



**Nach NOBODY KNOWS und STILL WALKING  
der neue Film von KORE-EDA HIROKAZU**

# I WISH



**Ein Film von  
KORE-EDA HIROKAZU**

**Mit  
KOKI MAEDA, OHSHIRO MAEDA,  
NENE OHTSUKA, JOE ODAGIRI, KIRIN KIKI, ISAO HASHIZUME,  
YUI NATSUKAWA, HIROSHI ABE, MASAMI NAGASAWA, YOSHIO HARADA**

**Dauer: 128 min.**

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## **SYNOPSIS**

In Japan, auf der Insel Kyushu, werden zwei Brüder nach der Scheidung ihrer Eltern getrennt. Der Ältere, Koichi, 12 Jahre alt, zieht mit seiner Mutter zu seinen Grosseltern in den Süden der Insel, ganz in der Nähe des unheimlichen Vulkans Sakurajima. Sein kleiner Bruder, Ryunosuke, ist bei seinem Vater, einem Rockgitarrist, im Norden der Insel geblieben. Koichi wünscht sich über alles, dass seine Familie wieder vereint ist – sogar wenn dies durch den verheerenden Ausbruch des Vulkans geschehen muss! Als ein neuer Hochgeschwindigkeitszug endlich die beiden Regionen verbindet, organisieren Koichi und sein kleiner Bruder heimlich eine Reise mit ein paar Freunden bis zum Kreuzungspunkt der Züge, wo ein Wunder, sagen wir, geschehen könnte... Werden sich ihre geheimen Wünsche erfüllen?





## CAST

### **CHILDREN**

MAEDA Koki.....	Koichi
MAEDA Ohshiro .....	Ryunosuke
HAYASHI Ryoga .....	Tasuku
NAGAYOSHI Seinosuke .....	Makoto
UCHIDA Kyara .....	Megumi
HASHIMOTO Kanna .....	Kanna
ISOBE Rento .....	Rento

### **ADULTS**

OHTSUKA Nene.....	Nozomi (Mother)
ODAGIRI Joe.....	Kenji (Father)
KIKI Kirin.....	Hideko (Grandmother)
HASHIZUME Isao.....	Shukichi (Grandfather)
NATSUKAWA Yui .....	Kyoko (Megumi's Mother)
ABE Hiroshi .....	Mr. Sakagami (Teacher)
NAGASAWA Masami .....	Ms. Mimura (Teacher)
HARADA Yoshio.....	Wataru (Grandfather's Friend)

## CREW

Written and Directed by.....	KORE-EDA Hirokazu
Production.....	SHIROGUMI INC.
Producers .....	KOIKE Kentaro
.....	TAGUCHI Hijiri
Coproduction .....	BIGX
Coproducer .....	ODAKE Satomi
DP .....	YAMAZAKI Yutaka
Editor .....	KORE-EDA Hirokazu
Original Music.....	QURULI
Set Designer .....	MATSUO Ayako
Sound Editor .....	TSURUMAKI Yutaka
Costumer Designer.....	KOBAYASHI Miwako
Special Effects.....	HIGUCHI Ryo

## LONG SYNOPSIS

### **A family living together. Something so simple seemed like a miracle to us.**

Two brothers are separated. Their parents are divorced. The older brother, sixth grader Koichi (MAEDA Koki) lives with his mother Nozomi (OHTSUKA Nene), who is currently looking for a job. Also living with him is his stubborn former sweet-store owner grandfather (HASHIZUME Isao), and his hula-dancing grandmother (KIKI Kirin). Younger brother Ryunosuke (MAEDA Ohshiro) is in fourth grade, and lives in Hakata with his father Kenji (ODAGIRI Joe), an unsuccessful musician. The two brothers have kept in contact in the hope that their parents will get back together and they will live as one family again. One day Koichi hears a rumor that the new Kyushu shinkansen line connecting Kagoshima to Hakata is about to open.

“On the opening day, if you are there at the moment the Tsubame, heading south from Hakata, and Sakura, heading north from Kagoshima, cross at 160 miles an hour, a miracle will happen. An immense amount of energy will be created and that will make your wish come true.”

Koichi figures that this is exactly what he needs. After checking the map with his classmates Makoto and Tasuku, he learns that the trains will cross in Kumamoto. Koichi calls Ryunosuke to tell him the news, but his little brother isn't so enthusiastic. Unlike Koichi, who misses living as a family in Osaka, Ryunosuke has already adjusted to his new life. He has made new friends and helps out on the door at his father's gigs, trying to make the best of things. Ryunosuke says: “My brother and I are connected by an invisible cord so we'll be okay.” But his classmate and good friend Megumi (UCHIDA Kyara) warns him: “You will forget each other if you don't see them, even if you're family.” Megumi lives with her mother (NATSUKAWA Yui) who runs a bar. She feels lonely and misses her father.

The adults are also excited about the shinkansen line opening. Koichi's home becomes the meeting place for those planning the restoration of the local shopping street. His grandfather's best friend Mr. Yamamoto (HARADA Yoshio) and other retired folk gather and drink while discussing their dreams of a “miracle” that will bring in big fortunes. Persuaded by his friends, Koichi's grandfather considers opening up his store once again and making sweets to celebrate the new shinkansen line.

Nozomi meets a friend from high school for drinks after a day's work at the supermarket. She gets completely drunk and ends up calling her son Ryunosuke, who tells her: “I thought you didn't like me because I look like Dad.” He then encourages her, saying: “I'll send you your favorite broad beans when they're ready to eat.” Hearing his sweet words, she bursts into tears.

Koichi, Makoto and Tasuku start to prepare for the “miracle” project, while Ryunosuke is persuaded by Megumi, who wants to come along. Megumi, Kanna and Rento watch him as he calls Koichi. “I'm sorry about the other day,” Ryunosuke says. “Our wish will be stronger if we both wish together, right?” Koichi is upset at first, but says: “It's been half a year since I last saw you,” and looks forward to meeting his brother again.

Koichi is able to get the money he needs but, still stuck about how to get out of school, turns to his grandfather Shukichi for help. Finally this wild project is set in motion and the day of their departure arrives. With the encouragement of his favorite teacher Miss Sachi (NAGASAWA Masami), he manages to get past bumbling Mr. Sakagami (ABE Hiroshi) who tries to stop him, and Koichi and his friends catch their trains and arrive at Kawajiri Station in Kumamoto. Ryunosuke and his friends arrive on the platform opposite, and they all look for a place from which they will be able to see the shinkansen crossing. They have no idea of the miracles that are about to happen to them and to the grown-ups around them...

## **INTRODUCTION**

**Children hope for a miracle that will bring their family back together. I WISH is the latest film from KORE-EDA Hirokazu, director of “Nobody Knows”.**

Once again KORE-EDA Hirokazu captures the essence of family, inspiring hope in viewers around the world.

Cinema audiences worldwide have eagerly anticipated the next move of director KORE-EDA Hirokazu. After his debut feature “Maborosi” scooped numerous awards at film festivals, KORE-EDA has been in the spotlight both in Japan and abroad. His 2004 triumph “Nobody Knows” is still talked about, with leading actor YAGIRA Yuya becoming the youngest - and first Japanese - actor to be awarded Best Male Actor at the Cannes Film Festival.

Since then, with each successive release, the director has boldly tackled new genres, including period films and romances. In the six years since “Nobody Knows” he has become a father, a key factor in his decision to take on the theme of “family” again. The title of his latest work, which he himself scripted, edited and put his heart and soul into, is simply I Wish (The original title is “Kiseki”, meaning “miracle” in Japanese). KORE-EDA is known for his keen depictions of the trials and tribulations of everyday life, and I Wish will inspire hope around the world through its depiction of the innocent minds of children and the warmth of family life.

On the opening day of the Kyushu Shinkansen line, the Tsubame will head south from Hakata while the Sakura will head north from Kagoshima. If you stand at the exact spot where these two trains pass each other, it is said your wish will come true.

Sixth grader Koichi hears this rumor and wants to bring about a miracle of his own. His younger brother lives far away and Koichi wants them to be together as one family again. Their parents are divorced: Koichi lives with his mother and grandparents in Kagoshima, while his brother and father live in Fukuoka. The brothers make a grand and crazy plan involving their friends, parents and the people around them, and it is this plan that will bring a miracle to all.

I WISH tells a powerfully moving story of the children’s belief in the miracle, and of the parents watching over them, affected by their adventure and then healed by them. It’s a story that quietly tells the audience that just being alive is a miracle, that having people you cherish in your life is a miracle in itself.

The lead roles are played by real-life comedian brothers MAEDA Koki and Ohshiro, aka MaedaMaeda. I WISH is their debut feature film. Director KORE-EDA first spotted them during auditions and, drawn to their innocence and huge potential, rewrote the script for them. The older brother combines strength with great sensitivity; his younger sibling possesses the ability to move seamlessly from sorrow to laughter. It feels more like the boys are living on screen than acting.

Around them are lovable adults, each with their own issues, played by a distinguished cast including ODAGIRI Joe, ABE Hiroshi, NATSUKAWA Yui, KIKI Kirin and HARADA Yoshio, all of whom have previously appeared in KORE-EDA films. The cast also includes famous faces such as OHTSUKA Nene, HASHIZUME Isao and NAGASAWA Masami. Making her debut is UCHIDA Kyara as Ryunosuke’s classmate Megumi.

I WISH is set along Kyushu’s new shinkansen (bullet train) line, which opened in March 2011, and is shot on location at various places in Kyushu including Kagoshima, Kumamoto and Fukuoka. The melancholy and memorable theme song ‘Miracle’ is produced by train fans Quruli.

## **PRODUCTION NOTES**

### **How “I WISH” was created**

#### **Director KORE-EDA**

I Wish was created out of the desire to make a movie that centered on the Kyushu Shinkansen Line, which opened on March 12, 2011. The intention was not a movie to promote the shinkansen, and not a movie about Kyushu, but a movie that anyone could relate to and be moved by. In the initial stages of the concept, the producer thought of the director KORE-EDA Hirokazu, known for his ability to capture the world of children in “Nobody Knows” and other commercial film work. When the producer approached him with the idea, the director explained that he himself was a big railway fan, that his great-grandfather was from Kagoshima, and above all that he had a child now and wanted to make a movie that captured children in a different light than “Nobody Knows.” Their ideas matched perfectly.

The first image that came to KORE-EDA was the scene from “Stand By Me” where the children are walking along the railway tracks. But while looking for a story, the director and crew realized something very important. Many of the tracks for the new shinkansen line were high off the ground and could only be viewed from afar or high above. The plot changed dramatically and the obstacles the children would have to face in order to see the Kyushu Shinkansen pass each other became a key to the story.

#### **The Greater “Miracle” - Casting MaedaMaeda**

Once the script was completed, open auditions were held across Japan to cast the seven children. MaedaMaeda were spotted at one of these auditions, and KORE-EDA was completely mesmerized by their potential. At the time, the director did not know that MaedaMaeda were comedians. The original plot was re-written after this first meeting with the duo, changing into a story about two brothers living apart from each other in Fukuoka and Kagoshima. KORE-EDA says that watching MaedaMaeda at the audition was like “watching MATSUZAKA Daisuke (famous Japanese baseball player, now playing for The Red Sox in US) pitching in high school,” their attitude and confidence so far superior to the rest. “The most striking thing was the fact that they started to improvise without hesitation and were enjoying it,” he adds.

Once filming had started, the director thought that “the older brother Koki probably already knew what the story was about without reading the script.” Koichi pulls the story forward, is always aware of what was going on and guides the other children. The director pays him a great compliment: “He’s very clever and has a great sense of his craft. He will become an important actor.” On the other hand, there is something about the innocence of younger brother Ohshiro that keeps your eyes glued to him. It is because of this quality that Ryunosuke brings girls along on this trip. “He’s the complete opposite of Koki. He’s naturally goofy. He’s also very photogenic and he has a charm that allows him to become friends with girls quite easily.” observes KORE-EDA.

#### **The “Miracle” moment that the children became actors**

During the auditions, the director was looking out for the children who could find the “moment” where he knows their feelings match: when children feel instinctively: “I need to be filmed by this director,” just like adult actors, and when his gut feeling says: “I want to film this person.” For KORE-EDA, it’s not about skills or name value. It’s all about compatibility.

For Koichi’s sixth grade classmates, KOREEDA cast HAYASHI Ryoga as Tasuku, who admires Miss Sachi, and NAGAYOSHI Seinosuke as Makoto, who loves his dog Marble and dreams of becoming an Ichiro one day. For Ryunosuke’s fourth grade classmates, UCHIDA Kyara was cast as Megumi, who wants someday to become an actress, HASHIMOTO Kanna as Kanna, who likes to draw, and ISOBE Rento as Rento, who wants to be a fast runner. All of them are new faces, but all were chosen for their uniqueness. This was the first time most of the children had ever acted. They were not given scripts. The director would tell them their lines and what the scene was about on the day of filming, just as he did for “Nobody Knows”. He also gave out props or asked them to move as naturally as possible without having them too conscious of the camera. The powerful presence of UCHIDA Kyara is important. “She would know when we got the shot and she would say that she felt “it was fun and it went well’. She’d just give off this aura that says acting is fun.” (KORE-EDA) The director’s desire to make their first filming experience one that they could enjoy and one that they would have good memories of was fulfilled.

### **The All-Star cast of I Wish**

The adult roles are played by actors who had previously worked on KORE-EDA films. ABE Hiroshi from “Still Walking” plays an insensitive teacher who doesn’t mean to hurt anyone and provokes laughter. Also from “Still Walking,” KIKI Kirin plays a grandmother who warmly welcomes her divorced daughter (OHTSUKA Nene) and grandson (MAEDA Koki); HARADA Yoshio plays the grandfather’s friend HASHIZUME Isao, and NATSUKAWA Yui plays Megumi’s (UCHIDA Kyara) strict and watchful mother. ODAGIRI Joe from “Air Doll” plays the no-good father in Fukuoka, in his thirties and still chasing his dreams. For OHTSUKA Nene, HASHIZUME Isao and NAGASAWA Masami, it was the first time in a KORE-EDA production and they all show a warm gentle presence with the children. When it came to placing this all-star cast in the movie, it was KIKI Kirin who gave him the push he needed before filming started. “This is a movie where the children are the main characters so I don’t need any closeups.” These words said with confidence and attitude overlap with the director’s statement for this movie. Adults must believe in and watch over their children no matter what.

### **Filming in Kyushu - The “Miracle” of a reality that cannot be filmed**

KORE-EDA’s impression of Kagoshima was incredulity that nobody minds living right next to the active volcano Sakurajima. His impression became Koichi’s in the film. “People go about their daily lives even though they are so close to Sakurajima and ashes are falling from the sky. I gave that strength to live to the grandmother”. (KORE-EDA) Filming on location makes it hard always to position the camera where you want, along with other difficulties, but you can capture time as it flows through the house. When you open the kitchen door in the sweet store you can see Sakurajima. HASHIZUME Isao who plays the grandfather naturally chose this spot to smoke.



## **INTERVIEW WITH DIRECTOR KORE-EDA HIROKAZU**

### ***Where did the original Japanese title KISEKI (Miracle) come from?***

When we decided to do the story about the shinakansen crossing, it was the first title to spring to mind. It's a simple but very good title. I'm amazed that no Japanese movie had been called KISEKI before. The children, the way they live, the balance between the seven of them, was truly a miracle.

### ***What does filming children mean to you?***

I like how they are incomplete and their presence is unbalanced. Filming children in movies like "Nobody Knows" and I Wish really makes me think. I begin to see society through their eyes and through their existence. I think this is because I am a father now, but all the adults in I Wish are adults I want to be like. I want to be an adult who casually waits for his children to come back from their adventures.

### ***The movie has the quality of an adult embracing a child.***

Places like the library and the nurse's office that children go to are refuges. Children are not judged in these places or assessed by school grades. The presence of grandparents is a refuge within a family and I wanted to give the children a place where they could relax and feel safe. When I was in elementary school I liked a librarian, and so I became a bookworm, reading so many books. I also spent a lot of time in the nurse's office. (Laughs).

### ***Why did you ask KISHIDA Shigeru from Quruli to do the music?***

When I was writing the scene where the children were running, I thought it would be nice to have Quruli's song playing. After that I couldn't think of anyone else that I wanted to do the music. I don't know why but Quruli's music and the children really go well together. I had Mr. Kishida watch the long edit first and he seemed to really like it. He said: "I have three songs already!" Then I had him look at a shorter edit where the composition had changed and I received a handwritten note saying: "NO!" He said that the time spent with the children on screen was being manipulated and edited too much by the hands of adults. He loved this movie and he'd made a really good point that I agreed with, so I changed the composition back to how it originally was. I was rushing forward to tell the story and his opinion pulled me back to look at the bigger picture.

### ***What did the children gain at the end of their adventure?***

In the scene where they are running down the stairs at Kagoshima station, Seinosuke, who plays Makoto, said to me: "Can you bring Marble back to life? Make it a happy ending." (laughs) But I told him that it wasn't a sad ending at all. Koichi and the children are thinking about the world during their journey. They learn that even if you make a wish, it doesn't mean that the world is going to change the way you want it to. Then they come home. The family probably won't get back together and Marble isn't coming back to life. But they realize that they are part of this world too. It is also around this time that they learn that just because you like someone it doesn't mean they will like you back. And if you can think that it's all part of life then you can grow as a person. Emotions close to despair can help people grow. I personally think that that is the miracle of life.



## **CREW BIOGRAPHIES**

### ***Director/Writer/Editor – KORE-EDA Hirokazu***

Born 1962 in Tokyo. Graduated from Waseda University in 1987 and joined TV MAN UNION, where he worked mainly on documentaries. In 1995, his debut feature “Maborosi” won the Venice Film Festival Golden Osella, as well as several other awards, after which his name became known all over the world. His next film “After Life” (1999) won the Grand Prize at the Nantes Three Continents Festival, as well as an award from the Buenos Aires international Festival of independent Cinema. The film became a big hit, securing a release in 30 countries. In 2001, “Distance” was presented in Competition at the Cannes Film Festival. In 2004 “Nobody Knows” was in Competition at Cannes, where lead actor YAGIRA Yuya became the youngest-ever recipient of the Best male Actor award, making headlines worldwide. In 2006, KORE-EDA directed his first period film, “Hana”. “Still Walking” (2008) was well received both locally and abroad, winning numerous awards in Europe and Asia. Also in 2008, KORE-EDA released a Cocco live tour documentary, “Daijobu de aruyo ni: Cocco Owaranai Tabi”. In 2009, he broke new ground, making GODA Yoshiie’s short stories into the movie “Air Doll”, which screened at Cannes in Un Certain Regard, as well as at international film festivals in Toronto, Chicago and Rotterdam. Recently, he has worked on a music video for AKB48’s “Sakura no ki ni narou”. He is also involved as a producer for new directors such as NISHIKAWA Miwa (“Wild Berries”, 2003, “Sway”, 2006).

### ***DP – YAMAZAKI Yutaka***

Born 1940 in Tokyo. Graduated from Nihon University, College of Art Department of Cinema, in 1963. Made his first full-length documentary film “Nikuhitsu Ukiyo e no Hakken” (co-directed with NAKAMURA Masayoshi and OGAWA Masao) aged 24. This was his first job as a film cameraman. After his debut he worked on documentaries, commercials and TV documentaries. In 1998, he worked on his first feature film, “After Life” (KORE-EDA Hirokazu), and has worked on all of KORE-EDA’s films since, including “Distance” (2001), “Nobody Knows” (2004), “Hana” (2006), “Still Walking” (2008) and “Daijobu de aruyo ni: Cocco Owaranai Tabi” (2008). In 2010, he directed his first feature film, “Torso”. Notable credits include “Shara” (2003/KAWASE Naomi), “Canary” (2004/SHIOTA Akihiko), “The Summer of Stickleback” (2006/NAKAMURA Mayu), “Tokyo Serendipity” (2007/OHKU Akiko), “Then Summer Came” (2007/IWAMATSU Ryo) and “Oretachi ni Asu wa Naissu” (2008/TANADA Yuki).

### ***Lighting – OSHITA Eiji***

Born 1965 in Tokyo. Studied lighting from 1981 under mentors UEDA Nariyuki and MIZUNO Kenichi. His first movie as a gaffer was “Off-Balance” (2000/TOGASHI Shin). Notable credits include “Portrait of the Wind” (2005/HYUGAJI Taro), “Kamiya Estuko no Seishun” (2006/KUROKI Kazuo), “Then Summer Came” (2007/IWAMATSU Ryo), “Still Walking” (2008/KORE-EDA Hirokazu), “Dear Doctor” (2009/NISHIKAWA Miwa), “Air Doll” (2009/KORE-EDA Hirokazu), “Boys on the Run” (2009/MIURA Daisuke), “The Hero Show” (2010/IZUTSU Kazuyuki) and “Cold Fish” (2010/SONO Sion).

### ***Sound Editor – TSURUMAKI Yutaka***

Born 1950 in Niigata. Found his way into the sound department at the Hose University movie club. After working at the Tokyo TV Center he freelanced. In 1997, he founded Sound Design Yuruta. His credits include “Biri za Kiddo no Atarashii Yoake” (1986/YAMAKAWA Naoto), “Bakumatsu Jyunjoden” (1991/YAKUSHIJI Mitsuyuki), “Village of Dreams” (1996/ HIGASHI Yoichi), “Hanako” (2001/SATO Makoto), “Alexei and the Spring” (2002/MOTOHASHI Seiichi), “Nobody Knows” (2004/KORE-EDA Hirokazu), “Portrait of the Wind” (2005/HYUGAJI Taro), “Kitaro” (2007/MOTOKI Katsuhide), “Still Walking” (2008/KORE-EDA Hirokazu), “The Witch of the West is Dead” (2008/NAGASAKI Shunichi), “Snakes and Earrings” (2008/NINAGAWA Yukio), “Air Doll” (2009/KORE-EDA Hirokazu) and “Okan no Yomeiri” (2010/OH Mipo). Winner of the Mainichi Film Competition Recording Award and Best Recording from the Japan Cinema Television Sound Creator Association, he has also made several documentaries.

### ***Production Designer – MITSUMATSU Keiko***

Born 1972 in Chiba. After graduating from Nikkatsu Visual Arts Academy, she worked as a freelance film production artist, and currently works for Transformer. She was props mistress for “Helpless” (1996/AOYAMA Shinji), “Moe no Suzaku” (1997/KAWASE Naomi), “After Life” (1999) and “Distance” (2001/KORE-EDA Hirokazu). She then became an art assistant and worked on “Hakuchi: The Innocent” (1999/TEZUKA Macoto), “Gojo Reisenki: Gojoe” (2000/ISHII Sogo), “A Boy’s Summer in 1945” (2002/KUROKI Kazuo), “Niwatori wa Hadashi da” (2003/MORISAKI Azuma), “Blood and Bones” (2004/SAi Yoichi) and “m” (2006/HIROKI Ryuichi). Her credits as art director include “Sway”, “Dear Doctor” (2006/2009/NISHIKAWA Miwa) and the NHK drama “Shojotachi no Nikkicho Hiroshima” (2009/KISHI Yoshiyuki). She has worked with KORE-EDA on “Nobody Knows” (2004), “Still Walking” (2008) and “Ayashiki Bungo Kaidan/Nochi no Hi” (2010/TV).

### ***Set Designer – MATSUO Ayako***

Born 1965 in Gifu. She has been involved with production design and art direction since 1999. Her credits include “Will Be There for You” (1999/NISHIKORI Yoshinari), “The man Who Wipes mirrors” (2003/KAJITA Seisoku), “Wild Berries” (2003/NISHIKAWA Miwa), “Catharsis” (2002/SAKAGUCHI Katsumi), “Jump” (2003/TAKESHITA Masao), “Black Kiss” (2004/TEZUKA Macoto), “Linda Linda Linda” (2005/YAMASHITA Nobuhiro), “Kyacchi Boru-ya” (2005/OSAKI Akira), “The Pavillion Salamandre” (2006/TOMINAGA Masanori), “Tokyo Friends: The movie” (2006/NAGAYAMA Kozo), “Obachan Chips” (2006/TANAKA Makoto), “Tenten” (2007/MIKI Satoshi), “Child by Children” (2008/HAGIUDA Koji), “Tokyo!” (2008/ Leos CARAX), “Instant Numa” (2009/MIKI Satoshi) and “Yoi ga Sametara, Uchi ni Kaero” (2010/AZUMA Yoichi).

### ***Assistant Director – KANESHIGE Atsushi***

Born 1967 in Gunma. Started his career as a freelance assistant director. His credits include “Nami no Kazu dake Dakishimete” (1991/BABA Yasuo), “Gojo Reisenki: Gojoe” (2000/ISHII Sogo), “Love/Juice” (2000/SHINDO Kaze), “Party 7” (2000/ISHII Katsuhito), “Hush!” (2001/HASHIGUCHI Ryosuke), “Reisei to Jonetsu no Aida” (2001/NAKAE Isamu), “Sekai no Chushin de, Ai o Sakebu” (2004/YUKISADA Isao), “Samurai Commando mission 1549” (2005/TEZUKA Masaaki), “Check it Out, Yo!” (2006/MIYAMOTO Rieko), “Still Walking” (2008/ KORE-EDA Hirokazu), “Detroit metal City” (2008/LEE Toshio), “my Darling is a Foreigner” (2010/UE Kazuaki) and “Uchuu de 1-ban wagamama na hoshi!” (2010/ ITO Hiroaki). He has also directed a number of films including “Chichan wa Yukyu no Muko” (2007), “Otokotachi no Uta” (2008) and “my Geeky Girlfriend” (2009).

### ***Script Supervisor – IIZUKA Miho***

Born 1974 in Saitama. Graduated from Nikkatsu Visual Arts Academy. Her credits include “Nagisa” (2000/ KONUMA Masaru), “Godzilla vs. Megaguirus” (2000/ TEZUKA Masaaki), “Godzilla, Mothra and King Ghidorah: Giant Monsters All-Out Attack” (2001/KANEKO Shusuke), “Robot Contest” (2003/ FURUMAYA Tomoyuki), “Godzilla: Final Wars” (2004/KITAMURA Ryuhei), “Miracle Banana” (2005/ NISHIKORI Yoshinari), “Gamera the Brave” (2006/ TAZAKI Ryuta), “Still Walking” (2008/KORE-EDA Hirokazu), “Pride” (2008/KANEKO Shusuke) and “Air Doll” (2009/KORE-EDA Hirokazu).

### **QURULI**

Formed in the fall of 1996 in Kyoto. Outcasts in the Kyoto music scene, after their major debut, they found themselves outcasts in other areas as well. They didn’t let it get them down and continue to fight openly with the label. Quruli continue to work hard in the pop music scene even today. They believe that they are changing the music scene by randomly mixing trembling, air pressure, jokes, passion and innocence.

Official Website <http://www.quruli.net>

## **CAST BIOGRAPHIES**

### ***MAEDA Koki – OSAKO Koichi***

Born 1988 in Osaka. Works with younger brother Ohshiro as the comedy duo maedamaeda, gaining popularity with appearances on variety shows such as “The God of Entertainment” (NTV) and “Bakusho Red Carpet” (CX). Since his appearances in “mito Komon” (2005/TBS) and “Twenty- Four Eyes” (2005/NTV), a natural ability with dialogue and strong presence have given him a second career as an actor. His most recent TV dramas are “Hissatsu Shigotonin 2007” (2007/ABC - ANB), “Hissatsu Shigotonin 2009” (2009/ABC - ANB), “Akahana no Sensei” (2009/NTV) and NHK’s morning drama series “Teppan” (2010-2011). movie credits include “The Ode to Joy” (2006) and “Kitaro” (2007). He was also a voice artist for the Japanese version of Disney movie “Snow Buddies”. Additionally, as maedamaeda he and his brother have released a workbook which helps children learn through comedic episodes titled “maedamaeda no mezase! Kotobaou 250”. He has also released a second book for learning kanji titled “maedamaeda no mezase! Kanji Hakase 1006”. The duo also sings the official song for “Panda Days” (2008), and has released a popular CD, “Gucchokipanda”.

### ***MAEDA Ohshiro – KINAMI Ryunosuke***

Born 2000 in Osaka. Works with his older brother Koki as comedy duo maedamaeda in 2007, they entered a comedy competition “m-1 Guranpuri” (ABC - ANB) becoming the youngest people ever to reach the semi- finals. Ever since his appearances in “mito Komon” (2005/TBS), his cute smile and innocent presence have made him popular as a child actor. Some of his most recent TV credits are “Chiisakobe Wakatouryo to Kyunin no Ko” (2006/NHK), “Shabake” (2007/CX), “Kaette Kuru no ka!? 33 Pun Tantei” (2009/CX) and “Akahana no Sensei” (2009/NTV). He was also a voice artist for the Japanese version of Disney movie “Snow Buddies”.

### ***OHTSUKA Nene – OSAKO Nozomi***

Born in Tokyo. Graduated from Nihon University, College of Art, Department of Photography. Debuted as an actress in 1992 in the TV drama series “Kimi no Tame ni Dekiru Koto” (CX). Since her debut she has appeared in NHK’s period drama “mori motonari” (1997), “Hero” (2001/CX), “Dr. Coto’s Clinic” (2003/CX), and “iryu: Team medical Dragon” (2007/CX). Her popularity continues to rise. The TV drama “Rokugatsu no Sakura” won the 2004 Japan media Arts Festival Outstanding Performance Award in the TV drama category. in 1994, she debuted on the big screen with “Yasashii Arashi”. Further cinema credits include “119” (1994), “School mystery” (1995) and iWAi Shunji’s “Swallowtail Butterfly” (1996). in 2002, her acting was highly praised in works such as “Warau Kaeru” (HiRAYAmA Hideyuki), “Utsutsu” (TOmA Hisahi) and “man Walking on Snow” (KOBAYASHi masahiro). She won Best Supporting Actress at the 24th Yokohama Film Festival and Best Leading Actress at the 57th mainichi Film Awards. She then continued to work on projects including “Life is Journey” (2003) directed by her husband TANABE Seiichi, “Kikansha Sensei” (2004/HIROKi Ryuichi), “Limit Of Love: Umizaru” (2006/HASUmI Eiichiro), “The Foreign Duck, the Native Duck and God”(2007/NAKmURA Yoshihiro), “Hero” (2007/SUZUKi masayuki), “Amalfi: Rewards of the Goddess” (2009/NiSHiTANI Hiroshi) and “matataki” (2010/iSOMURA itsumichi). “Bashing” (2006) was selected in Competition at the 58th Cannes Film Festival and won Best Picture at the 6th Tokyo FiLmex Competition.

### ***ODAGIRI Joe – KINAMI Kenji***

Born 1976 in Okayama. Received recognition for his acting in KUROSAWA Kiyoshi’s “Bright Future” when the film was entered in Competition at the Cannes Film Festival in 2003. He then made a strong impression as KiTANO Takeshi’s son in SAi Yoichi’s “Blood and Bones” in 2004, which won him a number of awards. in the same year, he challenged himself to a movie musical co-starring Ziyi Zhang in SUZUKi Seijun’s “Princess Raccoon”. He then played a gay man in iNUDO isshin’s “La maison de Himiko”. He received the Best Leading Actor award for two consecutive years at the Japan Academy Awards for his roles in the internationally-acclaimed “Sway” (2006) and “Tokyo Tower: mom and me, and Sometimes Dad” (2007). Recent credits include Ki-duk Kim’s “Dream” (2009), Yu Lik-wai’s “Plastic City” (2009) and Zhuangzhuang Tian’s “The Warrior and the Wolf”, and he will appear next in Je-gyu Kang’s “my Way”. i WiSH marks his second appearance in a KORE- EDA film, following “Air Doll” (2009). TV credits include “Jiko Keisatsu” (2006/ANB) and the sequel “Kaette Kita Jiko Keisatsu”

(2007). in the sequel, he wrote the script and directed episode 8. Other notable credits include "Out of This World" (2004), "Suite Dreams" (2005), "Bugmaster" (2007), "Tenten" (2007) and "Then Summer Came" (2008).

### **KIKI Kirin – OSAKO Hideko**

Born 1943 in Tokyo. Studied at Bungakuza Acting School from 1961, and launched her career with the TV show "Shichinin no mago." in the 1970s, she established her unique and acclaimed screen presence through a string of hit TBS dramas including "Jikan de su yo", "Terauchi Kantaro ikka" and "mu". A highly respected big screen actress, she won Best Supporting Actress at the Japan Academy Awards for SASABE Kiyoshi's "Half a Confession" (2003) and for mATSUOKA Joji's "Tokyo Tower: mom and me, and Sometimes Dad" (2007). She won the Blue Ribbon Award for Best Supporting Actress for her role in "Still Walking", directed by KORE-EDA Hirokazu. Other notable credits include "i Are You, You Am me"(1982), "Yumechiyo Nikki" (1985), "Sabishinbo" (1985), "Daiyukai" (1991), "Double Cross" (1992), "Keiho" (1999), "Pistol Opera" (2001), "The Taste of Tea" (2003), "Kamikaze Girls" (2004), "Dog in a Sidecar" (2007), "The Short Films: We Were All Once Children" (2008), "Ghost" (2010), "Villain" (2010) and "Arrietty" (2010).

### **HASHIZUME Isao – OSAKO Shukichi**

Born 1941 in Osaka. After spending time at Bungakuza and Gekidan Kumo, he helped found the theatre troupe EN in 1975, and is well known for his appearance in iTAmi Juzo films such as "Tampopo" (1985), "A Taxing Woman" (1987) and "Tales of a Golden Geisha" (1990). He won Best Supporting Actor for his roles in mORiTA Yoshimitsu's "Kitchen" (1989), KOKAmi Shoji's "Juliet Game" (1989) and James miki's "Zennin no Joken" (1989) at the Japan Academy Awards. He also won Best Supporting Actor for mORiTA Yoshimitsu's "Happy Wedding" (1991) and Best Leading Actor for iZumi Seiji's "O-higara mo yoku, Go-shusho sama" (1996). He has also received awards for his theatre work, including the Yomiuri Theatrical Award Judges' Choice for works such as "Rain man" (2006) and "Jikken" (2007). Other notable credits include "Kuroi Doresu no Onna" (1987), "izakaya Yurei" (1994), "Ryoma's Wife, Her Husband and Her Lover" (2002), "mr. Rookie" (2002), "Lorelei: The Witch of the Pacific Ocean" (2005), "Nada So So" (2006), "Time Lost, Time Found" (2008), "Railways" (2010), "Koshonin: The movie" (2010) and "Space Battleship Yamato" (2010).

### **NATSUKAWA Yui – ARIYOSHI Kyoko**

Born in Kumamoto. She started her career as an actress with the TV drama "Ai to iu Na no moto ni" in 1992. Her first feature film was the directorial debut of distinguished actor EMOTO Akira, "Sora ga Konnani Aoi Wake ga nai" (1993). She then starred in TV dramas such as "Natsume masako monogatari" (1993/CX) and "Aoi Tori" (1997/TBS), after which her popularity began to grow. In 2000, her acting in "Net Violence -Na mo Shiranu Hitokara no Bouryoku" (NHK) received good reviews and she was awarded The Hosono Bunka Foundation Prize for Best Actress. I WISH marks her fourth KORE-EDA movie, following "Distance" (2001), "Hana" (2006) and "Still Walking" (2008), for which she was awarded Best Supporting Actress at the Nikkansports movie Grand Prix. Other notable credits include MATSUOKA Joji's "Watashitachi ga Suki datta koto" (1997) and "Acacia Walk" (2001), "Onmyoji: The Yin Yang Master" (2001), "When the Last Sword is Drawn" (2002), "The Graduation" (2002), "The Hunter and the Hunted" (2003), "Spy Sorge" (2003), KITANO Takeshi's "The Blind Swordsman: Zatoichi" (2003), "Hotaru no Haka" (2005), "Tales from Earthsea" (2006), "Tennen Kokekko" (2007) and "Ballad" (2009). She received Best Supporting Actress at the Japan Academy Awards for her role in "A Lone Scalpel" (2010).

### **ABE Hiroshi – Mr. SAKAGAMI**

Born 1964 in Kanagawa. Began his professional life as a model for "Men's Non-No" Magazine in 1983, making his big screen debut in 1988 with "Haikara-san ga Toru". in 1993, he was shot into the spotlight when he took the lead role in TSUKA Kohei's theatrical piece "Atami Satsujin Jiken". He has appeared in numerous TV dramas such as the popular "Trick" series (2000/ EX), "Hero" (2001/CX), NHK Period Drama "Yoshitsune" (2005), "Dragon Zakura" (2005/ TBS), "Kekkon dekinai Otoko" (2006/CX), "CHANGE" (2008/CX), NHK Special Drama "Clouds Over the Hill Season 1" (2009), "Shiroi

Haru" (2009/CX), NHK Period Drama "Tenchijin" (2009), "Shinzanmono" (2010/ TBS) and "Akai Yubi" (2011/TBS). Feature film credits include "Adiantum Blue" (2006), "Trick: The movie 2" (2006), "Happily Ever After" (2007), "The Triumphant Return of General Rouge" (2008), "Gekijoban Trick: Reinouryokusha Battle Royale" (2010), "Shikeidai no Erebeta" (2010) and "Akai Yubi" (2010). He was awarded Best Leading Actor at the Mainichi Film Awards for his appearance in KORE-EDA Hirokazu's "Still Walking", as well as for "Aoi Tori" (2008). His latest projects are "Tengoku kara no Ale" (2011) and "Sutekina Kanashibari" (2011) directed by MITANI Koki.

### **NAGASAWA Masami – Miss MIMURA**

Born 1987 in Shizuoka. In 2000, she won the Grand Prix in the 5th Toho Cinderella Contest. She was then chosen to be in KANEKO Shusuke's "Crossfire", and has since enjoyed a successful career ranging across cinema, TV dramas, Radio and TV commercials. Her first feature film was "Robot Contest" (2003) for which she won the Newcomer Award at the Japan Academy Awards. She then worked on the box office hits "Yomigaeri" (2003) and "Like Asura" (2003). She won the Best Supporting Actress and most Popular awards at the Japan Academy Awards for her role in "Sekai no chusin de Ai wo Sakebu" (2004) directed by YUKISADA Isao, and appeared in "Breath in, Breath Out" (2004), "Godzilla Final Wars" (2004) and "Touch" (2005). She beat off strong competition to win Best Leading Actress at the Japan Academy Awards in 2007 for her role in "Nada So So". Other notable movie credits include "Rough" (2006), "Say Hello for me" (2007), "Hidden Fortress: The Last Princess" (2008), "Go Find a Psychic!" (2009), "Cobalt Blue" (2009) and "Tida-kankan: Umi to Sango to Chiisana Kiseki". In her latest film "Gaku: Minna no Yama" she co-stars with OGURI Shun. Other TV drama credits include the NHK morning Drama series "Sakura" (2002), "Sera Fuku to Kikanju" (2006/TBS) and the NHK period drama "Komyo ga Tsuji" (2006).

### **HARADA Yoshio – AMAMOTO Wataru**

Born 1940 in Tokyo. Debuted in 1968 with "Fukushu no Uta ga Kikoeru", appeared in KUROKI Kazuo's "Preparation for the Festival" (1975) and won a Blue Ribbon Award for Best Supporting Actor for his role in TERAYAMA Shuji's "Pastoral Hide and Seek" (1974). He also received the award for Best Supporting Actor at the Hochi Film Awards for SAKAMOTO Junji's "Dotsuitarunen" (1989) and appeared in WAKAMATSU Koji's "Ware ni Utsu Yoi ari" (1990). For his role in KUROKI Kazuo's "Ronin-gai" (1990) he won a Blue Ribbon Award for Best Leading Actor and in 2003 received the Purple Ribbon medal for artistic achievement. He acted in the SAKAMOTO Junji movies "Tekken" (1990), "Biriken" (1996), "KT" (2002), "Aegis" (2005) and "Zatoichi: The Last" (2010), and the KUROKI Kazuo films "Ryoma Ansatsu" (1974), "Tomorrow" (1988), "A Boy's Summer in 1945" (2002) and "The Face of Jizo" (2004). He has worked with SUZUKI Seijun in movies such as "Tsigoineruwaizen" (1980), "Kagero-za" (1981) and "Yumeji" (1991). I WISH will mark his third time working with KORE-EDA Hirokazu, following "Hana" (2006) and "Still Walking" (2008). Other notable credits include "Farewell to the Ark" (1982), "Double Cross" (1992), "Party 7" (2000), "Nightmare Detective" (2006) and "Dororo" (2007). Sadly, HARADA Yoshio passed away following the release of his final film, SAKAMOTO Junji's "Oshikamura Soudouki".

