

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT



WRITTEN & DIRECTED BY:

BRIAN BLUM

PRODUCED BY:

D. M. NIGHT MAIRE

RYAN BEHARRY

BRYAN BENITEZ

STARRING:

SAORI GODA – Saki

MEI-LIN HOSANG – Yoshiko

YOSHI AMAO – Hideyo

RIKA AKANISHI – Kazuko

AMY HOERLER - Cheryl

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LOG LINE

A Japanese American mother struggles to come to terms with her daughter's autism diagnosis. Based on true events.

SYNOPSIS

After her daughter Yoshiko's Autism Spectrum Disorder diagnosis, and her husband's overseas military deployment, Saki Omura is finding life harder and harder to manage. Too ashamed to burden others and too proud to ask for help, this Japanese American mother faces the now-daunting task of giving her daughter the best life possible. Much more than a story of coping, "My Daughter Yoshiko" is also about the power of trading shame for empathy, and is based on real events.

RUNTIME

15 minutes 00 seconds / 16 minutes 33 seconds with extended credits

ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

The story is based on true events.

"My Daughter Yoshiko" is the first independent short film written & directed by Brian Blum outside of an academic institution. His fourth overall.

Hamilton Yu has been the Director of Photography on each of Brian Blum's four short films.

Independently of each other, Saori Goda and Yoshi Amao were cast as Saki and her father Hideyo, respectively. It wasn't until rehearsals that Brian Blum found out the two are married!

"My Daughter Yoshiko" was shot in and around the Miami-Dade County, Florida area over the course of four days.

"My Daughter Yoshiko" was filmed on an Arri Amira camera with a package of Zeiss lenses, and edited in Adobe Premiere.

OFFICIAL POSTER



SAORI GODA

MY DAUGHTER **YOSHIKO**



MEI-LIN HOSANG

A FILM BY BRIAN BLUM

UGLY SWEATER AND AIREBEDD PRESENT A BRIAN BLUM FILM "MY DAUGHTER YOSHIKO" SAORI GODA YOSHI AMAO RIKA AKANISHI AMY HOERLER AND INTRODUCING MEI-LIN HOSANG
 EDITED BY CARLOS PEREZ-SEGARRA PRODUCTION DESIGNER ECEGÜL "JJ" BAYRAM DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY HAMILTON YU ORIGINAL MUSIC BY AARON KENNY EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS MIEKO AVELLO AIKA AVELLO ALEXANDER FALK NORA FALK
 LORI BLUM BARRY BLUM LEWIS COLLIER CYDNEY COLLIER MICHAEL HILL MICHAEL BEDDOME TAYLOR COMPTON PRODUCED BY DAVID E. MUNZ-MAIRE BRYAN BENITEZ RYAN BEHARRY
 WRITTEN BY BRIAN BLUM AND KENT MORITA DIRECTED BY BRIAN BLUM

www.mydaughteryoshiko.com

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FILM'S SCREEN SHOTS



Saori Goda as Saki





Mei-Lin HoSang as Yoshiko



Yoshi Amao as Hideyo



Rika Akanishi as Kazuko



Amy Hoerler as Park Mom

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

To graduate from my high school, students were required to do 12 hours of community service a year, or 48 total hours. I volunteered with an organization called The Friendship Circle, which pairs up volunteers and special needs children for social visits, to provide recurring social connection for kids who struggle to establish personal connections on their own. By graduation, I had spent over 200 hours of community service with The Friendship Circle.

Another constant in my high school life was Japanese language. I studied Japanese for four years under the same teacher, Mieko Avello -- who I called "Sensei." Sensei was that exceptional teacher whose class you looked forward to, who created a community where students wanted to learn, and who motivated us to go above and beyond in the classroom. Words cannot describe how much Sensei's students admired her.

Nowadays, I'm out of college, in a serious long-term relationship, and thinking about my future. My partner and I occasionally talk about whether or not we want kids, and I'm reminded of my time volunteering for The Friendship Circle. I'm reminded of how grateful parents were to have a young person there who understood their situation and empathized with them; someone to give them a short break every now and then. I'm also reminded of the prevalence of disability in my life: I have a cousin on the autism spectrum, a neighbor with severe physical and neurological impairment, a childhood friend on the autism spectrum, and a sibling with sensory issues who was misdiagnosed as autistic.

The prospect of parenting is scary enough, and the idea of parenting a child with special needs can be overwhelming to even think about. I witnessed the struggles firsthand, and I was both fascinated and in awe of the unwavering and unconditional love displayed by parents caring for special needs children. I knew I wanted to explore that further in a film.

And so, the research phase began. I started volunteering again and travelled back to my hometown to interview the parents of kids I had visited for The Friendship Circle. During this time, I decided to stop by my high school and visit my Sensei. I told her about my plans for this film, and to my surprise she told me that, in addition to being an astounding educator, she too was an autism parent. After spending hours speaking with her about her life and experiences with her now-adult daughter, I knew that this was the story I wanted to tell. I am honored and grateful that she trusted me with her story, and I am excited to share it with the world: the story of a remarkable and great woman. The story of my Sensei.

— Brian Blum, Director/Writer

ACTOR BIOGRAPHIES

YOSHI AMAO as HIDEYO

Since arriving in New York from Nara, Japan, in 1990, Yoshi Amao has been entertaining audience as an actor, emcee, and samurai martial artist. As a samurai artist, he was cast for the main role of the TV series "Samurai Sportsman" (OLN, 2003) and invited as a guest for "The late night with Conan O'Brien" (NBC, 2004). He also performed the main role of "Rogue" on "Deadly She-Wolf, Assassin at Armageddon!" at Japan Society NYC, 2005 in Mandell Theater, Philadelphia in 2006, and La MaMa Theater in 2013, in which he was highly acclaimed as an actor and a co-choreographer by New York Times. He's since been cast in "White Collar" (USA, 2009), "Blacklist" (NBC, 2017), and "Mr. Robot" (USA, 2019) amongst others.

Website: <http://www.yoshiamao.com/>

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1372563/>

SAORI GODA as SAKI

Saori Goda was born and raised in Osaka, Japan. She started her professional acting career in Japan at the age of 18 and brushed up at HB Studio and Stella Adler after moving to NY in 2009. Her TV debut was as Janet Fujimoto on Monumental Mysteries of Travel Channel which led to a number of roles in the following years, including Love Your Selfie (NBC), films "A Man Full Of Days" (Related Parts), "Cocktail Party" (Global Film Network Inc), and Disney Vacation Club Video.

Website: <http://www.saorigoda.com/>

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm5872566/>

AMY HOERLER as CHERYL

Amy Hoerler is an actress based out of South Florida, working mainly in the independent film community. Amy studied under her teacher and mentor, Mr. Burt Reynolds, at the Burt Reynolds Institute until his death (2010-2018). In addition to being a Master Acting Graduate of the Burt Reynolds Institute, Amy also studied at the Neighborhood Playhouse and the Atlantic Theatre Company in New York City. She continues to hone her skills as an actor and works on projects she feels passionate about.

Website: <http://www.amyhoerler.com/>

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm1539474/>

RIKA AKANISHI as KAZUKO

Rika was born and raised in Kyoto, Japan. She started her acting carrier at age of 18 studying at Kyogei, one of the oldest drama company in Kyoto. In 1995, she moved to New York City to pursue her acting carrier in America and graduated from Hunter College. She has been performing in various off-off-Broadway shows (“The New World Order”, “Hanjo”, “Luna”), feature films and shorts (“Cocktail Party” 2016, “The Party Beyond Obama” 2009, “Birth Day” 2015), web series (“Hodo Buzz”, “Rack & Ruin”), TV shows (“The Perfect Murder” 2017), and several TV commercials.

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm3351088/>

MEI-LIN HOSANG as YOSHIKO

Mei-Lin HoSang is a Asian-Hispanic Actress from Miami, Florida. She is a model, and actress known for “The Beach Bum” (2017) and “Unboxed” (2018). Since “My Daughter Yoshiko” (2019), she was featured in an episode of “Legacies” (CW, 2020). Besides doing modeling, commercials and films, she enjoys gymnastics, hanging out with friends, and playing the piano!

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm9899301/>

KEY CREW BIOGRAPHIES:

BRIAN BLUM – WRITER/DIRECTOR

Brian is a NYC-based award-winning director, writer, producer, sound mixer, and programmer for the Miami Film Festival. Before receiving a BFA in Film and Television Production from NYU's prestigious Tisch School of the Arts, Brian honed his filmmaking skills by making commercials for his high school's video PA system. Through this he met his Japanese teacher, Mieko Avello, whose story inspired "My Daughter Yoshiko".

Website: <http://www.brianblumfilms.com/>

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm5854578/>

DAVID. M. NIGHT MAIRE – PRODUCER

Cosmopolitan in nature, David is an alumnus of NYU: Tisch School of the Arts, earning his B.A. in Film & T.V. with a focus on Directing, and Minors in Producing and Psychology. This native Alpine's passion for directing led him to pursue a Masters in Live Action Short Form at SVA under famed music video and commercial director Bob Giraldi. He Co-Founded AireBedd, a banner under which he has garnered hundreds of laurels and awards for his short films and music videos, and produced content for Louis Vuitton Moët Hennessy, Red Bull and the Leslie-Lohman Museum amongst others.

Website: <https://www.airebedd.com/>

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm4731396/>

HAMILTON YU – CINEMATOGRAPHER

Born and raised in the Bay Area, Hamilton studied film and, more specifically, cinematography at NYU: Tisch School of the Arts. Now an NYC-based DoP, he's shot many films, and has accumulated production experience working with all kinds of cameras, actors, stories and directors. His work has screened at festivals such as Miami Film Festival, Short of the Week, BAFTA Shortlist, and Cannes American Pavilion.

Website: <https://hamiltonyu.com/>

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm6123052/>

ECEGÜL 'JJ' BAYRAM – PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Ecegül Bayram is a Turkish production designer. She graduated from NYU: Tisch School of the Arts with a BFA in Film & T.V. and a minor in Politics. She's also an alumnus of Robert College of Istanbul. She is a recipient of Niklas Kalborg Production Award founded by the Kalborg Family and NYU; and the Bülent Ecevit Development in Arts Award founded by Robert College of Istanbul. She has worked professionally on multiple short films, music videos and commercials in the USA, Greece and Spain.

Website: <https://www.ecegulbayram.com/>

IMDB: <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm7171327/>

REVIEWS

“A little snippet of a family’s life, *My Daughter Yoshiko* is a lot less about autism and a lot more about shame... Amid all her mother’s stress, the camera is very sympathetic to Yoshiko. We see things that are upsetting her out before anyone else does... It’s a short film but it is about a much-needed step when it comes to caring for someone you may not be able to understand or relate to normally. Accepting that it maybe is not going to be something you can change—and then deciding that doesn’t mean they’re a bad person and deserve to be talked down about.”

- Dan Feldbusch, *Shenandoah Film Collaborative – Strasburg Film Festival*
<https://strasburgfilm.com/film-review-my-daughter-yoshiko/>

“*My Daughter Yushiko* is touching and heartwarming. Taking care of a family with a certain condition is just really difficult. A lot of families especially parents can relate to this film. I liked that the short film used this concept as it will make others understand what parents of kids with special needs go through on a daily basis. This short film will help raise an awareness that instead of judging, people need to help one another and give considerations to families with members with special needs. I can feel all the hardships and heartaches that the mother is going through and it is truly tough. A little help, a little understanding can go a long way. The story is beautiful and acting is brilliant. I salute director Brian Blum for making this film as a tribute to parents caring for their kids with special needs.”

- Adam Paul Weber, *Utah Film Festival & Awards*
<https://www.facebook.com/UtahFilmFestival/posts/2552043631545776>

“Deeply affecting film enabled by utterly convincing performances and by the brilliant use of sound and image to evoke inner moods... Great lead performance... A brilliant take on the anguish and loneliness of motherhood... Moving story about autism and parenting.”

- Jury, *Beeston Film Festival*

“A candid and emotion short... Blum plays on the anxieties of parenthood while pulling at the heartstrings. He does this while seeing to it that the topics of autism and parenthood are approached delicately.”

- Adam Paul Weber, *FilmThreat*
<https://filmthreat.com/reviews/my-daughter-yoshiko/>

ACCOLADES

WINNER

1. Zeno Mountain Award – Miami Film Festival 2019
2. Best Dramatic Short – Oaxaca Film Fest 2019
3. City of Jacksonville Award for Best Florida Film – Jacksonville Film Festival 2019
4. Best Dramatic Short – Williamsburg Independent Film Festival 2019
5. Best Actress in a Foreign Short Film (Saori Goda) – LIFFT India Filmotsav – World Cine Fest, Lonovia 2019
6. Audience Award – FilmGate Miami Short Film Festival 2020
7. Best Short Film – FilmGate Miami Short Film Festival 2020
8. Best Foreign Drama – Southeast Regional Film Festival 2020
9. Best Drama – FLICKFAIR 2020
10. Best Overall Sound – Okotoks Film Festival 2020
11. Best Disability Portrayal Short Movie – Out of Bounds Film Festival 2020
12. Best United States Short – Deep in the Heart Film Festival 2020
13. Best Acting Performance In a Leading Role – US Short (Saori Goda) – Soho International Film Festival 2020
14. Best Actress (Saori Goda) – International Disability Film Festival – Breaking Down Barriers 2020
15. Best of Fest – Downtown Tyler Film Festival 2021
16. Best Production Design of Medium-Length Film – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
(as of 01st March 2023)

Nominated Finalist

1. Knight Competition Grand Jury Prize for Best Film – Miami Film Festival 2019
2. Semi-Finalist – Stage 32 Film Competition 2019
3. Light It Up Blue Award / Best Autism Film – Golden Door International Film Festival 2019
4. Best Short Film – Aarhus Film Festival 2019
5. Best Short Film – Orlando Film Festival 2019
6. Honorable Mention for Best Narrative Short – Ojai Film Festival 2019
7. Finalist – As Film Festival 2019
8. Best Narrative Short – Jacksonville Film Festival 2019
9. Best Dramatic Short – International Strasburg Film Festival 2019
10. Finalist – Macau International Short Film Festival 2019
11. Finalist – Snowtown Film Festival 2020
12. Best Mental Health Short Film – Short Film Breaks 2020
13. Best Actress (Rika Akanishi) – Winter Film Awards 2020
14. Finalist – Manhattan International Film Festival 2020
15. B’Oscar: Women’s Voice Award – Beeston Film Festival 2020
16. Best Child Actor (Mei-Lin Hosang) – Southeast Regional Film Festival 2020
17. Best Actor (Saori Goda) – Southeast Regional Film Festival 2020
18. Semi-Finalist – Realtime International Film Festival 2020
19. Best Performance (Saori Goda) – Okotoks Film Festival 2020
20. Finalist – New York Shorts International Film Festival 2020
21. Best Performance in a Dramatic Role (Saori Goda) – Deep in the Heart Film Festival 2020
22. Best Drama Short – Deep in the Heart Film Festival 2020
23. Best Short Film – Deep in the Heart Film Festival 2020
24. Best Short Film – LIIFE - Long Island International Film Expo 2020
25. Best US Showcase Short – Soho International Film Festival 2020
26. Best Short Film – HECare - Human Environment Care Film Festival 2020
27. Semi-Finalist – Lisbon Film Rendezvous 2021
28. Honorable Mention – Sanctuary International Film Festival 2021
29. Best Short Film – Derby Film Festival 2021
30. Best Short Fiction – Chicago International Indie Film Festival 2021
31. Best Lead Actress - Narrative Short Film (Saori Goda) – Tietê International Film Awards 2022
32. Best Director of Medium-Length Film – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
33. Best Screenplay of Medium-Length Film – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
34. Best Sound Design of Medium-Length Film – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
35. Best Cinematography of Medium-Length Film – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
36. Best Editing of Medium-Length Film – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
37. Best Actress of Medium-Length Film (Saori Goda) – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
38. Best Supporting Actor of Medium-Length Film (Yoshi Amao) – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022

39. Best Supporting Actress of Medium-Length Film (Mei-Ling Hosang) – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
40. Best Poster – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
41. Best Trailer – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
42. Best Post-Production – Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
43. Grand Jury Award – Bridgeport Film Fest 2022
44. Best Female Performance - Drama (Saori Goda) – Bridgeport Film Fest 2022
45. Finalist – The Independent Film and Art Festival 2022
46. Semi-Finalist – Festival del Cinema di Cefalù 2022
47. Best Short Feature Film – LAMPA International Film Festival of socially oriented short films, videos and social advertising 2022
48. Honorable Mention – Film Night On Fulton 2022
49. Best Drama – Together! Disability Film Festival 2022
(as of 01st March 2023)

Official Selections

1. Miami Film Festival 2019
2. Stage 32 Film Competition 2019
3. Macon Film Festival 2019
4. UrbanWorld Film Festival 2019
5. Breckenridge Film Festival 2019
6. Golden Door International Film Festival 2019
7. DC Shorts Film Festival 2019
8. Aarhus Film Festival 2019
9. Desoto Film Festival 2019
10. Independent Film Nights at the Newtown Theatre 2019
11. Oaxaca Film Fest 2019
12. Orlando Film Festival 2019
13. Virginia Film Festival 2019
14. Ojai Film Festival 2019
15. Bates Film Festival 2019
16. Vancouver Asian Film Festival 2019
17. The Extraordinary Film Festival 2019
18. Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival 2019
19. As Film Festival 2019
20. Jacksonville Film Festival 2019
21. International Strasburg Film Festival 2019
22. Williamsburg Independent Film Festival 2019
23. Macau International Short Film Festival 2019
24. LIFFT India Filmotsav – World Cine Fest, Lonovia 2019
25. FilmGate Miami Short Film Festival 2020
26. Social Impact Film Festival 2020
27. Snowtown Film Festival 2020
28. Green Bay Film Festival 2020
29. Tally Shorts Film Festival 2020
30. Short Film Breaks 2020
31. Winter Film Awards International Film Festival 2020
32. Athena Film Festival 2020
33. Manhattan International Film Festival 2020
34. Brain Film Festival – Festival Internacional De Cinema Sobre El Cervell 2020
35. Beeston Film Festival 2020
36. CMS, International Children's Film Festival 2020
37. First-Time Filmmaker Sessions 2020
38. Flickers' Rhode Island Roving Eye International Film Festival 2020
39. Davis Feminist Film Festival 2020
40. FPP Financial Focus FilmFest 2020
41. Southeast Regional Film Festival 2020
42. FLICKFAIR 2020
43. Realtime International Film Festival 2020
44. The Cabriolet Film Festival 2020
45. deadCenter Film Festival 2020
46. Okotoks Film Festival 2020
47. Southport FilmFest 2020
48. Desertscape International Film Festival 2020
49. New York Shorts International Film Festival 2020
50. Los Angeles Diversity Film Festival 2020
51. Longless Film Festival 2020
52. Portobello Film Festival 2020
53. Sandpoint Film Festival 2020
54. Out of Bounds 2020
55. Film for Peace 2020
56. Catalina Film Festival 2020
57. Port Townsend Film Festival 2020
58. Art Without Limit International Film Festival 2020
59. Hilltop Film Festival of Diversity and Inclusion 2020
60. Deep in the Heart Film Festival 2020
61. Sunnyside Shorts International Film Festival 2020
62. LIIFE – Long Island International Film Expo 2020
63. Jharkhand International Film Festival & Awards 2020
64. Arizona International Film Festival 2020
65. Sit Down Shutup and Watch Film & New Media Festival 2020
66. New Jersey Autism Conference 2020
67. Soho International Film Festival 2020
68. Huntington Beach Cultural Cinema Showcase 2020
69. Video Hackers Film Festival 2020
70. Asian Film Festival, Los Angeles Hollywood 2020
71. Human Environment Care Film Festival 2020
72. International Disability Film Festival – Breaking Down Barriers 2020
73. Linz International Short Film Festival 2020

74. International Children's Rights Film Festival 2020
75. Hidden Film Festival Worldwide 2020
76. Blue Moves Dance Film Fundraiser 2020
77. Orlando International Film Festival 2021
78. McMinnville Short Film Festival 2021
79. International Rare Disease Film Festival 2021
80. Azalea Film Festival 2020/21
81. Capital City Film Festival 2020/21
82. Media Film Festival 2020/21
83. Downtown Tyler Film Festival 2021
84. MIC HUEYO International Film Festival of Hueyotlipan 2021
85. Lisbon Film Rendezvous 2021
86. Four Corners Film Festival 2021
87. Buenos Aires International Film Festival 2021
88. BOSIFEST - Belgrade International Film Festival 2021
89. Sanctuary International Film Festival 2021
90. Derby Film Festival 2021
91. Chicago International Indie Film Festival 2021
92. The Paus Premieres Festival 2021
93. Festival RENUAC 2022
94. Tietê International Film Awards 2022
95. Brazil International Monthly Independent Film Festival 2022
96. Bridgeport Film Fest 2022
97. The Independent Film and Art Festival 2022
98. Festival del Cinema di Cefalù 2022
99. Seattle Wine and Film Festival 2022
100. Omeleto 2022
101. LAMPA International Film Festival of socially oriented short films, videos and social advertising 2022
102. Film Night on Fulton 2022
103. Ipê Amarelo Film Festival 2022
104. Together! Disability Film Festival 2020/21
105. MINDS Film Festival Singapore 2023
106. Atypowa Foundation Movie Festival 2023
(as of 17th October 2023)

DISTRIBUTION INFORMATION

Film Festival Selection Rate 24.33%

Number of Countries Screened In 26

Events Screened at Per Country

58x USA	1x Germany
7x England	1x Kosovo
5x Italy	1x Lebanon
4x Canada	1x Macao
3x India	1x Nigeria
2x Australia	1x Poland
2x Brazil	1x Portugal
2x Mexico	1x Romania
2x Russia	1x Serbia
1x Argentina	1x Singapore
1x Austria	1x Spain
1x Belgium	1x Turkey
1x Chile	*5x Virtual / Online
1x Denmark	

Closed Captions & Subtitles Available In

1. English
2. French
3. German
4. Italian
5. Portuguese
6. Spanish

Public Release

- Release Date: 08 July 2022
- Platform: YouTube
- Views: 50K in 6months
- Link: www.omeleto.com/258616/

Channel: Omeleto (@Omeleto)
Likes: 1.8K in 6months

CONTACT INFO

SHORT FILM 'My Daughter Yoshiko'

- Omeleto: www.omeleto.com/258616/
- Website: www.mydaughteryoshiko.squarespace.com/
- Webpage: www.dmnightmaire.com/my-daughter-yoshiko
- Facebook: www.facebook.com/mydaughteryoshiko/
- IMDb: www.imdb.com/title/tt8996294/

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PRODUCER David M. Night Maire

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- IMDb: www.imdb.com/name/nm4731396/
- Insta: @dmnightmaire
- Vimeo: www.vimeo.com/dmnightmaire

