

STILL WALKING

(Aruitemo Aruitemo)

a film by

Hirokazu Kore-Eda



Japan / 114 minutes / 1:85 / Dolby SR / Certificate: tbc

Release date: 15 January 2010

FOR ALL PRESS ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT

Sue Porter/Lizzie Frith – Porter Frith Ltd

Tel: 020 7833 8444/E-Mail: porterfrith@hotmail.com

FOR ALL OTHER ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT

Robert Beeson – New Wave Films

robert@newwavefilms.co.uk



10 Margaret Street

London W1W 8RL

Tel: 020 3178 7095

www.newwavefilms.co.uk

SYNOPSIS

The Yokoyama family come together to celebrate the memory of their youngest son Junpei, who died fifteen years ago while rescuing a boy from drowning. Over the course of one summer day we follow the family, bound together by love as well as resentments and secrets, as new relatives become acquainted, old stories are retold, food prepared and an elegant graveside ritual takes place. It is with warmth and gentle humour that we follow the complex dynamics between the equally annoying, lovely and precious characters of the Yokoyama family, all masterfully drawn by Kore-Eda.

Full details on www.newwavefilms.co.uk



CREW

Written, Directed and Edited by
Executive Producers

Hirokazu KORE-EDA
Kazumi KAWASHIRO
Yutaka SHIGENOBU
Takeo HISAMATSU
Bong-ou LEE

Development Producer
Producers

Masahiro YASUDA
Yoshihiro KATO
Hijiri TAGUCHI

Cinematography
Production Design

Yutaka YAMAZAKI
Toshihiro ISOMI
Keiko MITSUMATSU

Lighting
Sound

Eiji OSHITA
Yutakaa TSURUMAKI
Shuji OHTAKE

Costume Stylist
Chief Assistant Director
Scriptor
Production Manager
Assistant Directors

Kazuko KUROSAWA
Atsushi KANESHIGE
Miho IIZUKA
Keiichi SANBE
Nao ICHIHARA

Make-up Artist
Music
Still Photographer
Produced by

Kaoru ENDO
Mutsuki SAKAI
GONTITI
Kenshu SHINTSUBO
ENGINE FILM, INC.
BANDAI VISUAL CO., LTD,
TV MAN UNION, INC.
EISEI GEKIJO CO., LTD.
CINE QUA NON
ENGINE NETWORK

Production Company

114mins– 1:85 – Dolby SR

CAST

Ryota Yokohama
Yukari Yokohama
Chinami Kataoka
Nobuo Kataoka
Yukari's son, Atsushi
Toshiko Yokohama
Kyohei Yokohama
Satsuki Kataoka
Mutsu Kataoka

Hiroshi ABE
Yui NATSUKAWA
YOU
Kazuya TAKAHASHI
Shohei TANAKA
Kirin KIKI
Yoshio HARADA
Hotaru NOMOTO
Ryoga HAYASHI

Tomoya TAGUCHI, Keisuke TANAKA, Miyuri KUDO,
Mitsuhiro TAMURA, Yoshiharu TAKAHASHI,
Yukari HORIE, Susumu TERAJIMA, Haruko KATO.



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

In the past five or six years I lost both my parents. As an ungrateful eldest son who used the demands of his profession to excuse my long absences from home, I find myself troubled by regrets, to this day. "If only I'd been more..." "Why did I say that then..." Still Walking is a film launched by the experience of regret that we all share. The characters are utterly ordinary people and the film takes place over the course of a single summer day. Unlike in an American TV drama, nothing of consequence happens over the course of their rare, overnight family reunion. Yet, over the course of their day, as deceptively tranquil as a calm sea, the tide flows in, then out and wavelets constantly ripple the surface. Take for instance, the main character's anxiety over his parents' aging. It goes unnoticed. Or take the negotiations over a grandchild between a bride and her mother-in-law. It remains their secret. In this film I have contemplated and portrayed the seemingly minute yet significant wavelets that ripple throughout the course of our long lives. There are no typhoons in this film. Only the "before" and the "after" of dramatic events are revealed. In other words, I have focused on the premonitions and the reverberations of life. Because I believe that is precisely where the essence of life can be found. Because Still Walking started from a place of regret, I was determined to make it a film brimming with life. Rather than portray how my parents made their way towards death, my intent was to capture a moment of life itself. And fold into that moment, all the ambiguities of family memory. Just like the photos in an old family album...

This film is a work of fiction, but I relied heavily on my mother's actual personality and vocabulary in shaping the character of the protagonist's mother. I wanted to make a movie where I could immediately recognize my mother. Not to cry over her loss but to laugh with her again. That is how this film came to be. In this film, more than in my others, I believe I have managed to portray human beings and our behaviour in a specific and nuanced way. If I have succeeded, it is because of my father, and above all, my mother.

Kore-eda Hirokazu

Hirokazu KORE-EDA

Director, Writer and Editor

Born in Tokyo, 1962. After graduating from the Literature Department of Waseda University, Kore-eda joined TV Man Union, a large, independent television production company, where he has directed many prize-winning documentaries.

His first feature film, *Maborosi*, won the Ozella D'oro at the Venice Film Festival in 1995. His second feature, *After Life* (1999), was distributed in over 30 countries and was extraordinarily successful worldwide as an independent film in Japan.

His third film, *Distance* was presented in competition at the 2001 Cannes Film Festival.

His fourth feature *Nobody Knows*, won Best Actor at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival and was highly acclaimed worldwide. In 2006 he wrote and directed *Hana*, his first period film, exploring the world of swordsmen and revenge in Edo period.

Kore-Eda's visually intense films explore themes such as memory, death and coming to terms with loss, and have more aptly been described as cine-poems.

1994 Maborosi

1999 After Life

2001 Distance

2004 Nobody Knows

2006 Hana

2008 Still Walking

2009 Air Doll

