



"What can you do but laugh?"

Mothers of Fukushima: Eiko & Yoshiko

2016 / HD / Documentary / 95 min / Japan / English subtitled version

Story of Friendship of Two Women Who Try to Survive the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Disaster

Background: Eiko and Yoshiko Kanno are distant relatives and were close neighbors in a small farming village, Iitate Fukushima, Japan. They lived all their lives in the village until a massive earthquake hit northeastern Japan on March 11 2011. The disaster caused a nuclear accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Powerplant, which was 20 miles away, resulting in the evacuation of the entire village with 6,500 residents. Eiko started living by herself in temporary housing. Yoshiko took shelter in Saitama with her bedridden mother and sick father, but both of her parents passed away within eight months. In mourning, Yoshiko's longing for Fukushima grew until it made her decide to return. She found Eiko and started living next door to her.

Story: Eiko and Yoshiko are now surviving together, telling jokes to each other like a comedic duo. Eiko keeps herself true to her principles by which she lives: You produce your own food. They borrowed a farm field to grow vegetables which they cook for meals. They often smile and boast about how delicious their harvested crops are on their table. They are trying to preserve the food culture of Iitate Village by offering cooking workshops on miso paste and "Shimi mochi" (freeze dried rice cake) traditionally produced in the village. Although decontamination efforts are being made in Iitate village, the process is radically altering the landscape and is not successful in reducing radiation levels. Eiko and Yoshiko continue to live with uncertainty in their future, but they try to overcome their difficulties with tears and laughter.



Director's Profile: Mizue Furui was born in Shimane, Japan, in 1948. She is a member of the ASIA-PRESS International and the Japan Visual Journalist Association. She has been covering Palestinians resisting the Israeli occupation in Palestine since 1988 focusing especially on women and children.

Awards: Special Prize of the Judge of the "DAYS JAPAN International Photojournalism Award" for her photography work, "Women in Palestine," in 2005, the Grand Prize of the "Ishibashi Tanzan Memorial Journalism Award" and the Namiko Arai Prize of the "Peace Cooperative Journalist Found of Japan Award" for the film, "Ghada Songs of Palestine" in 2006, and the Grand Prize of the "ZA KOENJI Documentary Festival Competition" for the film, "What We Saw-Gaza, The Children of Samuni Family" in 2012.



The supporting committee encourages volunteer groups to arrange PRIVATE SCREENINGS!

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正式招待

The 18th Jeonju International
Film Festival Official selection

Cinematographed & Directed by

Mizue FURUI

Produced by

Motoharu IIDA & Akihiro NONAKA

Edited by

Tokachi TSUCHIYA

Sound edited by

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Presented by

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大いどもに