがすると思うん それとサカナクションというのは って「光のあたる場所」、最終的 千年先の誰かに届けられる カナクションがやってきて、そこ しさが伝わってきます。 マートにしたり、カメラを早回し ナクションのテンポを鑑みながら、 おそらく、 撮影のときは新宿のど真ん中で 人では出来ない表現の幅を、こ 確かに映像からも作り手の楽 本作は安藤サクラさんが演じ 「河瀨直美はこんな映 本

に自分が「たどりつきたい」場所

美意識を形成したんですね。 → 一奈良という場所で生まれ育っ 地のように自分の中にいろんなも一人の人間としてここで生き、大憶を持っている場所なので、私も 中で、安藤さんが光に向かって 登場する銀杏の木が黄色い菜をつ アルに体験しているので、そうい はどこなのでしょうか? く。奈良は、そういった始まりや少しずつたまって歴史になってい ないささやかな時間がゆっくりと 葉を色づかせていく。そのなにげ け でありたいなと思います。 のを吸収し、存在させるような器 ています。また、奈良は土地の記 う映像を作っていけたらなと思っ にかもあるということを身近でリ ど、千年先の誰かに届けられるな 常々感じていますから。人が一生 間の蓄積の壮大さというものを、 も見ることができる……。その時 はるか昔のものを、現代の私たち 暮らしているからこそ、感じるこ が今も普通に存在している奈良で です。その感覚は、千年前のもの 語りたい」というのがすべてなん 年先の人たちに届けられる物語を 画を作っているんですか?」と問 れを肌で感じとれる場所なんです。 が未来へと続いていく、永遠の流 ではなく、ずっと続いてきたもの 終わりがどこなのかを明言するの また同じように美しい光のもとで の葉はその後散り、春に芽吹いて シーンがありますよね。あの銀杏「生まれる」「始まる」と口にする でできることには限りがあるけれ とができるものなのだと思います。 われたときに、「今だけでなく千 たとえば『SEED』の最後に 映画監督としては、「なんで映 それがチラチラと揺れ落ちる



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Re:	TELLING THE WOMEN'S STORY			
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By:	Text: Ms. Rieko Shibasaki	Editor: Ms. Shizue Hamano		

#### 1.

The MIU MIU short film project "MIU MIU WOMEN'S TALES" began in 2011. Embracing the theme of a story about women, female directors who are active in the global scene have woven unique tales to date. And this year, the 11<sup>th</sup> year of the initiative, Naomi Kawase became the first Japanese participant in the project. What is this story about people's awareness and awakenings under the title, "SEED"?

#### 2.

Q: If we had to say, I don't think your work tends to emphasize a male or female gender. What were you consciously aware of with this work?

It's true that I haven't made anything in the past that puts particular emphasis on the female gender and that was something which had been rather interesting. But with this work, I knew that the strength of the sense of the life force of the character, the leading actress Sakura Ando, that is, would come out naturally, I didn't intentionally emphasize (the) female (gender).

#### Q: What led to the participation of Sakura Ando as the lead?

An image came to me of a girl—a woman—who was innocent, who had a sense of action like the cells (of her body) were multiplying, and I thought Ms. Sakura Ando, a person who I had wanted to work with, would be perfect for that, so I approached her. And I took the approach of capturing with the camera in an improvised sense the things that she would feel when she came to the site.

#### Q: What are the appeals of Ms. Sakura Ando?

She's very vivid. When it comes to water she'd really go into the water and if you had a wind blowing she'd really go away running. I think she's an actress who gives you a very strong sense of life.

Q: I understand you direct by having your actors become their characters even when the camera isn't rolling. Is that how you directed on this occasion, too?

I had decided in advance the parts where Ms. Ando holds dialogues with the boy and the men, where she exchanges things with them, but other than that, I had her act very freely. For example, her running and dancing at the top of Mount Wakakusa, where you can get a full view of Nara, was her own, free initiative. So although we had the sense of "ready —action", the concept was that I had her move in whatever way she felt.

Q: You just mentioned "exchanges" (in the film). In the visuals where there are very few lines, the word "exchange" that the character played by Ms. Ando says makes a very strong impression on us. What were the feelings that went into that word?

The exchange of something also symbolizes accepting the other person and allowing something new to exist within ourselves.

I think in today's society there's a tendency to remove something that's different from us rather than accepting it so it's being able to say that accepting our differences and allowing something that we didn't know to exist within us is really an act of broadening ourselves and I tried to express a richer image of a woman that is born from these sorts of actions.

#### 3.

"What had been the starting point for the story were my images of autumn leaves, a sense of the beauty of Japan that wouldn't be inferior to the MIU MIU collection."

#### **4**.

#### (caption)

The filming took place last autumn in Nara and Tokyo. An impressive contrast is made between Mount Wakakusa (top of right page), which offers a panoramic view of the magnificent nature and the city, and the waves of people coming and going in Tokyo's Shinjuku (bottom of right page). "Nara is a place where memories of the land and nature itself is alive." It was on such lands that Sakura Ando expressed "natural movements like a tree that exists in this world swaying in the wind or waves forming on the sea due to the wind" and became one with the scenery.

#### 5.

Nature went ahead and provided a match to the best state that I had envisioned Q: The location Nara has become the other leading character of the story, hasn't it? I had actually been thinking that Tokyo would have been all right as the site for filming.

Q: Really? That's a surprise.

We were on a tight schedule and we wouldn't have gotten it done on time if we were too impartial to Nara so I tried to be flexible about that. But last year, the autumn leaves appeared earlier than scheduled and we were able to shoot at a good time toward the end of the autumn leaves in Kansai. I think we would have filmed in Tokyo if we weren't there on time for the autumn leaves. But with Nara, I know the places where we can shoot beautifully from the time I grew up (there) so thought we'd be able to express the beauty of imagery if we could insert those aspects in a solid way. So we were very lucky to have been able to film under the best conditions as I'd initially envisioned. It's more like the state of nature fit nicely rather than the location.

Q: The wardrobes worn by Ms. Ando in the work is also a fine selection, blending into the scenes of nature in Nara and at the same time leaving an impression in the memories of viewers.

From the initial conception of the story, I had been thinking that whitish items would be good for vaguely expressing the innocence of the heroine. Colorful clothes that appear in the collection can be expressed with the autumn leaves in Nara so I felt that there wasn't a need to have them worn as wardrobe and I chose a light tulle skirt that would sway in the wind. I also like the way it's natural and gives a soft impression. I had a clear image in mind for wardrobes so I think things went relatively smoothly.

#### Q: What types of fashions do you yourself like?

Since having my baby, I've started to be partial more to the materials than the designs. There's the nice feel of texture when you're being held by someone, isn't there? I think my taste has gradually been shifting to clothes that use natural materials that focus on that texture. When I was young, I used to often select clothes where I was attracted to the colors or the novel designs but recently, (my selections are) mostly functional and in gentle earth colors. I've had a field since three or four years ago so I often wear overalls. They're comfortable, and they're the best (laugh).

#### 6.

It's a lot of fun; I feel like my scope of expressions is expanding.

Q: SEED is a short work that's about ten minutes long. Were there challenges in making clear expressions in a short work with a minimum of words?

I'm recently receiving more requests from various countries abroad to produce visual work, like a request from South Korea to create a short movie. Whereas a full-length feature would require enormous amounts of time, in the case of a short film that's less than 30 minutes in length, compared to a feature film, it's possible to work in an agile way with staff that you trust to shoot good, deep content in a short amount of time. Of course, then there's the difficulty of committing to the world that the client is after, but I'm able to enjoy all of these things within myself. With this particular work, the same thing can be said for my encounter with Ms. Sakura Ando, but I was able to do a new collaboration with Sakanaction's music. I think it's because I was given this type of opportunity that that became possible. I feel that the scope of expressions expands more and more compared to doing something alone and that's what's been a lot of fun.

Q: What prompted your collaboration with Sakanaction, who provided the music?

I liked Sakanaction's music to begin with and I used to go to their live performances. And it was one of those times when I had the opportunity to talk with them after their performance. I started communicating personally with Yamaguchi-san from there and we used to talk about our desire to work together some day.

Q: The clear, cheerful sound matched the imagery perfectly and there were several scenes where the music seemed to be speaking to us when there were very few lines.

That's right. Sakanaction also provides the music for Bakuman and when I went and saw the work at a movie theater their music really resonated with me. They also handle music for the Paris Collection and other areas and it isn't just the usual performance (that they give) as Sakanaction but they're true artists who express with an integral focus on music. I think probably, when my films are categorized in a certain way, Sakanaction won't seem to match that. So I tried (steps for) visual expressions that I don't usually take, like timing the editing more smartly than I usually do or shooting in fast motion and tilting the image upside down as I watched Sakanaction's tempo. It was a very invigorating experience for me to be able to enjoy the expansiveness of expression that I can't bring about on my own.

Q: The fact that you enjoyed making this certainly gets across to us from the imagery.

It was really a lot of fun when we were filming, singing and dancing freely in the middle of Shinjuku. And as to things that (people would say) would be impossible, Sakanaction came to the hall in front of Mikasayama, (a mountain) in Nara, which had been recited in the Manyoshu poems, and they made a song out of their live performance there. It was an extravagant situation that doesn't often happen, and it was a shame that we couldn't show it to anyone.

### "Allowing something that you didn't know to exist in yourself can broaden your own scope."

#### 8.

A film that can be presented to someone a thousand years from now. That's the type of filmmaking that I would like to do.

Q: This work is a story about a woman portrayed by Ms. Sakura Ando who becomes aware of (her) various emotions as she reaches a place where the sun shines. Where is that place where the sun shines, where you would finally like to arrive at, for you?

When I'm asked why I make films, it's in everything when I say I'd like to tell stories that can be delivered not only to people today but to those a thousand years from now. I think that sense is something that I can feel particularly because I live in Nara where things from a thousand years ago continue to exist in a normal way. Being able to see things from way back in history in today's modern times... I constantly feel the vastness of the accumulation of those times. There are limits to what a person can do in a lifetime but I've realistically experienced that there are also things that can be conveyed to people a thousand years away and I would like to create imagery like that. And Nara is a place that has records of its land so I would like to live here as a human being and be like a vessel that absorbs various things like the earth does and make them exist.

Q: Your unique awareness of beauty must have been developed in your being born and raised in Nara.

For example, there's a scene at the end of SEED where a gingko tree appears with yellow leaves and as a leaf sways and falls to the ground, Ms. Ando turns toward the sun and mumbles "being born" and "beginning". That leaf scatters away after that, becomes a bud in spring, and adds color to the leaves under the same beautiful sun. That casual period of time slowly becomes accumulated and becomes history. Nara isn't a place where such beginnings and endings are clearly defined, but it's a place where things that have continued on forever continues on into the future, where eternal flows can be felt in your bones.

9.

"I wish to be something that can absorb many things around me just like a soil of Nara."

#### 7.

### 10.

### (caption)

#### Naomi Kawase

Born in Nara Prefecture. Became the youngest filmmaker in history to receive the Caméra d'Or for *Moe no suzaku* in 1997. Won the Grand Prix at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival for The Mourning Forest. She was the first Japanese member to be selected as a part of the main competition jury at the 2013 Cannes Film Festival. She won the Chevalier (Ordre des Arts et des Lettres), a prize for the arts and culture, in 2015. Her latest work *An* has become a smash hit. Currently sold as a BV and DVD. Twitter: @KawaseNAOMI

#### SEED

Set in Nara and Shinjuku, Tokyo. A girl (played by Sakura Ando) frolics with the wilderness of nature in the middle of her life journey and becomes aware of (her) new emotions as she exchanges things with various people and matters, becomes awakened, and sets forth to look for a place where the sun shines...

#### 11.

#### "The Story Behind"

SEED and Naomi Kawase as described by Sakura Ando

There were no specific models for the girl in this work so I portrayed her in a neutral state thinking that it would be nice if she could be a living creature that was like one of the clusters of energy in the place we're currently at. In Nara, our first location site, the director had been shooting when I happened to look into the water upside down by chance, saying as she saw me, "Let's try to look at everything upside down from now on." That became the way the girl viewed things, and it was a strange story where other movements seemed to match that. It's not like I interacted deeply with the director through words but there was a special feeling from the very first stages that made me wonder if I may have visited outer space with her. Feeling as if the director was moving both my body and what's inside my head before I realized it, and a sense that something would be communicated, even if I didn't say anything—those types of feelings had been a lot of fun.