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Yoshiki: Under the Sky

Yoshiki: Under the Sky is a 2023 music documentary film directed by Japanese musician and composer Yoshiki, leader of the rock bands X Japan and The Last Rockstars, and produced by Sid Ganis, Mark Ritchie, Doug Kluthe, and Aaron Latham-James. We Are X director Stephen Kijak participated as a consulting producer on the film.^[1]

Conceived and recorded during the COVID-19 pandemic, the film is combination of Yoshiki's live performances with musical artists from around the world and interviews with fans and musicians. The film features performances by Yoshiki, Sarah Brightman, Jane Zhang, Scorpions, SixTones, Nicole Scherzinger, St. Vincent, Sugizo, Hyde, Lindsey Stirling, and The Chainsmokers.

The film premiered in Tokyo on September 5, 2023, followed by international premieres in London, New York, and Los Angeles.

Synopsis

The music documentary film *Yoshiki: Under the Sky* features musician and composer Yoshiki collaborating with musicians from the United States, China, England, Germany, and Japan for in-person and remote performances. Filmed during the COVID-19 pandemic, the film also includes music fans in video performances and interviews.^[2]

Production

Yoshiki recorded live performances in Los Angeles with St. Vincent, Nicole Scherzinger, Lindsey Stirling, and The Chainsmokers. In addition, Yoshiki recorded interviews and performances from his studio in Hollywood and mixed in remote performances by the film's other musicians from their home countries.^[3]

Release

Theatrical

Yoshiki: Under the Sky premiered at Toho Cinemas Roppongi Hills on September 5, 2023.^[4] The film then premiered internationally in New York on September 7 (AMC Empire 25 Times Square),^[5] in

Yoshiki: Under the Sky



Promotional poster for 2023 release of Yoshiki: Under the Sky

Directed by	<u>Yoshiki</u>
Produced by	<u>Sid Ganis</u> <u>Mark Ritchie</u> <u>Doug Kluthe</u> <u>Aaron Latham-James</u>
Starring	<u>Yoshiki</u> <u>Sarah Brightman</u> <u>Jane Zhang</u> <u>Scorpions</u> <u>SixTones</u> <u>Nicole Scherzinger</u> <u>St. Vincent</u> <u>Sugizo</u> <u>Hyde</u> <u>Lindsey Stirling</u> <u>The Chainsmokers</u>

London on September 11 (Odeon Covent Garden),^[6] and Los Angeles on September 14 (TCL Chinese 6 Hollywood).

The film was distributed in over 100 theaters in Japan and received limited theatrical release in the United States, England, France, and Germany.^[7]

Home Video

The film will receive an on-demand digital release from Magnolia Home Entertainment and will stream on Amazon Prime Video in 2024.^{[1][8]}

Promotion

At the Japanese premiere on September 5, Yoshiki appeared on the red carpet with Godzilla and unveiled a collaboration poster connecting *Yoshiki: Under the Sky* with the film Godzilla Minus One.^[9] On September 14, preceding the Los Angeles premiere, Yoshiki became the first Japanese artist to be honored with a hand and footprint ceremony at the Chinese Theatre in Hollywood.^[10]

Critical reception

Total Film magazine gave the film 4 out of 5 stars: "Part concert film, part tribute to humanity’s resilience in the face of adversity, its seamlessly integrated performances showcase Yoshiki’s singular gifts."

Mxdwn reviewed the film as "an unforgettable experience that fuses artistry, emotion, and the unifying power of music".^[11] Revolver praised its "superbly arranged performances" and cited the documentary's personal approach: "*Under the Sky* is a proper ode to what Yoshiki has lost and what he has gained."^[12]

Songs

All arranged and produced by Yoshiki
(below in no particular order)

- The Chainsmokers: "Closer"

lyrics and music by Andrew Taggart, Ashley Frangipane, Shaun Frank, Frederic Kennett, Isaac Slade, Joe King
- St. Vincent: "New York"

Cinematography	Ken Whales Michael Pessah Rachel Bickert
Edited by	Spencer Lee Takashi Uchida David Swift Merritt Lear Jim Yukich Claire Didier Imran Virani Bryan Roberts
Music by	Yoshiki
Production company	A List Media Entertainment
Distributed by	Abramorama
Release dates	September 5, 2023 (Japan premiere) September 7, 2023 (USA premiere)
Running time	91 min.
Country	USA
Language	English

External videos
 Clip from documentary film "YOSHIKI: Under the Sky" YOSHIKI x The Chainsmokers - "Closer" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5HeZwbQE8E) on YouTube
 Clip from documentary film "YOSHIKI: Under the Sky" YOSHIKI x Scorpions - "Wind of Change" (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...

lyrics and music by Annie Clark, Jack Antonoff

[ps://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgQQGugUrwE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XgQQGugUrwE) on YouTube

- Sarah Brightman: "Miracle"

lyrics and music by Yoshiki

- Scorpions: "Wind of Change" (Ukraine version)^[a]

lyrics and music by Klaus Meine

- Hyde: "Red Swan" (feat. Sugizo on guitar)

lyrics and music by Yoshiki

- Sugizo (on violin): "La Venus"

lyrics and music by Yoshiki

- SixTones: "Imitation Rain"

lyrics and music by Yoshiki

- Jane Zhang: "Hero"

lyrics and music by Yoshiki

- Lindsey Stirling (on violin): "Forever Love"

lyrics and music by Yoshiki

- Nicole Scherzinger: "I'll Be Your Love"

lyrics and music by Yoshiki

- Yoshiki: "Endless Rain" (chorus by people from all over the world)

lyrics and music by Yoshiki

References

Notes

- a. The Scorpions sang the Ukraine version of the lyrics for the first time in this performance.^[13]

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External links

- International film website (<https://www.yoshikiundertheskyfilm.com/>)
- Yoshiki website (<http://www.yoshiki.net/>)

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