

## Annecy Animation Festival: From Japan With Love



1) At the end of the festival taking place from the 12th to the 17th June in the French alpine town, the jury gave the most coveted prize, the Crystal, to Masaaki Yuasa for his film *Lu Over the Wall*; just behind, Sunao

Katabuchi's *In This Corner of the World* obtained the Jury award.

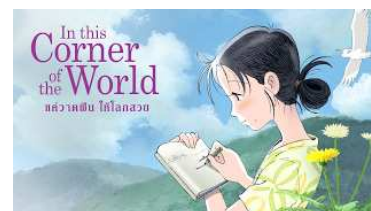
2) This 2017 edition of this summit of international animation is a very success, for the selected Japanese movies: there were 3, and finally, 2 of them won a prize. The director and animator of *Lu Over the Wall* Masaaki Yuasa won the Holy Grail: the meeting of a taciturn adolescent composing electronic music and a marvellous creature in an explosion of music, colours and shapes seduced the jury presided by the French director Céline Sciamma.

3) During his prolific career, Yuasa had a large experience of animation, as he worked on several projects in the capacity of key animator, or character designer. Thus he acquired this very eccentric way of producing movements and smashing the academic lines. As evidenced by his first movie, the nutty and psychedelic *Mind Game* (2004), a brilliant and hilarious initiation story, and *The Tatami Galaxy* (2010), a beautiful anime series about the hikkomori way of life, that he directed. He was also the key animator of Isao Takahata's *My Neighbors the Yamadas* (1999), associating his personal perception of animation to pure and naïve drawings.

4) The other crowned Japanese director is Sunao Katabuchi for a film more sober than Yuasa's: *In This Corner of the World* obtains the Jury award, the second most prestigious prize of the festival. It takes place during the World War II, in Hiroshima, and relates the love story of two teenagers about to get married, in a context of scarcity and misery. Unlike Masaaki Yuasa, Sunao Katabuchi has no experience of key animator or character designer, though he is a storyboard artist. He is mostly a storyteller, and in this work, he tried to show how poetry could embrace even the dullest everyday life.

5) *A Silent Voice*, the other Japanese movie competing in this category, does not get any award. But another work from Japan receives another kind of reward: the Jury award for end-of-studies project goes to Sawako Kabuki, holder of a master's degree in graphic conception at Tama Art University, and her *Natsu no gero wa huyu no sakana* (*Summer's Puke Is Winter's Delight*), a strange, inspired and emetic metaphor of love. Another eccentric piece, which go still further in audacity than *Lu Over the Wall*...【2017-06-21 | Japan Community Com】

- 1) jury 審査員  
coveted 誰もが欲しがる  
*Lu Over the Wall*『夜明け告げるルーのうた』  
*In This Corner of the World*『この世界の片隅に』
- 2) the Holy Grail 聖杯、切なる願い  
taciturn 口数の少ない、寡黙な  
adolescent 青年、若者  
marvellous 驚くべき、不思議な  
seduce 魅惑する、ひきつける  
preside 主宰する
- 3) prolific 多作の  
in the capacity of ～～の立場から  
eccentric 風変わりな  
nutty 趣のある、(俗)いかれている  
psychedelic サイケデリックな、幻覚を起させる、派手な  
hilarious すごく面白い、陽気な  
perception 知覚、認知
- 4)  
sober まじめな  
scarcity 不足、稀少性  
misery 苦痛、窮状  
storyboard 絵コンテ  
dull 停滞した、単調な
- 5)  
emetic 嘔吐を催させる  
metaphor 比喩、隠喩  
audacity 大胆、向こう見ず



### ★Ice breaker for active discussion 1.

1. Have you seen any of the movies mentioned in this article? Which one is it? How do you like it?
2. What are the advantages of animation over live-action movies?
3. In making the *Lu Over the Wall* movie, flash Technology was used. What are the merits and demerits of using such technology?
4. What is the most memorable animation that you have watched? Why?
5. Make sentences using the following words: jury, coveted, Holy Grail, adolescent, prolific, naïve and metaphor.