

## ABOUT THE CREW

**MASAAKI TANABE** (Director) Masaaki Tanabe personally felt the A-bomb devastation and loss of his family as a young boy. After years of struggling to even speak about his unconscionable experience, he interviewed several *hibakusha* (atomic bomb survivors) and former residents of Hiroshima, who have first-hand knowledge of life before the bomb. As a Hiroshima A-bomb survivor, this documentary is his mission to remember what was lost and the hope for future peace.

Tanabe is a documentary film director, author, and the president of Knack Imagery Production Center. He was born in his family home directly adjacent to the Industrial Promotional Hall which is now known as the Atomic Bomb Dome. It stands less than 200 feet away from ground zero. Along with him, his mother and baby brother had been evacuated 37 miles away to his grandmother's house in Yamaguchi Prefecture. Two days before the bomb fell, his mother and brother had returned to Hiroshima to care for his father. At 7 years old, he went with his grandmother into the devastated city to look for his mother, father, and brother. His mother and baby brother are believed to have died in the house they grew up in. His father was badly burned and reached his grandmother's house in Yamaguchi days later, but did not survive. He lost his entire family.

As a young man, Tanabe was exposed to Western culture and learned to appreciate American and European cinema. Classic movies changed his outlook on life. They changed his view of America. When he was 15 years old, he aspired to become a documentary filmmaker. For 58 years, he was able to pursue this path. He slowly overcame his anger and resentment over losing his family and the culture he learned to love as a child. He made a conscious decision to pursue peace and remember the consequences of these devastating conflicts through his work. After college, he took a job working for the Chugoku Newspaper Company filming newsreels. It took 53 years before he was able to talk publicly about the bomb that took away his family on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1945. When he turned 60 years old in the year 1998, he decided to dedicate his life to keeping the memories of the survivors of the Atomic-Bomb alive through books and documentary films.

**ADAM DYKSTRA** (Co-Producer) Adam Dykstra is a Walt Disney Feature Animation veteran of 18 years where he worked on 2 shorts and 13 features (hand drawn and CG) which include movies such as *Tangled*, *Frozen*, *Wreck-it Ralph*, *Princess and The Frog*, and *Bolt*. Dykstra began his career in 1985 as an animator at Perennial Pictures, in Indianapolis, Indiana. In 1991, he accepted a position in California at Film Roman Inc. where he worked on *Garfield* commercials, *The Simpsons* and various other TV and feature projects. In 1994, he was offered a position at Disney Feature Animation. In 2008, Dykstra co-wrote and directed a 35mm live-action short, *Jack's Gift*. A few years later, along with co-producers, Yuriko Senoo and Mark Farquhar, he co-produced and was the recording director for the documentary, *Message from Hiroshima* (narrated by George Takei). In 2012, he began developing various other live-action projects and in 2014, Dykstra accepted a director position for the feature drama, *The Leaves of Eden*, starring Barry Corbin which is scheduled for a 2016 release.

**YURIKO SENOO** (Co-Producer) Yuriko Senoo has worked at Disney for 20 years, initially with Walt Disney Animation Studios as an animator on a host of Disney films, including *Tangled*, *Tick Tock*, *Bolt*, *Super Rhino*, *Meet the Robinsons*, *Chicken Little*, *Kangaroo Jack*, *Reign of Fire*, *Magic Lamp* and *Dinosaur*. Her first Disney role, beginning in 1995, was as a

look development and lighting artist on *Fantasia 2000*. In the past four years, Senoo has worked at Disneytoon Studios as animation supervisor on the *Tinkerbell* series including *Secret of the Wings* and *The Pirate Fairy*. She is currently an animation supervisor at Fuhu.

Senoo developed an interest in computer graphics in high school, ultimately earning her BA in visual arts and computer science at Columbia University. She earned her MS in computer science from Columbia University's Engineering School. After hearing John Lasseter speak at a SIGGRAPH conference, she decided to follow in his footsteps, spending a year of graduate school at CalArts School of Film/Video. She earned her MFA in film/video/computer animation from USC School of Cinema-Television.

**MARK FARQUHAR** (Co-Producer) Mark Farquhar has been working as a CG Character Animator in the animation industry for the last 25 years. Since 2007 he been teaching animation at Cal State Northridge. He has an MFA in Animation from the School of Cinema and Television at the University of Southern California and a B.A. in Telecommunication with an Art minor from Michigan State University. During his career, he has worked at DreamWorks Pictures SKG, Disney Feature Animation, Sony ImageWorks, Pixar Animation Studios, and Warner Bros. Studios on feature animation productions. His experience ranges from animation development to feature production. Some of his film credits include *Surfs Up*, *Open Season*, *Beowulf*, *Monster House*, *Chicken Little*, *Shark Tale*, *Sinbad Legend of the Seven Seas*, *Toy Story 2*, *Osmosis Jones*, *Iron Giant*, *Marvin the Martian in the 3rd Dimension*, and *Mars Attacks*.

**SEAN SCHAFFER HENNESSY** (Composer)

Composer and Trumpeter Sean Schaffer Hennessy is an American composer/instrumentalist. Since winning major competitions, he remains a brilliant protégé of the renowned Wynton Marsalis. Beginning his trumpet studies at age ten, he made his concert debut three years later with the Colorado Symphony. He has performed a solo recital at Carnegie Hall, appeared as a guest soloist at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, and moved audiences with his appearance on the Public Radio International's "From the Top".

The National Alliance for Excellence Award, conferred upon Hennessy caps a string of honors, including the International Trumpet Guild Young Artist Award, and winner of the National Trumpet Competition. Sean is also one of the gifted young composers who contributed to Kennedy Center's Imagination Celebration, providing his Theme for the Mars Millennium Project. He has also gone on to perform and compose jazz works for orchestra, big bands, jazz combos and solo performances in Chicago and Los Angeles. Hennessy was recruited by Maestro Marin Alsop to perform the lead in "Journey Into Jazz" written by Gunther Schueller. He graduated from Northwestern University School of Music and completed graduate studies at the USC program Film Scoring for Motion Pictures & TV. Sean is currently composing in Hollywood.