

# アンを探して

LOOKING FOR ANNE



A  
TAKAKO  
MIYAHIRA  
FEATURE FILM  
PROJECT

## PRESS KIT

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# LOOKING FOR ANNE

a film by  
TAKAKO MIYAHIRA

starring

HONOKA  
DANIEL PILON  
ROSANNA  
KAZUKO YOSHIYUKI

JOHNNY SA  
MAHIRU KONNO  
AI TAKABE  
TAREK GHADER

Art Director  
MARTIN GENDRON

Theme Song  
ji ma ma

Director of Photography  
JUN FUJIMOTO

Executive Producer  
CLAUDE GAGNON  
PAUL CADIEUX

Lighting Director  
TOKUJU ICHIKAWA

Producers  
YURI YOSHIMURA  
SAMUEL GAGNON  
CHIKAKO NAKAYABASHI

Sound  
SHINJI WATANABE

Original Music Score  
ROBERT MARCEL LEPAGE

Written by  
GONPIN KIKYO

Produced with the financial participation of

TECH PEI

SODEC

Société de développement des entreprises culturelles - Québec

The Government of Québec  
Canadian Film & Video Production Tax Credit program

The Government of Canada  
Canadian Film & Video Production Tax Credit program

The Government of Prince-Edward Island  
Canadian Film & Video Production Tax Credit program

Filmoption International

Zuno Films

GrandJete Ltd.

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### **SYNOPSIS (SHORT)**

A seventeen years old, Anri, comes to Prince Edward Island for three weeks. Your typical shy Japanese girl, Anri gave herself a secret mission: she wants to find an old Canadian war veteran, with only a single clue, or just about: he supposedly lives near a lighthouse.

Riding her bicycle every day, she gradually uncovers some small clues concerning the mysterious soldier: he was the first love of her recently deceased grandmother, and the man who gave her the book "Anne of Green Gables".

## SYNOPSIS (LONG)

"Looking for Anne" presents an entirely original story inspired by the book "Anne of Green Gables" of the Canadian writer, Lucy Maud Montgomery. It tells how this single book, and the friendships that build around it, can change the life of people beyond time and space...

A seventeen years old, Anri, comes to Prince Edward Island for three weeks. A typical shy Japanese girl, Anri gave herself a secret mission: she wants to find an old Canadian war veteran, with only a single clue, or just about: he supposedly lives near a lighthouse. Riding her bicycle every day, she gradually uncovers some small clues concerning the mysterious soldier: he was the first love of her recently deceased grandmother, and the man who gave her the book "Anne of Green Gables".

Faced with her own first love, the young and handsome islander Ryan, Anri struggles to find the meaning of "true love". And quite a few people will come to help her in her quest. First, Mari, the beautiful B&B owner in her late fifties will act as a confidant, a rose specialist and a "victim of love". Then, Mari's neighbor, Jeff, a strange retired philosophy professor who loves women and the bass clarinet, will come to create a certain confusion in Anri's mind... And last, two Japanese sisters, Miyuki and Mika, customers at the B&B will stir up some more bewilderment in the young woman's mind.

## CHARACTERS

ANRI KINOSHITA (17 YEARS OLD) Actress: Honoka

Anri, a shy, 17 years old Japanese girl, lost her parents in early childhood and was raised by her grandmother, Shizuka. She goes to an all- girl high school in Tokyo, which partly accounts for her naive attitude with boys. Not athletic in the least, and actually rather awkward, she is more of the artist type: she dreams of becoming an illustrator. But since her grandmother passed away recently, she feels more fragile about her life and her ambition.

During her trip to PEI, Anri learns to see her lost grandmother in a new light at the contact of the B&B owner, Mari, who was her grandmother's friend and who will become her confident. But strangely, Anri feels a certain jealousy towards Mari when she thinks of the precious time that she wasted not getting to know her grandmother any better, nor enjoying her presence to its full extent like her friend did.

The unpredictable B&B neighbor Jeff, his son Ryan, and the two young Japanese sisters, Mika and Miyuki will come to confuse, stimulate, bring joy, fear and disappointments in Anri's life. There will be many times when she feels inadequate for the tasks that she gave herself to accomplish, but always, the smile on her face will help her to overcome her fears and inhibitions.

JEFF (58 YEARS OLD) Actor: Daniel Pilon

Jeff, the B&B's neighbor, is a retired philosophy professor who enjoys a happy-go-lucky life with his old Irish Wolfhound dog and several geese. Jeff couldn't be more down to earth, with a free spirit that can, on occasions, disturb some people around him. After three divorces, the 58 years old is now single again. Jeff enjoys his every day life, totally satisfied with a good book, some people to talk to or simply playing his bass clarinet every night.

Jeff takes great pleasure in helping his beautiful middle-aged neighbor Mari with anything that she could possibly need, bluntly telling her his admiration for her beauty, her strength or whatever he finds in her. and shows his interest very openly to her. His complicated and rather mysterious conversations sometimes confuse young Anri, but she likes his music and his stimulating company.

MARI (58 YEARS OLD) Actress: Rosanna

Mari, who still shows some beautiful Latin features, recently moved to Prince Edward Island from Japan. She owns the B&B which specializes in female Japanese customers since she speaks perfect Japanese and is comfortable with the culture.

She shares the same passion for roses and "Anne of Green Gables" with Shizuka, Anri's grandmother, whom she met through her website on these topics. Shizuka's psychological support helped her to get through the toughest moments of her life when she lost her Japanese husband. But Mari, at first, doesn't quite know how to communicate with the distant, young granddaughter. Shizuka's memories and the roses that she loved so much, will eventually bring them closer together.

Mari has a harder time with Jeff, especially after he tells her straight in the face how he feels about her: her husband's souvenir simply still gets in the way with any man.

SHIZUKA: ANRI'S GRANDMOTHER (79 YEARS OLD) Actress: Kazuko Yoshiyuki

Very cheerful and positive, Anri's grandmother, Shizuka, was her only remaining family. Shizuka loved new technologies such as the Internet and cell phone movies... Her website, "Fancy Pink's Rose Room", brought a lot of pleasure to fans of Roses and/or of "Anne of Green Gables". That's how she met Mari and became her close friend.

As a young woman, after the war, she met for a brief period of time a nice Canadian soldier who gave her a book from his part of the world, "Anne of Green Gables". Ever since then, this book has haunted her, inspired her life and made her want to visit the far away island.

When Mari started her B&B on Prince Edward Island, Shizuka started planning to go there with Anri for her 17 years old birthday. But she passed away just few weeks prior to the trip. During the movie, we see her through video messages that she had sent to Anri's cell phone or through Anri's imagination, but we vividly feel her humor and energy all the way through.

RYAN (22 YEARS OLD) Actor: Johnny Sa

Jeff's stepson, Ryan is a handsome but unaffected young guy who dreams of becoming a ship Captain. Even though his mother divorced Jeff a long time ago, he still visits him often, simply because he likes him a lot. Driving an old, small motorcycle and dressed plainly, he doesn't care about how he looks, but about what he wants to be. That sometimes makes him a bit slow to notice some sensitive things, especially about "girls minds".

Ryan reminds Anri of her grandmother's first love, the Canadian soldier, and inspires her imagination. He even ends up being her first love.

## MIYUKI (28 YEARS OLD) & MIKA (18 YEARS OLD) SISTERS

Miyuki, a very good looking free-lance Japanese journalist, lives in Montreal. Her sister, Mika, ten years younger and sexy, came to visit at their parents request. Mika expected an exciting time shopping in Montreal, but she ends up on remote Prince Edward Island because Miyuki got a dream job contract to write a book about the small but spectacular Province.

They both stay at Mari's B&B and they obviously don't get along at all. But the things turn even more sour for Miyuki with her "dream" job, and Miyuki and her "dream" sister. But fortunately for Mika, she finds a teen age friend in Anri" the "experienced" and "inexperience" girls gets along very well, despite their obvious differences.

## BRUNO (24 YEARS OLD)

Bruno is Ryan's old friend and a cool DJ for a popular program called "ACADI-NOW". Proud of his Acadian heritage, Bruno will bring some needy spices in Mika's life and an unexpected help in Anri's one...

## **DIRECTOR**

### **BIOGRAPHY**

Takako Miyahira was born in Okinawa Japan 1979. In 2002, Takako started her carrier when she was a local university student. The canadian filmmaker, Claude Gagnon gave her the chance to work as First Assistant Cameraman of his film Revival Blues. After that, she became the apprentice of Claude Gagnon for five years.

In 2004, she was the First assistant director of his feature film called Kamataki (selected in Berlin 2005 and winner of five prize at Montreal World Films Festival 2005). In 2006, she worked as an editor of the documentary film called The Fire Artist. Looking for Anne is her first feature.

### **ABOUT ANNE OF GREEN GABLES**

L.M. Montgomery's books have been translated into more than a dozen languages, but in Japan Anne has become a national obsession. Since 1952, Anne of Green Gables has been required reading in Japan's public schools, and thousands of Japanese fans travel to P.E.I. each year to visit and even get married in Anne-themed ceremonies that celebrate Japan's half-century love affair with Akage No An (Red-haired Anne).

(source : CBC Television)



## CAST

### HONOKA (ANRI)

Born in Tokyo 1982. She made her debut as an actress in Japanese-American co-production film "Harimaya Bridge (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0902982/>)" written and directed by Aaron Woolfolk. This movie is her first experience for the main cast, and she did effort to fly to P.E.I. even if this is her first time to going abroad...

### DANIEL PILON (JEFF)

Daniel Pilon is one of the most experienced actor of his generation. From Montreal to Los Angeles, he appeared in more than forty-five movie productions since 1968. On television we saw him in important series such as The guiding light and Dallas, and in Quebec he appeared in very popular series like Lance et compte and Mirador. M. Pilon also lends his voice to several documentaries and commercials.

### ROSANNA (MARI)

Born in Schio, North Italy. She came to Japan in 1967 when she was 17 years old, and next year she made her debut as a duet singer with Hide Gamon. Their duet "Hide and Rosanna" made several big hit songs in 1970s. And They got married at 1975, and had a three kids. But at 1990, she lost Hide with cancer. Several hardest years in her life, she start working as a news caster and solo singer and Italian food specialist in Japan. This is her first debut as an actress in feature film.

### KAZUKO YOSHIYUKI (SHIZUKA)

The highly respected Kazuko Yoshiyuki is one of Japan's most renowned actresses. She co-starred in Nagisa Oshima's « Realm of the Passion » next to Tatsuya Fuji. She was also in Takeshi Kitano's « Kikujiro's Summer » in 2000. Kamataki is the first film that she and Tatsuya Fuji have done together since « Realm of the Passion ».

## PRODUCTION COMPANY

Zuno Films is a young canadian production company established in 2000. Since it's beginning, Zuno Films produced REVIVAL BLUES (Claude Gagnon), ASCENSION (Karim Hussein) and International award winning KAMATAKI (Claude Gagnon). LOOKING FOR ANNE is the fourth feature film for Zuno Films.

Producers Samuel Gagnon and Yuri Yoshimura intend to develop international coproductions with Asia, Europe and Africa for the upcoming years.

LOOKING FOR ANNE (2009) By Takako Miyahira

A Canada-Japan coproduction -105 Minutes

Singapore Asian First Film Festival 2009

Best Film

Best Director

KAMATAKI (2005) By Claude Gagnon

A Canada-Japan coproduction - 110 Minutes

Berlin International Film Festival 2006 – Kinderfest –14+

Special Mention of the Jury

Montreal World Film Festival 2005 - Official Competition

Best Director

FIPRESCI (International Critic Prize)

Audience Choice Award

Ecumenical Prize

Most Popular Canadian Film

ASCENSION (2003) By Karim Hussein

Canada - 108 minutes

Sitges International Film Festival – New Vision Section

Best Film

REVIVAL BLUES (2003) By Claude Gagnon

A Canada-Japan coproduction - 118 minutes

Montreal Festival of New Cinema and New Media 2004 - Official Selection

## CREW

### PRODUCERS

Yuri Yoshimura, Samuel Gagnon and Takako Miyahira

### PRODUCTION COMPANIES

Zuno Films (Canada)

Grand Jeté Ltd. (Japan)

### EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

Claude Gagnon and Paul Cadieux

### DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Jun Fukomoto

### LIGHTING DIRECTOR

Tokuju Ichikawa

### ART DIRECTOR

Martin Gendron

### SOUND

Shinji Watanabe

### EDITOR

Claude Gagnon

### WRITER

Gonpin Kikyo

### DIRECTOR

Takako Miyahira

## TECHNICAL SHEET

Title : LOOKING FOR ANNE

Year of production : 2009

Lenght : 105 minutes

Number of Reels: 5

Format : 35 mm or HD, Color

Ratio : 1:85

Sound : Dolby SRD

Original Language: English and Japanese

Sub-titles: English