



Map of the Sounds of Tokyo



a film by ISABEL COIXET

RINKO KIKUCHI
SERGI LÓPEZ



with MIN TANAKA TAKEO NAKAHARA HIDEO SAKAKI MANABU OSHIO

line producer BERNAT ELIAS sound mixer AITOR BERENGUER production designer RYO SUGIMOTO
editor IRENE BLECUA director of photography JEAN CLAUDE LARRIEU (A.F.C.)
executive producer JAVIER MENDEZ producer JAUME ROURES written and directed by ISABEL COIXET


FESTIVAL DE CANNES
OFFICIAL SELECTION
COMPETITION



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SYNOPSIS

Ryu is a solitary girl whose fragile appearance is in stark contrast with the double life she leads, working nights at a Tokyo fishmarket and sporadically taking on jobs as a hit-woman.

Mr Nagara is a powerful impresario mourning the loss of his daughter Midori, who has committed suicide. He blames David, a Spaniard who runs a wine business in Tokyo.

Mr Nagara's employee, Ishida, was silently in love with Midori and hires Ryu to murder David.

A sound engineer, obsessed with the sounds of the Japanese city and fascinated with Ryu, witnesses this love story which searches the shadows of the human soul, reaching deep into places where only silence has the power of eloquence.



A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Films, like tunes or poems, spring from strange encounters, from odd associations that can be completely incongruent but full of magic. In the case of *Map of the Sounds of Tokyo*, I "saw" the story (I don't want to sound like some kind of visionary, but this is how I felt it happen) at Tsukiji fish market in Tokyo. I suppose the smells of fresh tuna, seaweed and oysters, the shouting of the auctioneers, the scraping and shuffling of thousands of fish boxes dragged across the market floor and the peculiar effects of the fluorescent lighting at four o'clock in the morning had a great deal to do with it. Or perhaps it was the miso soup and eel makis I had for breakfast that did it. Or the stony face of the girl neatly hosing the floor who was so adamant in her refusal to let me photograph her, showing a determination that is unusual for Japan.

However, I remember that on my way back to the hotel on the crowded underground, sleepy after having got up at three in the morning to see the fish being auctioned, that girl was still on my mind and I couldn't help wondering why she was so emphatic in her refusal. I thought of her rubber boots among the melted ice and the blood of the freshly butchered tuna fish. When I closed my eyes and heard the child-like female voice announcing the next stop, Shinjuku, I knew I would tell this story of a woman - a hard, solitary, mysterious, wounded woman - who leads a double life: a fish market worker who cleans, hauls crates and occasionally carries out jobs as a hit-woman. And the story of a man, whose obsession are sounds, and who is silently in love with that woman, even though he knows that the very most he can expect from her is the sound of her breath, the sound of her heels down an empty alley and her conversations during her meetings with a man, of Spanish origin, towards whom she experiences an attraction that endangers the life she has led up until then as a loner.

To this initial idea, my "vision" or whatever you want to call it, I added the story of a man who is unable to cope with the loss of his daughter, and is on a blind search for revenge that eventually leads to a tragic end.

This is how *Map of the Sounds of Tokyo* was born.

I was also influenced by the fascination I feel for contemporary Japanese culture and the atmosphere I find in the novels of Haruki Murakami and Banana Yoshimoto as well as by my unconcealed addiction to wasabi and the almost tangible vibrations emanating from Tokyo during the night: a mixture of expectation, mystery, darkness and tenderness that leaves an indelible mark.

I see the sound tracks to my films as a further character, like the lighting, the scenery, the movement of the camera or the actors' performance. *Map of the Sounds of Tokyo* doesn't have a conventional sound track. Instead, I have put together a collection of songs that accompany the characters in their passion, solitude, joyfulness, melancholy or suffering.

It is a thoroughly eclectic sound track, with songs by Misora Hibari (the traditional Japanese song *Genka*), Max Richter, the Dutch duo "Kraak & Smaak" or the beautiful "One dove" from Antony & the Johnsons' latest release.

Isabel Coixet



THE DIRECTOR: FILMOGRAPHY

Spanish film director Isabel Coixet began making films with the 8mm camera she was given for her first communion. After graduating from the University of Barcelona in 18th and 19th century History, she worked in advertising where her successful commercial spots won many awards and led to founding her own production company, Miss Wasabi Films.

In 1988, Coixet made her full-length film debut as scriptwriter and director of *Demasiado Viejo para Morir Joven* [Too Old to Die Young], nominated for the Goya award for Best New Director. Coixet shot her first English-language feature film in 1996: *Cosas que Nunca te Dije* [Things I Never Told You]. This emotional drama, with a cast of American actors starring Lili Taylor and Andrew McCarthy, won Coixet her second Goya nomination for Best Original Script. She then entered a partnership with a French producer and, in 1988, returned to filming with a Spanish script with the historical adventure *A los que Aman* [To Those who Love].

International acclaim came in 2003 with the intimate drama *Mi Vida sin Mí* [My Life without Me], a film based on the short story by Nancy Kincaid. Sarah Polley plays Ann, a young mother who decides not to tell her family that she is suffering from terminal cancer. This Spanish-Canadian production, that received support from filmmaker Pedro Almodóvar's production company *El Deseo*, was a great success at the Berlin International Film Festival. And this film received the Best Adapted Script Goya Award.

Coixet continued to work with Polley in a new film, *La Vida Secreta de las Palabras* [The Secret Life of Words] premiered in 2005 with Tim Robbins and Javier Cámara in the leading roles. This film received four Goya awards: Best Film, Best Director, Best Production and Best Script.

In 2005, Coixet joined 18 other internationally renowned filmmakers, including Gus Van Sant, Walter Salles and Joel and Ethan Coen, for an innovative collective project called *Paris, Je T'aime*, starring Miranda Richardson and Sergio Castellitto, in which each director explores a different district of Paris. Coixet has also made notable documentaries on important subjects, such as *Invisibles*, on *Doctors without Borders*, a Panorama selection at the 2007 Berlin Film Festival, or *Viaje al Corazón de la Tortura* [Journey to the Heart of Torture], filmed in Sarajevo during the Balkan war, which won a prize at the October 2003 edition of the Human Rights Film Festival.

Her latest film, *Elegy*, shot in Vancouver and produced by Lakeshore Entertainment, is based on the novel by Philip Roth *THE DYING ANIMAL*, and the screenplay is by Nicholas Meyer. Starring Penelope Cruz, Sir Ben Kingsley and Dennis Hopper, *Elegy* was presented at the 58th Berlin International Film Festival.

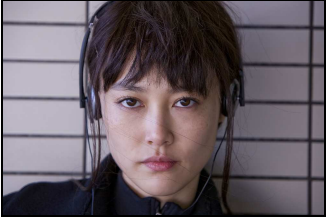

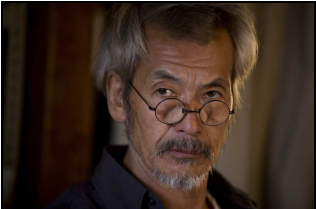


FILMOGRAPHY

2008 Elegy
2007 Invisibles. The segment entitled "Cartas a Nora"
2006 Paris je t'aime. The segment entitled "Le trench rouge"
2005 The Secret Life of Words
2004 ¡Hay motivo! The segment entitled "La insoportable levedad del carrito de la compra"
2003 My Life without Me
1998 A los que aman (To Those who Love)
1996 Cosas que nunca te dije (Things I Never Told You)
1989 Demasiado viejo para morir joven (Too Old to Die Young)
1984 Mira y verás



CAST

<p>Rinko Kikuchi Role: Ryu</p> 	<p>Shanghai (2008) (in post-production) Side Ways (2008) Rebellion: The Killing Isle -Assault Girl 2- (2008) The Brothers Bloom (2008) Sky Crawlers (2008) (voice) Genius Party -Baby Blue-(2007) (voice) The Bug That's Not in the Guide aka Zukan ni nottenai mushiZukan ni nottenau mushi (2007) Babel (2006) Funky Forest aka Nicenomori The First Contact(2006)</p> <p>http://www.anore.co.jp/rinko/english.html</p>
<p>Sergi López Role: David</p> 	<p>La Régate (2009) (in post-production) Les derniers jours du monde(2009) (in post-production) Partir (2009) (in post-production) Petit Indi (2008) Ricky (2009) Parc (2008) La Maison (2007) Pan's Labyrinth (2006) Peindre ou faire l'amour (2005) Byways (2004) Janis and John (2003) Dirty Pretty things (2003) Women or children first (2002) Mine Along (2001) Harry is here to help (2000) Une liaison pornographique (1999) Western (1997) ...à la champagne (1995) La petite amie d'Antonio (1992)</p>
<p>Min Tanaka Role: Narrator</p> 	<p>Heaven's Door (2008) Umihiko Yamahiko Maihiko (2007) Tekkon kinkurito (2006) Metro ni Notte (2006) La Maison de Himiko (2005) The Hidden Blade (2004) The Twilight Samurai (2002) (Best Supporting Role & New Comer of the Year, Japan Film Academy Awards)</p>

Manabu Oshio
Role: Yoshi



Ichigo no kakera (2005)
Chaos Legion (2003)
Haru ranman (2002)
Love Revolution (2001)
Yamato nadeshiko (2000)
Hatachi no kekkon (2000)

Takeo Nakahara
Role: Nagara



Bizan (2007)
Desu noto (2006)
Cheong yeon (2005)
Yougisha muroi shinji (2005)
Yokkakan no kiseki (2005)
Kita no zeronen (2005)
Gojira tai Mosura tai Mekagokira: Tokio S.O.S
(2003)
Round 1 (2003)
Gojira tai Mekagojira (2002)
Onsen wakaokami no satsujin suiri (2002)

Hideo Sakaki
Role: Ishida



Hitmaker: Aku Yu monogatari (2008)
Kyuka (2008)
Daku rabu: Rape (2008)
Sakigake!! Otokojuku (2008)
Tana no sumi (2007)
Love Death (2006)
Shiawaser nara te o tatako (2005)
Gokudo mo onna-tachi: Joen (2005)
Gojira: Fainaru Oulu (2004)
Shinkuronishiti (2004)
Gachapon (2004)

CREW

Written and Directed by: ISABEL COIXET

Producer: JAUME ROURES

Executive Producer: JAVIER MÉNDEZ

Director of Photography: JEAN CLAUDE LARRIEU (A.F.C.)

Editor: IRENE BLECUA

Production Designer: RYO SUGIMOTO

Sound: AITOR BERENGUER, FABIOLA ORDOYO & MARC ORTS

Line Producer: BERNAT ELIAS

Unit Production Manager: TEIA ROURES CERVERA

First Assistant Director: MANU CALVO MARGALLO

Make up: TOMOMI

Hair Dressing: AI TOMARU & SAKIE

Line Producer Japan: GEORGINA POPE

Unit Producer Manager Japan: MISAKO FURUKAWA



PRODUCTION DATA

Production Companies	Mediapro Versátil Cinema
Locations	Tokyo Barcelona
Screen Format	1:1,85
Sound	Dolby Digital
Reels	6
Length	2984 metres
Running Time	109 minutes
Languages	Japanese/ English/ Catalan

Spanish Press

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PRODUCTION COMPANIES

MEDIAPRO

***Awaiting release**

MAP OF THE SOUNDS OF TOKYO - Dir. Isabel Coixet
UNA NOVIA ERRANTE- Dir. Ana Katz
PROIBIDO PROIBIR- Dir. Jorge Durán
GASOLINA- Dir. Julio Hernández

***In postproduction**

DIARIO DE UN ASTRONAUTA- Dir. Manuel Huerga

***In development**

WOODY ALLEN SUMMER PROJECT 2009- Dir. Woody Allen
LAS MADRES DE ELNA
¿PARA QUÉ SIRVE UN OSO? (TÍTULO PROVISIONAL)- Dir. Tom Fernández
PROYECTO VERANO FERNÁNDO LEÓN DE ARANOA (TÍTULO PROVISIONAL)- Dir. Fernando León de Aranoa.

***Filmography**

SALT OF THIS SEA (2009) - Dir. Anemarie Jacir
SU MAJESTAD MINOR (2008) - Dir. Jean-Jacques Annaud
CAMINO (2008)- Dir. Javier Fesser
SEXYKILLER (2008)- Dir. Miguel Martí
VICKY CRISTINA BARCELONA (2008)- Dir. Woody Allen
NO DIGAS NADA (2007)- Dir. Felipe J. Luna
LA EDAD DE LA PESETA (2007)- Dir. Pavel Giroud
LA TORRE DE SUSO (2007)- Dir. Tom Fernández
LLACH: LA REVOLTA PERMANENT (2007)-Dir. Lluís Danés
FUERTE APACHE (2007)- Dir. Jaume Mateu Adrover
VA A SER QUE NADIE ES PERFECTO (2006)- Dir. Joaquín Oristrell
SALVADOR (PUIG ANTICH) (2006)- Dir. Manuel Huerga
AMOR EN DEFENSA PROPIA (2006)- Dir.: Rafa Russo
ILUMINADOS POR EL FUEGO (2006)- Dir. Tristán Bauer
VOLANDO VOY (2005)- Dir. Miguel Albaladejo
LA VIDA SECRETA DE LAS PALABRAS (2005)- Dir. Isabel Coixet
PRINCESAS (2005)- Dir. Fernando León de Aranoa
SALVADOR ALLENDE (2004)- Dir. Patricio Guzmán
TORAPIA (2004)- Dir. Karra Elejalde
DESCONGÉLATE (2003)- Dir. Félix Sabroso y Dunia Ayaso
SLAM (2003)- Dir. Miguel Martí
COMANDANTE (2003)- Dir. Oliver Stone
LOS LUNES AL SOL (2002)- Dir. Fernando León de Aranoa
ASESINATO EN FEBRERO (2001)- Dir. Eterio Ortega
LA ESPALDA DEL MUNDO (2000)- Dir. Javier Corcuera



VERSÁTIL CINEMA

***Awaiting release**

MAP OF THE SOUNDS OF TOKYO - Dir. Isabel Coixet

***In postproduction**

PÁJAROS DE PAPEL- Dir. Emilio Aragón

***Filmography**

CARLITOS Y EL CAMPO DE LOS SUEÑOS- Dir. Jesús del Cerro

