

TATSUMI PREMIERES AT THE 64TH CANNES FILM FESTIVAL 2011



TATSUMI

BASED ON "A DRIFTING LIFE" AND
THE SHORT STORIES OF YOSHIHIRO TATSUMI



ZHAO WEI FILMS

THE MATCH FACTORY



"Cannes was my dream of dreams. My heart swells with joy and pride, knowing that "TATSUMI" will premiere there. I just want to toast Eric Khoo!!"

Yoshihiro Tatsumi

"It has been my dream for this to happen, that Tatsumi premieres at Cannes Official Selection so that Yoshihiro Tatsumi, someone I truly admire and love, will finally be on one of the biggest international platforms to share Gekiga, his life and stories with the entire world."

Eric Khoo, Director

"We are proud and honored at Infinite Frameworks to have had the opportunity to work on Tatsumi san's legendary artwork and to bring it to life under Eric's unique vision. It is by far the most emotional journey we have undertaken as a studio and the experience will continue to shape us for years to come."

Mike Wiluan, Executive Producer

"It's been an amazing journey composing for my dad. Starting off in 2008 with the movie, My Magic. I thought it would be a one time thing, but since music meant so much, I decided to continue and will never regret it. The three pieces from Tatsumi, after the arrangement by Christine Sham, have come a long way, and I love each and everyone of them."

Christopher Khoo, Composer

Yoshihiro Tatsumi started the gekiga movement, because he was heavily influenced by cinema. It's poetically fitting that Eric Khoo has decided to honour this master and his vision by making this film; things have just come full circle. This is a milestone for Japanese subculture and I am very honoured to be part of this project.

Masato Yamamoto, Associate Producer

TATSUMI based on the life and short stories of Yoshihiro Tatsumi will be the 13th animated feature to premiere at Cannes Official Selection. Animations distinguished by their participation in Cannes Official Selection are, DUMBO (1947), THE FANTASTIC PLANET (1973), FRITZ THE CAT (1974), SHREK (2001), THE TRIPLETS OF BELLEVILLE (2003), GHOST IN THE SHELL 2: INNOCENCE (2004), SHREK 2 (2004), OVER THE HEDGE (2006), PERSEPOLIS (2007), KUNG-FU PANDA (2008), WALTZ WITH BASHIR (2008) and UP (2009).

Yoshihiro Tatsumi revolutionized manga. Being a cinephile he tried to blend both art forms at a very early age and that led to Gekiga which was recently explored in a Japanese documentary on Tatsumi where all the senior manga creators paid tribute to him.

As a boy, Yoshihiro Tatsumi loved movies and harboured ambitions of becoming a film director. But he knew he was not quite cut out for the job as he preferred to sit alone facing a wall, making the stories that he's dreamt up come alive on paper. Tatsumi's imagination was constantly stirred and inspired by the many movies he saw, and by the pot boiling mystery novels his brother egged him to read. It spurred him to experiment with frames, perspectives and angles in his comics, to imbue psychological and dramatic depth to characters and stories. Asked what he was trying to achieve with Gekiga, Tatsumi, on more than one occasion, answered: "to create manga which is not manga". He pioneered a breakthrough in comics, elevating the genre to a whole new level of creative expression influenced by cinema.

Gekiga has changed the landscape of Japanese comics. Eric Khoo's animated feature Tatsumi is a fitting tribute to a man who sought to make comics cinematic and after half a century later his stories will finally come alive on the big screen.

TATSUMI

A film by Eric Khoo
Based on the life and short stories of
Yoshihiro Tatsumi

This 95 minute animated feature in Japanese explores the life of the father of Gekiga (dramatic pictures) inspired by his autobiography, A Drifting Life.



It also showcases some of Yoshihiro Tatsumi's most important stories written in the early seventies such as Hell, Beloved Monkey, Just A Man, Occupied and Goodbye.



HELL

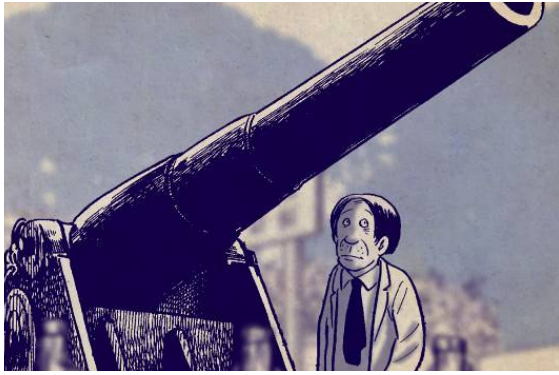
Sent to Hiroshima shortly after its bombing, military photographer Koyanagi is intrigued by the shadows of victims etched into structures by the bomb's deadly flash. He takes a picture of one which moved him most: a son massaging his mother when they were killed.

The touching photo is published and brings Koyanagi money and fame. One day, a stranger approaches Koyanagi and reveals the sinister truth behind the image ...

BELOVED MONKEY

A lonely and alienated factory worker finds solace from the stress of city life in his room and a pet monkey which always has its back to him. But his frustration grows and he decides to quit but before he can submit his resignation letter an unfortunate incident occurs.





JUST A MAN

Hanayama is about to retire but dreads the prospect of spending the rest of his life with his wife who detests him and is only eyeing his retirement funds. He decides to blow his savings and betray his wife with other women.

OCCUPIED

A writer of children's books has his contract terminated by his publisher because his works do not sell. Dispirited, he takes to frequenting public toilets where he derives great comfort from obscene graffiti scrawled on the walls.

A strange obsession grows, one with dire consequences...



GOOD BYE

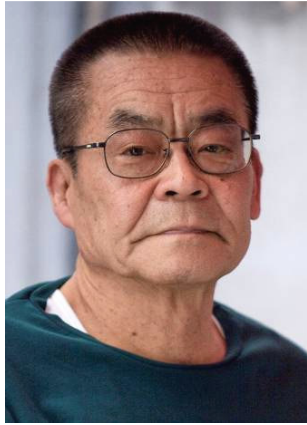
Mariko is a prostitute serving American GIs. Her father is a lout who lives off her earnings.

Mocked and despised by all around her, Mariko decides to sever all ties with men, beginning with her father.



*"One of Japan's most important visual artists."
The New York Times*





YOSHIHIRO TATSUMI

Yoshihiro Tatsumi is a mangaka (Japanese word for comic artist) who is widely credited with starting the gekiga style of alternative comics in Japan, having coined the term in 1957. *A Drifting Life* is his monumental memoir eleven years in the making, beginning with his experiences as a child in Osaka and growing up as part of a country burdened by the shadows of World War II.

Spanning fifteen years from August 1945 to June 1960, the book chronicles how as a child, Mr Tatsumi had to face his father's financial burdens and his parents' failing marriage, his jealous brother's deteriorating health, and the innumerable pitfalls that awaited him in the competitive manga market of mid-twentieth-century Japan. He dreams of following in the giant footsteps of his idol, manga artist Osamu Tezuka (*Astro Boy*, *Apollo's Song*, *Ode to Kirihito*, *Buddha*)—with whom Tatsumi eventually became peers and, at times, stylistic rivals. As a young boy, Mr Tatsumi was very influenced by cinema and had often dreamt of making a film and the cinematic feel is evident in his works.

His work has been translated into 17 different languages, and Canadian publisher *Drawn and Quarterly* has embarked on a project to publish an annual compendium of his works focusing each on the highlights of one year of his work beginning with 1969. Last year Mr Tatsumi was awarded the Grand Prize at the 13th Annual Osamu Tezuka Cultural Awards and in the 2010 edition of *The Best Manga*, *Drifting Life* was voted second among 13,000 entries. The book also won him multiple *Eisner awards** (Best Reality-Based Work and Best U.S. Edition of International Material–Asia), announced at the 2010 San Diego Comic Convention.

**The Eisner award is equivalent to an Oscar in the comic world.*



Director
ERIC KHOO

Eric Khoo put Singapore on the international film map with his first feature film "Mee Pok Man" (1995), picking up prizes at Fukuoka, Pusan and Singapore. His second feature "12 Storeys" (1997) won several awards including the Golden Maile Award for Best Picture at the 17th Hawaii International Film Festival. More importantly "12 Storeys" was the first Singaporean film to be invited officially to participate in the 50th Cannes Film Festival (1997). Mee Pok Man and 12 Storeys have together been screened at over 60 film festivals, including Venice, Berlin and Rotterdam. In 1998, Eric Khoo was ranked as one of the 25 exceptional trend makers of Asia by Asiaweek magazine and in the following year was included into Asiaweek's leaders for the millennium issue. He produced the local comedy hit, "Liang Po Po – The Movie" (1999), and "One Leg Kicking" (2001), which were both the highest grossing local movies for their respective years in Singapore. He also produced "15" (2003) directed by Royston Tan, which has been invited to the Venice Film Festival (2003) and Sundance (2004).

In 2004 Eric directed his third feature Be With Me which was selected as the opening film for the Directors' Fortnight Cannes 2005. The film has since won several awards overseas and has been invited to the Toronto International Film Festival, Telluride Film Festival, Pusan International Film Festival amongst others. In 2006 Eric was invited to direct for the Jeonju Digital Film Festival in Korea - "No Day Off" the story of an Indonesian maid. He was awarded the 2006 Singapore Youth Awards Medal Of Commendation and he was the first Singapore director whose films were featured in a retrospective in Korea. The Seoul Independent Film Festival paid this tribute to him.

Since 2007, Eric has been appointed as a board member of NYU Tisch School of the Arts Asia. He produced Royston Tan's "881" a box office hit and received the highest arts honor the Cultural Medallion by the President of Singapore in the same year. In 2008, Eric was awarded the (chevalier de l'ordre des arts et des lettres) from the French Minister of Culture. His latest feature film, "My Magic" was selected for Cannes official selection main competition. In 2009 Eric produced Boo Jun Feng's first feature film, Sandcastle. The film was selected for 2010 Critic's Week at Cannes and had it's North American premiere at the Toronto International film festival.



Animation Director
PHIL MITCHELL

Phil graduated with a B.A. (Honours) Degree in Graphic Design, specialization in Animation, Television and Film from the deMontfort University, Leicester, UK.

May 1993 – October 2005: One of the founders of Mainframe. Involved in the production of over 300 episodes of television, 17 direct-to-videos, two Imax Ridefilms, and numerous development projects over 12 years.

1993-2000: One of the co-creators of 'ReBoot', the world's first 100% computer generated series. During the 4 seasons of ReBoot, I worked as; animator, modeller, editor, director, art director, writer, supervisor, voice casting / director and post-production supervisor. I directed 4 episodes.

1995-1997: Beast Wars: Worked as Creative Consultant on 65 episodes of Beast Wars, for Hasbro Toys.

1997-1999: Creative Producer, War Planets TV series (26 episodes): Oversaw creative process for whole production; designed production pipeline; directed 4 episodes.

1999-2004: VP Technical and Production Development: Participated on all aspects of production at Mainframe; designed production methodologies for productions; responsible for quality assurance on all productions; oversaw creative and technical development at Mainframe. Travelled extensively to research potential Overseas resources for the company.

Jan 2005 – October 2005: VP Digital Development, & Department Head of the Digital Imaging Group (DIG): Oversaw methodology and pipeline development; set up and managed team of 60+ artists in Digital Imaging Group, who were responsible for all lighting, rendering, visual FX, and compositing at Mainframe. Managed, hired, mentored and reviewed members of the department.

Phil is currently at Infinite Frameworks and is the Executive Creative Director. He is involved in project development, client relations, and all production within the studio. He is also a member of the Executive Management team.



Featuring the voice of TETSUYA BESSHO

Tetsuya Bessho is a well known actor and also the founder and executive director of the Short Shorts Film Festival in Japan. In the Tatsumi project, he lends his voice to the various protagonists in Hell, Beloved Monkey, Just a Man and Occupied. His theatre and movie works include :

THEATER	MOVIE (UNITED STATES)
'09.10-11 "LES MISERABLES" as JEAN VALJEAN (Leading actor)	'90.7 "SOLAR CRISIS " as KEN MINAMI (Directed by Richard C. Sarafian)
'09.9-10 "COAST OF UTOPIA" as IVAN TURGENEV	
'09.7-8 "OPERA de MALANDRO" as MAX (Leading actor)	
'09.3 "LES MISERABLES" as JEAN VALJEAN (Leading actor)	MOVIE (JAPAN)
'08.7-10 "MISS SAIGON" as ENGINEER (Leading actor)	'08. "waiting for the Sun" (Directed by Yoko Narahashi)
'07.11-12 "THE WOMAN in WHITE" as WALTER HARTRIGHT (Leading actor)	'05.12 "ULTRAMAN" as SHUNICHI MAKI (Directed by Kazuya Konaka)
'06.7-9 "LES MISERABLES" as JEAN VALJEAN (Leading actor)	'03.2 "13 STEPS" as NAKAMORI (Directed by Masahiko Nagasawa)
'06.1-4 "LES MISERABLES" as JEAN VALJEAN (Leading actor)	'00.11 "EKIDEN" as KOU WADA (Directed by Masaki Hamamoto)
'05.12 "MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET~Here's Love~" as FRED GARRY (Leading actor)	'99.8 "MESSENGERS" as HIROSHI OKANO (Directed by Yasuo Baba)
'05.5 "nine THE MUSICAL" as GUIDO (Leading actor)	'99. "THE KILLERS FROM PARADISE" as HIROSE (Directed by Kurokawa Hiroyuki)
'05.3 "LES MISERABLES" as JEAN VALJEAN (Leading actor)	'97.2 "PARASITE EVE" as TAKASHI TOSHIZUMI (Directed by Masayuki Ochiai)
'04.12 "MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET~Here's Love~" as FRED GARRY (Leading actor)	'96.11 "THE PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS TREE" as HARUKI YAMASHITA (Directed by Kazuyoshi Okuyama)
'04.8 "MISS SAIGON" as ENGINEER (Leading actor)	'95.11 "THE SHORTEST LETTER OF JAPAN FOR MOTHER" as SAKATA (Directed by Shinichiro Sawai)
'04.2 "THE MUSICAL URINE TOWN" as BOBBY STRONG (Leading actor)	'95.6 "WINDS OF GOD" as Captain OHTA (Directed by Yoko Narahashi)
'03.7 "LES MISERABLES" as JEAN VALJEAN (Leading actor)	'95.2 "TOKI NO KAGAYAKI" as Dr.OHSHIMA (Directed by Yuzo Asahara)
'02.7 "WHEN HARRY MET SALLY...." as HARRY (Leading actor)	'94.6 "RAMPO" (Directed by Kazuyoshi Okuyama)
'00.7 "HEAVEN CAN WAIT" as JOE (Leading actor)	'92.12 "GODZILLA vs. MOTHRA" as TAKUYA FUJITO (Directed by Takao Ookawara)
'98.12 "A FEW GOOD MEN" as Leading actor	'92.4 "GO HIME(Princess Go)" as TSUNETOSHI MAEDA (Directed by Hiroshi Teshigahara)
'97.4 Rock musical "HAIR '97" as Leading actor	'92. Awarded Best New Actor of the year in THE ACADEMY AWARD OF JAPAN
'91.10 "LOVE LETTERS" as ANDY	'91.9 "SHIN DOUSEI JIDAI" as KEN KITAYAMA (Directed by Hidekazu Takahara)
'91.2 "GANKUTSU-OH" as A · DUMA & ALBER (Dual role)	'91.8 "NAMI NO KAZU DAKE DAKISHIMETE" as YOSHIOKA (Directed by Yasuo Baba)
'89.2 "HEN-HO-CHOCHO / SANJUSOUKYOKU" as Leading actor	
'88.8 "GARASU NO KAMEN" as SAKURAKOJI	
'88.6 Musical "STAR SHINE" as Leading actor	
'88.3 Musical "BIG RIVER"	
'87.8 Musical "FANTASTICS" as Leading actor	