

PRODUCTION: RUMBLE FISH, INC. PRODUCER: SENTO TAKENORI
ASANO TADANOBU MIYAZAKI AOI NAKAHARA MASAYA TSUTSUI YASUTAKA TODA MASAHIRO - MARIKO OKADA

eti, eti,

lema sabachthani?

A FILM BY AOYAMA SHINJI



FESTIVAL DE CANNES

OFFICIAL SELECTION

UN CERTAIN REGARD - 2005



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Synopsis

My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me? - Matthew 27:46

AD 2015. The world's major cities are decimated by a terrible plague, a highly contagious virus that fills those it infects first with unbearable dread, then with overwhelming despair. A fatal disease, without cure. The Lemming Syndrome.

In an isolated country mansion, two musicians - Mizui and Asuhara - live in seclusion, devoting themselves to the creation of pure sound far from the trappings of fame and success they knew in the corrupt and dangerous city.

They are visited by an ageing plutocrat, his desperately sick daughter and a detective, who believes that in the music made by Mizui and Asuhara lies the seed of hope that the old man's daughter can be saved. In the vast, changeless stillness of nature, the musicians begin to play...

Following the international acclaim that greeted his EUREKA (FIPRESCI and ECUMENICAL Awards, Cannes 2000), "ELI, ELI, LEMA SABACHTHANI?" reunites Aoyama Shinji with producer Sento Takenori and pre-eminent Japanese screen star Asano Tadanobu.

Director's Statement

Is this how the world will enter its dark winter?
If we keep CINEMA and ROCK N' ROLL, we will be able to survive this winter and pass through it.

This quiet but powerful film was born from this spirit, this Will. We hope YOU will all share the experience.

- **Aoyama Shinji, 2005**

Cast and Crew

Asano Tadanobu (Zatoichi; Taboo)

Miyazaki Aoi (Eureka; Harmful Insect)

Nakahara Masaya

Tsutsui Yasutaka

Toda Masahiro

with

OKADA Mariko (Unknown Pleasures; Eros + Massacre)

Written and Directed by: Aoyama Shinji

Production: Rumble Fish, Inc.

Producer: Sento Takenori

Associate Producer: Sato Kumi

Cinematographer: Tamra Masaki

Lighting: Nakamura Yuki

Sound: Kikuchi Nobuyuki

Music: Nagashima Hiroyuki

Production Designer: Shimizu Takeshi

Aoyama Shinji: Selected Filmography

2005 ELI, ELI, LEMA SABACHTHANI?
2004 AA SIGNATURE: AQUIRAX
(DV documentary)
2004 SUBTERRANEAN HOMESICK BLUES (TV)
2003 LAKE SIDE MURDER CASE
2003 FAR FROM THE STREAM (DV short)
2003 DAYS OF THE SHADE
2003 THE COP WHO CAN SAY NO (DV short)
2002 VISION QUEST OF BASHOH
(TV documentary)
2002 A FOREST WITH NO NAME
2002 JESUS IN RUIN (TV)
2001 NOT TO TALK ABOUT SHE WHO
ALREADY GOT OLD (DV)
2001 DESERT MOON
2000 ROJI-E
2000 JUNE 12, 1998/AT THE EDGE OF CHAOS
(DV documentary)
2000 EUREKA
1999 EMBALMING
1999 SHADY GROVE
1998 AN OBSESSION
1997 WILD LIFE
1996 TWO PUNKS
1996 HELPLESS
1996 A COP, A BITCH AND A KILLER - (Video)
1995 NO IN THE TEXTBOOK! - (Video)

Aoyama Shinji - Director

Born in 1964, Fukuoka prefecture Kitakyusyu-shi. While at high school Aoyama Shinji devoted himself to his band, Up Beat Underground. At Rikkyo University, he attended Hasumi Sigehiko's film criticism classes and made eight 8mm films. After graduating, he began work in the film industry as a prop assistant. Aoyama later worked as assistant director on several projects including Kurosawa Kiyoshi's GUARD FROM THE UNDERGROUND (1992), Fredrik Thor Fridriksson's COLD FEVER (1995) and Daniel Schmid's THE WRITTEN FACE (1996). Simultaneously, he contributed as a writer/critic to such publications as Cahiers de Cinema Japon and Esquire Japan, and it was during the course of an interview that he met producer Sento Takenori.

Aoyama made his directorial debut in 1995 with the straight-to-video NO IN THE TEXTBOOK!. The same year, he directed his first theatrical feature HELPLESS. Produced by Sento Takenori, HELPLESS won the Grand Prix at the 1996 Japan Film Industry Professional Awards, later playing extensively on the international festival circuit, including appearances at Toronto, Vienna and Torino. Aoyama has continued to direct at a tireless pace; his filmography includes TWO PUNKS (1996), WILD LIFE (1997), AN OBSESSION (1998), and SHADY GROVE (1999). In 2000, Aoyama's reunion with Sento Takenori gave birth to EUREKA, which premiered at the Cannes International Film Festival and won the Fipresci and Ecumenical Jury Awards. EUREKA has been invited to countless international film festivals and was awarded the Age d'Or Belgian Royal Film Archive prize. In 2001, DESERT MOON premiered in competition in Cannes. The following year, FOREST WITH NO NAME was invited to the Berlin Film Festival. Recent works include the documentary THE SONG FOR AJIMA and the feature LAKE SIDE MURDER CASE presented at Pusan International Film Festival in 2004. ELI, ELI, LEMA SABACHTHANI? was completed in February 2005.

SENTO Takenori - Producer Rumble Fish. Inc, CEO

One of the most prolific producers in Japan, SENTO's work has received an unprecedented number of awards at numerous international film festivals. At the Cannes Film Festival, since 1997, 3 films - SUZAKU ('97), M/OTHER ('99), and THE TUNNEL ('04) - have been invited to the Directors' Fortnight, 3 films - EUREKA ('00), DESERT MOON ('01) and ELI, ELI, LEMA SABACHTHANI? ('05) - to the Competition, one film - H STORY ('01) - to Un Certain Regard, and two films - UNLOVED ('01) and THE DAY I WAS BORN ('02) - to International Critics' Week. Sento remains the only Japanese producer whose films have been invited to all selections at Cannes. Awards won include: at Cannes: the Camera d'Or for SUZAKU ('97), two consecutive International Critics' Awards for M/OTHER ('99) and EUREKA ('00), and the Prix du Futur Talent and the Rail d'Or for UNLOVED ('01); at Berlin International Film Festival: the Alfred Bauer Prize for BOY'S CHOIR ('00); at Rotterdam International Film Festival: the Tiger Award for BAD COMPANY ('00). SENTO plays a very important role in the launching of new directorial talent into the world market.

SENTO began his working life at a big steel company after graduating from university. In 1990, he joined WOWOW (a major Japanese satellite TV broadcaster) as a salesperson, and in 1991, began producing films. To date, he has produced more than 50 films - with 43 directors - including THE RING ('98), a trigger for the rebirth of Japanese Horror, and a massive international hit. He is active in many other fields, including the writing of scripts and books; TV; teaching at university and sitting on government committees.

In December 2001, SENTO established Rumble Fish, Inc. (capital: 338,080,000JPY) to continue his work in cinema. He has produced many collaborative works with director AOYAMA Shinji, including EUREKA ('00, Cannes), FOREST WITH NO NAME ('02, Young Forum, Berlin), LAKESIDE MURDER CASE ('04, Pusan) and several TV series. This fruitful collaboration began with AOYAMA's first film, HELPLESS ('96) after AOYAMA had worked with SENTO as an assistant director on SENTO's early films.