

...~WideHouse~...

Presents

MAIKO : Dancing Child

麻衣子



DCP - HD - 2015 - 70' - NORWAY

Directed by: ÅSE SVENHEIM DRIVENES

Original language: English, Norwegian and Japanese

Produced by: Sant & Usant

**Life as a prima ballerina over 30 is tough enough for Maiko
when she decides to start a family...**

SYNOPSIS:

Maiko's destiny was decided before she was born. Her name Maiko means dancing child. Her mother, the driving force behind her career, sold their house and car to send 14 year old Maiko to the most prestigious dancing schools in Europe. She knew she couldn't return to Japan as a failure. Today Maiko is 32 on top of her career as a prima ballerina at the Norwegian National Ballet. Maiko is not a young dancer anymore and talented newcomers are longing for her position. Competition is getting tougher when Maiko decides to start a family...

We follow Maiko at a breaking point in her life, where she is forced to make decisions that might jeopardize everything she has worked for.



Director's Bio:



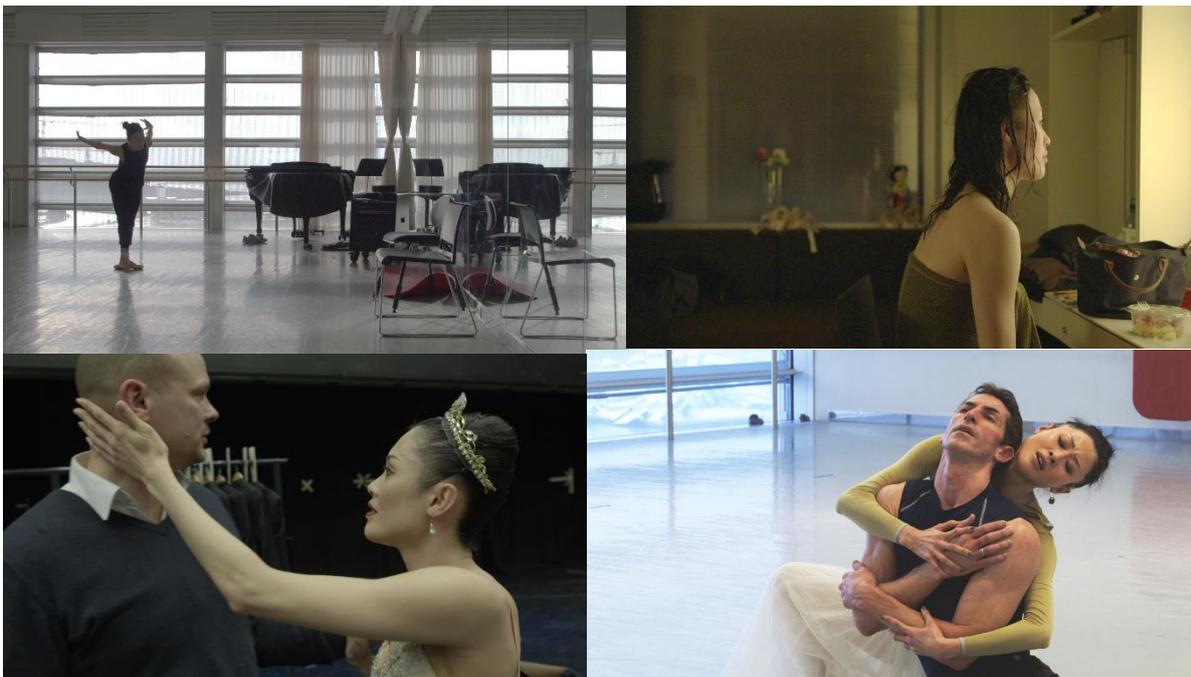
Åse Svenheim Drivenes (1977) was born in Tromsø in northern Norway. Her directorial debut was the documentary film, Our Man in Kirkenes (2010) screened at NRK and YLE. She is one of the directors behind the award-winning Norwegian TV series A little piece of Thailand. Åse is in production with two international documentaries with Sant & Usant as, titled Maiko's Dance and Around My Family Table. The films have pre-sold in several countries.

Director's Notes

The first time I saw Maiko on stage I felt that it was just her and me in the room and that she communicated emotions that I could not put into words. What impressed me the most was her strong artistic expression and stage presence. It was hard to imagine her anywhere else than right there on stage.

When I get to know Maiko she is 31 years old and is very ambitious with her career. Despite her experience she is hungry for more. At the same time she is dreaming of becoming a mother. However she is not willing to compromise. She wants her career and she wants a family. It's all or nothing...

The magical dance and the personal drama. I thought it was an incredibly exciting universe to explore. With the dance as a universal means of expression the story about Maiko had an exciting visual potential. I wanted to use dance to better understand Maiko and express her feelings. That was what I liked so well with Maiko. She spoke to me through the dance.



Production's Notes:

Sant & Usant started productions of documentary films in 2006 and are owned by Tone Grøttjord and Anita Rehoff Larsen. Sant & Usant has since their first premiere in 2007 released 9 films and won the award for best documentary at the Norwegian documentary film festival and the prestigious Norwegian 'Emmy' award for best documentary. In 2010 Sant & Usant started the way into the international market with the development of the films like Bravehearts, When the Boys Return and Maiko –dancing child. Sant & Usant have the last years been selected for major forums and received awards for their projects at pitching forums in Thessaloniki and Cannes. In 2012 the company premiered with two international films at International film festival Amsterdam in competition; the feature documentary 'Bravehearts' which was nominated for the People's award in Norway and 'When the boys. Both films have been screened in around 30 film festivals all over the world and won international awards. The companies latest film was 'I am Kuba' that won the Tromsøpalm at Tromsø Int. filmfestival and is nominated for Norwegian 'Emmy' award.

Maiko – dancing child is director Åse Svenheim Drivenes third film in Sant & Usant. Our first film together was 'Our man in Kirkenes' from 2010. In 2014 we release 'I am Kuba' which premiered in Norway in January 2015. We are now preparing for international release of Maiko – dancing child. Åse came to us with the idea after she saw Maiko dancing on stage at the Norwegian national opera. It was not just because of her talent as a dancer but also how she grabbed her audience from the start. After reading about her, Åse found that she had a very interesting background. And this was the start of a long collaboration between Åse, Maiko and the Norwegian National opera and ballet house that have now lasted for 4 years.

MAIKO NISHINO



Maiko Nishino was born in Osaka, Japan, and arrived at the Norwegian National Ballet in 1999.

Maiko Nishino starred in both classical and modern repertoire and was appointed Principal Dancer in 2005, the same year in which she received the Critics' Award for the role of Odette/Odile in Swan Lake. In 2009 she was awarded the inaugural Tom Wilhelmsen Opera and Ballet Prize.

In addition to Swan Lake, Maiko Nishino incarnated leading roles such as Tatiana in Onegin, Giselle, Cinderella, Aurora in Sleeping Beauty, the Sugar Plum Fairy in The Nutcracker and Kitri in Nureyev's Don Quixote. She starred in modern ballets such as Kylań's Bella Figura and her credits also include works by Balanchine and Forsythe, while roles have been created for her by choreographers such as Wheeldon, Elo, Dawson, Lee and Bjørnsgaard.

Technical Infos:

Original Title: *Maiko: Dancing Child*

Screenwriter: *Åse Svenheim Drivenes*

Producers: *Tone Grøttjord & Anita Rehoff Larsen*

Cinematographer: *Håvard Fossum*

Sound: *Gry Haugholdt, Sverre Jakobsen*

Music: *The opera Orchestra*

Original Language: *English, Japanese, Norwegian*

Running Time: *70 min*

Shooting Format: *HD*

Shooting Camera: *Sony F3*

Frame rate: *25 fps*

Sound: *5.1 stereo*