

# DANCES WITH FILMS ANNOUNCES JAPANESE AWARD-WINNING DIRECTOR AKIKO IZUMITANI'S SHORT FILM YAE: BLIND SAMURAI WOMAN

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA , UNITED STATES , June 3, 2022

[/EINPresswire.com/](https://www.einpresswire.com/) -- Dances WithFilms now in its 25th year is more committed than ever to highlighting diversity and inclusion. Following that tradition and commitment, Japanese Director Akiko Izumitani's short film Yae: Blind Samurai Woman has been announced as an Official Selection. The film will screen on June 13th at 4:45 p.m. at TCL Chinese Theatre in Hollywood.

Yae: Blind Japanese Woman takes us to 18th century Japan, where a blind woman's father is killed by a young samurai who was avenging his own father's death. The blind girl agrees to be escorted to the nearest village.

"I am thrilled to be able to screen Yae:

Blind Samurai Woman at the L.A.'s largest film festival, Dances With Films which was named as Top 10 North American film festival by USA Today. We are eager to see audience reactions to a female samurai who is also blind but not afraid of what it's in front of her. My co-writer James 'Doc' Mason and I wanted to create "Seven Samurai meets Green Mile." I wanted to show how a samurai film could be made in the English language. After we made this film, we felt this story and its characters have so much potential. We wrote a pilot version and its bible of "Yae: The Blind Samurai Woman" limited series based on this short." said director Izumitani.

The film stars Masa Kanome (Austin Powers, Goldmember), Yuwi Kim (The Music Box) and



Yae: Blind Samurai Woman by Director Akiko Izumitani Official Selection at dances with Films- WORLD Premiere | GLOBAL SHORTS GRP 2 MON JUN 13 @ 4:45 p.m. PST

Nobuaki Shimamoto (Hecksaw Ridge.)  
Written by Akiko Izumitani and James  
“Doc” Mason.

Alliance of Women Directors (AWD)  
Member Akiko Izumitani is a female  
writer/director born and raised in  
Japan. Akiko first earned recognition  
through her feature-length  
documentary, *Silent Shame* (2010). The  
film won numerous awards worldwide,  
including Best Feature in the Beijing  
Movie Festival, and has a screening at  
an Oscar Qualified film festival. The  
film was sold to several territories  
including China and Denmark.

Akiko also directed *Kung Fu Date*,  
which won the Remi Award at the  
Houston Film Festival, and *Sukiyaki  
with Love* (Semi-Finalist of NBC  
Universal Shortcuts). Her action short

film, *The Other Side* won The Best Short Film at Sacramento Asian Film Festival and ECA Award by ICG and had a screening sponsored by ICG at the DGA.



(L-R) Cast: Yuwi Kim, Masa Kanome, Nobuaki  
Shimamoto

While Izumitani was working for 20th Century FOX as a project manager, she also studied

“

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*Akiko Izumitani, Director*

screenwriting, taught man-to-man by Monte Merrick  
(Writer of *Mr. Baseball* and *Memphis Belle*), and Jonathan  
Tsuneishi (A script analyst at 20 Century Fox.)

Akiko Izumitani was selected as one of the top rising Asian  
American filmmakers in 2013. She is represented by  
Espada PR & Entertainment.

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