

Can the boy start over?



The Longing

# Synopsis

**A couple running a restaurant hires young people who have been released from juvenile detention to help them reintegrate into society. The 18-year-old Yuto is keen to start a new life with their help.**

Hiro, 53 runs an okonomiyaki restaurant with his wife Sono, 42 now. He employs former inmates and juvenile reformatory graduates to help them return to society, but he has been plagued by online slander after an incident with a former employee a year ago.

During an interview at a juvenile reformatory Yuto(18) declares, "I want a chance to start over!" Yuto hired as a new employee at Hiro' s restaurant.

Yuto begins to learn the ropes and returns home to buy his father a present with his first paycheck, but the family has moved out without Yuto's knowledge. His mother abandoned him when he was a child, and now his father has abandoned him again.

Yuto gets in touch with an old friend and hang out to the club.

Yuto is captivated by Yukiha (17), a dancer in a show.

She is also a recent graduate from a juvenile reformatory.

As Yuto becomes infatuated with Yukiha, he gradually loses himself and becomes isolated at Hiro' s restaurant.

# CAST



## **Yuto Nishimura**

### **Daiki Ido**

〔Performance history〕

Fry Girl (2023)

Directed by Kenji Fukushima

Ikinai (2023)

Directed by Kito Hasuda

Ushirosugatademowakaru  
(2023)

TOKYO MX Drama



## **Hiroyuki Kiuchi**

### **Toshizo Fujiwara**

〔Performance history〕

KAFEMUSHA(1980)

Directed by Akira Kurosawa

A Scene at the Sea(1988)

Directed by Takeshi Kitano

Mr.Baseball(1992)

Directed by Fred Schepisi

FLIRT(1995)

Directed by Hal Hartley



## **Yukiha**

### **Sasha**

〔Performance history〕

Sunny -episode3 (2024)

Apple TV+

Taisho no Blues (2024)

NHK FM theatre

Minato no Ko (2024)

Stage of Moeyo hishidas



## **Sonoko Kiuchi**

### **Rino Tsuneishi**

〔Performance history〕

Ai Love Mother(2024)

Directed by Rino Tsuneishi

Hanbun, Aoi (2018)

NHK serial TV drama

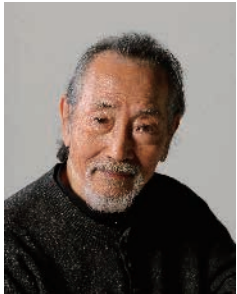
The Trial (2018)

Directed by John Williams

# CAST



***Seiko (Sonoko's sister)***  
Tomoko Fujita



***Matsui***  
Masane Tsukayama



***Judge***  
Satoshi Nikaido



***Probation Officer***  
Yukio Sasaki

## ***Okonomiyaki Restaurant Clerk***



***Shinji***  
Shintaro Yogi



***Yasuoka***  
Toyotaka Hanazawa



***Kei***  
Umi Mashiro



***Pak***  
Satoshi Hirota

# CAST

***Infertility Doctor***  
Jay Kabira

***The Customer  
who forgot his wallet***  
Masanobu Yada

***Fishing Gear Store  
Manager***  
Masakazu Saiga

***Yukiha' s Mother***  
Yoko Layer

***Yukiha' s Lawyer***  
Mariko Fujiwara

***Yukiha' s Ex-boyfriend***  
Yoji Kurokawa

***Supermarket Manager***  
Atsushi Tamura

***Court  
Investigating Officer***  
Shigeto Kawaguchi

***Court Officer***  
Tomomitsu Kujirai

***Court Clerk***  
Momoe Murota

***Narcotics Officers***  
Tatsuya Mitsuki  
Ryusei Okumura  
Kento Aoki  
Taiki Shidahara  
Misaki Haruna

***Real Estate Agent***  
Hiroshi Okumura

***Yuto' s Friend***  
Toshifumi Endo

***Probation Officer' s  
Daughter***  
Aiko Shigematsu

***Fishing Gear Store  
Clerk***  
Yusuke Nagao

***Director of  
Juvenile reformatory***  
Jpa Atsushikato

***The Woman  
in the apartment***  
Hitomi Fujiwara

***Girl***  
Sana Fujiwara

***Gay Man***  
Hiroya Fukuda

***Shoplifting Companion***  
Mitsuki Momotake  
Genki Osako

***Robbers***  
Shotaro Adachi  
Kenshin Osako

***Mako' s Voice***  
Nanase Nakano

***Police Officer***  
Chiryu Kushihashi

***Broker***  
Pop Takeshita

***Club Receptionist***  
Ryosuke Akana

***Care Staff***  
Sara Inoto  
Yoshi Kuroiwa

***Nurses***  
Ikko Konatsu  
Miyu Nishimura  
Rie Nakamoto

***Obsterician***  
Keiko Maesaka

# DIRECTOR



**Director, Producer, Screenwriter, Editor**

## Toshizo Fujiwara

The director has been active in the theatre since his student days when he also began making 8mm films.

As an actor, he has appeared in several films and television dramas.

### Filmography

2002 Theatre

2014 The Sky and Beyond : A man whose only joy is flying a rubber band airplane.

2025 Mikusu Modan (The Longing)

## Director Statement

Sometimes there are lives that are eliminated and abandoned.

Someone needs to reach out to those whose lives are in that vulnerable position, unable to protect themselves.

I have been working as a probation officer for several years.

I want to show the lives of those involved in rehabilitation, not only the probationers involved but also those who live in the shadows.

*Toshizo Fujiwara is a tongue cancer survivor who overcame two recurrences. Due to the effects of reconstructive surgery on his tongue, he initially struggled to speak as he once did, leading many to believe that returning to his acting career would be impossible. However, through relentless effort and perseverance, he regained his ability to speak and successfully made his comeback.*

# PRODUCTION NOTE

Young people who have committed a crime come out of prison or a juvenile reformatory and wants to start their life over.

**“Solitary self-reflection can be accomplished but societal rehabilitation cannot be achieved alone.”**

There are business owners who take on the responsibility of becoming like parents to these individuals, providing them with a place to work and live.

I wanted to tell the story of their encounters.

This is the story I wanted to tell and it took three years to plan and write the script. However, I couldn't find any backers to support the production as I was told, “The story is too plain.”

Despite these obstacles my passion reached the ears of an Osaka based okonomiyaki chain, Chibo, which had served as the inspirational setting for my story. Miraculously and generously they granted me permission to shoot the movie at all of their restaurants, and we were also allowed to film inside two juvenile reformatories. The cast was selected almost entirely through auditions, followed by two months of rehearsals.

After spending over a year on filming and editing the work was finally finished.

# STAFF

***Cinematographer***

Mamoru Gomi

***Camera Operator***

Atsushi Sawae

***Sound Operator***

Ishisuke Hgihara

***Music Composer***

Akane Yukitomo

***Assistant Director***

Isamu Sakamoto

***Production Manager***

Amane Oshima

***Screenwriter***

Toshizo Fujiwara  
Rin Mikuni

***Edditor***

Toshizo Fujiwara  
Rin Mikuni

***Executive Producer***

Mariko Fujiwara

***Line Producer***

Tetsuya Yokoi

***Second Assistant Director***

Akari Haruna

***Acting Assistant***

Hiroya Fukuda

***Script Supervisor***

Aiko Shigematsu

***Bcamera Operator***

Mamoru Gomi  
Isamu Sakamoto

***Camera Assistant***

Ayuta Yuzawa

***Sound Assistant***

Takeharu Morishima  
Reijiro Morishita  
Sakuya Fujii  
Isao Nakanishi

***Piano***

Rena Yoshihara

***Piano Recording***

Naonori Nagashima

***Color Grading***

Hiroyuki Maruyama

***Production Designer***

Taiji Murakami  
Tatsugei-sya

***Photos***

Isamu Sakamoto  
Sasha

***Costume Design***

Yumi Hisako  
Yukihiro Tejima

***Make up Artist***

Sh!on

***Props***

Misaki Haruna



# STAFF

***Dance Director***

Reika Imai  
(J-FRAP DANCE STUDIO)

***Choreography***

RUMI

***Theatrical Combat***

Ichiro Ima

***Animation Dance  
Instructor***

Tengu336

***Catering***

Noriko Yokoi

***Production Cooperation***

Shinya Hishida  
Shinroku Sakaguchi

***Web Ad, Web Design***

Ayumi Onodera  
Amane Oshima

***Title Design***

Rion

***English Subtitled***

Yoko Narahashi

***English Subtitled Cooperation***

Seth Logan Reed

***Japanese Subtitled***

Rin Mikuni

***Filming Cooperation***

Chibo Co., Ltd

***Production***

Tetsuya Yokoi  
Amane Oshima  
Aiko Shigematsu  
Hiroya Fukuda  
Misaki Haruna  
Ayumi Onodera

# AUDIENCE VOICES

Just like how okonomiyaki blends various ingredients into a delicious harmony,  
**this film beautifully weaves together diverse aspects of life.**

**Everything felt so natural and true to life.**

It feels as if we are following a boy or a girl who is in a reformatory and comes out as they navigate the real world, making the experience overwhelmingly authentic.

**" Is this fiction? or is it a documentary? "**

It's rare and refreshing to have a chance to witness such raw emotional shifts in characters so vividly.

**The more times** I watch it,  
the more I anticipate **discovering new impressions and emotions.**

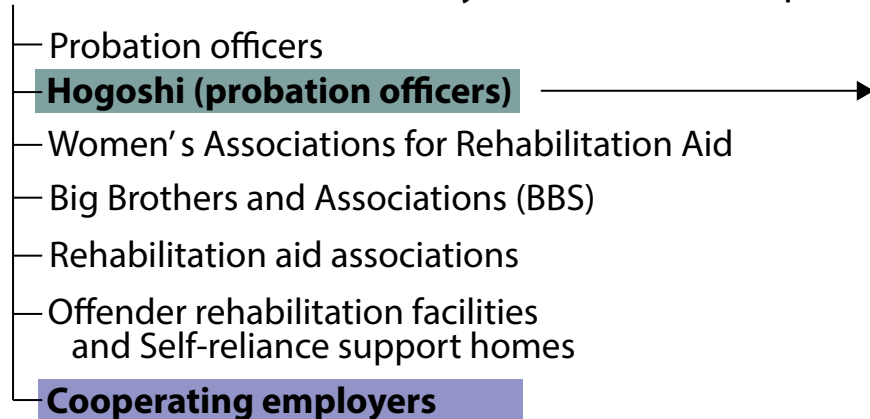
It went beyond "touching"—it felt as if my heart was being carved out.

At its core, the film exudes **vitality, raw intensity,**  
and **the complexity of human relationships**  
—all of which were portrayed masterfully.

# OFFENDER REHABILITATION

Safe and secure local communities will be created by appropriately treating offenders and juvenile delinquents within society in a way that helps them become independent and rehabilitated. This can be achieved by enhancing public understanding and cooperation within the community.

## Stakeholders in Community Corrections in Japan



**Citizen volunteers who support rehabilitation of offenders or juvenile delinquents together with probation officers.**

Their main duties are described as follows.

- To interview, guide, and advise persons subject to probation/parole supervision
- To coordinate the social circumstances for inmates in penal institutions
- To conduct crime prevention activities

Currently, approximately **47,000 people** are engaged in activities of hogoshi across the country

**Private business owners who cooperate in providing conditions for living independent lives and achieving social reintegration through employment.**

By employing persons who have difficulty finding regular work due to their previous criminal records and histories of delinquency, cooperating employers are private business owners who help offenders achieve a self-reliant life and social reintegration. Cooperating employers support the recovery of offenders by guiding them to continue their working lives, from the standpoint of private business owners.

### **Gurantor**

A guarantor for a juvenile is responsible for ensuring the well-being and proper supervision of the minor.

In Japan, a guarantor is often required in cases involving juvenile offenders or those released from detention, as they provide supervision and support to help prevent reoffending.

# OKONOMIYAKI



Okonomiyaki is a Japanese-style pancake made from flour, eggs, cabbage, dried shrimp and different ingredients of your choice such as meat, seafood, cheese, kimchi, fruits etc. Then you spread on special sweet and spicy okonomiyaki sauce and mayonnaise, finally you put on some bonito flakes and seaweed flakes. Then enjoy!

Mikusu modan is a kind of Okonomiyaki. A type of Japanese savory pancake that includes stir-fried noodles. The pancake, noodles, and ingredients are grilled together and topped with okonomiyaki sauce, mayonnaise, bonito flakes, and seaweed powder, creating a rich and savory taste.

# MIKUSU MODAN



# PHOTO

