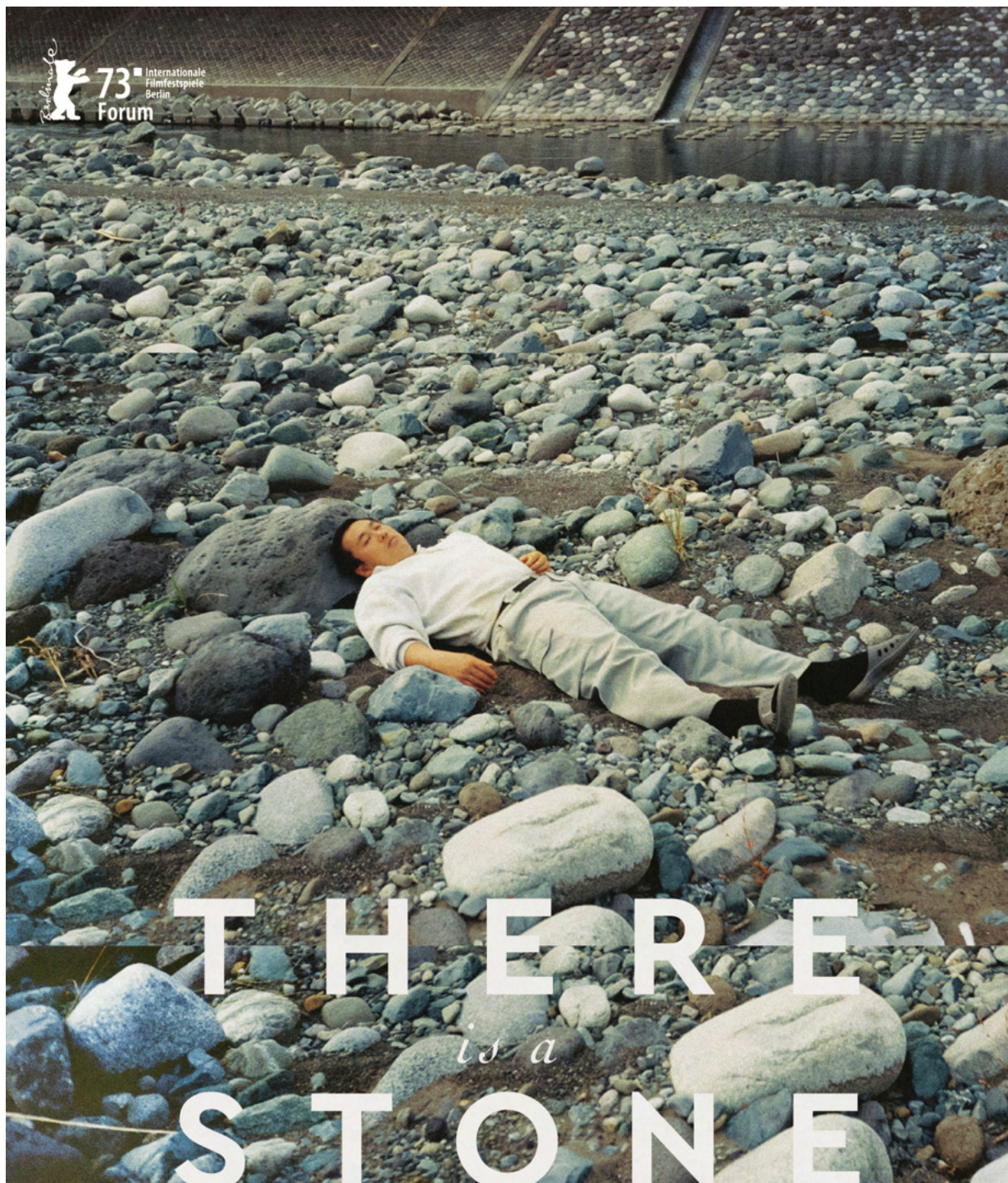


ISHI GA ARU (original title)/ There is a stone

< Press kit >



石がある

An Ogawa
小川 あん

a film by
Tatsunari Ota
太田 達成 監督作品

Tsuchi Kano
加 納 土

Screenplay 〃 Tatsunari Ota DOP 〃 Yuji Fukaya Editing 〃 Keiko Okawa Music 〃 Oh Shu
Sound 〃 Naru Sakamoto Sound Design 〃 Young Chang Koh Producer 〃 Sachiko Tanaka , Kotaro Kimura

Film information

ISHI GA ARU (original title)/ There is a stone

2023 / 104min / 1.33:1 / 5.1ch / color 2D / DCP

Synopsis

Yoshikawa, who works for a travel agency, is visiting a town in the suburbs to do research for a new tour project. However, Yamakita, which used to be a prosperous "railway town", is no sign of life in front of the station and the shopping street is almost closed. Halfway through her research, she walks along a nearby riverbed and discovers a man, Doi, who is diligently skimming stones. They have just met and are still nervous, but as Doi suggests various games to play on the river, Yoshikawa gradually forgets about her work and becomes absorbed in the games that have invented between them. They look for their "favourite stones", start playing games with branches, and spend time together as if they were children again. But as the sun sets, the time they have spent together is coming to an end.

Director's Statement

It was during a trip I had with my friends three years ago that I came up with the idea for "There is a Stone".

We went to a vacation home in Nagano that my friend's parents owned. The home was deep in the mountains, and all that was there was nature, forests and rivers.

As we walked along, one of our friends sat down and started looking at stones. Following him, we began to look for our each favourite stone.

Picked up a stone that caught our attention, and simply stared at it. Again and again.

How much time did we spend? When we felt that the stones were hard to see, we realised that the sun was setting. Clutching my favourite stone, we were on the way back home.

Suddenly, my friend yelled "I dropped my favourite stone". Asked the characteristics of that stone and searched it, lighting the river with the cell phones.

However, it was difficult to find it in the dim light. We gave up and returned home.

The next morning, I woke up early.

Friends were still sleeping, so I headed to the river to search for the stone my friend lost yesterday.

Looking at the river, I couldn't help but smile.

The endless number of stones illuminated by the morning sun. How can I even find my friend's stone among them, just only heard of its character?

No, I doubt even my friend who lost it would be able to recognize it. In the first place, even if we found it, what would it do for?

I just stood by the river with a sense of humour.

This experience three years ago raised many questions. Why did we devote so much time on picking up stones? Why did I choose "this stone" instead of "that stone"?

These are very trivial questions, but I felt that they should not be ignored.

We decided to examine this experience through filmmaking.

Director's Biography

Tatsunari Ota was born in 1989 in Fukushima.

He studied under Nobuhiro Suwa and Kiyoshi Kurosawa at Tokyo University of the Arts Graduate School of Film and New Media.

His graduation film "Bundesliga" has been screened at PIA FILM FESTIVAL2017 and FILMADRID2018.

His second feature film, "There is a Stone", was selected at TOKYO FILMeX and Berlinale.

Director's Filmography

“Bundesliga” (2017,first feature film)

- 39th PIA Film Festival - Competition
- FILMADRID 2018 - Competition

“There is a stone” (2023,second feature film)

- 23th TOKYO FILMeX – Made in Japan
- 73th Berlinale - Forum



Staff and Cast Credit

Directed and Written by : Tatsunari Ota

Producer : Tatsunari Ota , Sachihiko Tanaka, Kotaro Kimura

Cinematographer : Yuji Fukaya

Music by : Shu Oh

Sound recording : Naru Sakamoto

Sound mixing : Young Chang Koh

Editor : Keiko Okawa

Cast : An Ogawa, Tsuchi Kano

PRODUCTION : Tatsunari Ota

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COMMENT by Cristina Nord (Head of Berlinale Forum)

I was very happy when I saw THERE IS A STONE while I was in Tokyo in October, and the Forum's selection committee felt the same way when we watched the film around Christmas. We were very fond of the casual, non-dramatic way it depicts a fleeting moment of connection between two strangers. The film is an exploration of leisure, a eulogy to aimlessness, and a celebration of non-productivity and chance encounters, and all this combined really appealed to us.

Berlinale
73rd Internationale
Filmfestspiele
Berlin
Forum

a film by

TATSUNARI OTA

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