

= Dareka no Manazashi =

Dareka no Manazashi (Japanese : ????????? , lit . Someone 's Gaze) , is a Japanese anime short film written and directed by Makoto Shinkai . It was initially screened at the Tokyo International Forum on February 10 , 2013 , though it was also shown alongside Shinkai 's film The Garden of Words during its Japanese premier on May 31 , 2013 . It was later posted on YouTube from September 2013 to January 2014 . Dareka no Manazashi is a slightly futuristic story about the maturation of a recently independent young woman and her changing relationship with her father . The story develops through reminiscent scenes of their family life and the connection the girl and her father share with the family 's cat .

The film was produced by CoMix Wave Films , NEST , and TYO M1 Production in collaboration with The Answer Studio Co . , Ltd . The voice cast includes Fumi Hirano , Satomi Hanamura , and Shinji Ogawa . Hirano 's narration was crucial in helping Shinkai structure the film . Other leading staff included Makoto Taiga , Miho Suzuki , and Takumi Tanji . Akihisa Matsuura directed the music , and Kazusa wrote and sang the theme song , " Sore de li yo " (?????? , lit . It 's all fine) , which was aimed at matching the tastes of a younger generation . Online reviews and comments universally praised the film as heartfelt and artistically vibrant , while it was solely criticized for its brevity . It was described as " deeply emotional " , particularly for older viewers due to its emphasis on family bonds as a family changes over time .

= = Plot = =

Set in the near future , the story focuses on a recently independent daughter Aya Okamura (??? , Okamura Aya) , her parents , and their pet cat Mii (??) . Aya had recently taken a job that allowed her to move away from home , and her father , K?ji (??) , lives at home alone with their cat while Aya 's mother , Minako (???) , is working overseas . Mii is an old cat , originally obtained as a kitten by Aya 's father to help his young daughter cope with her mother 's absence , and is now in poor health . The story is narrated from the cat 's perspective .

The story begins with Aya returning home from a rough day at work . After relaxing on her bed , she receives a phone call from her father , who wants to have dinner with her ; however , she declines by lying about still being at work . The narrator then reminisces about Aya 's childhood and family life , particularly dwelling upon how her maturity and independence had created distance between her and her father , who is increasingly lonely yet happy for her . Later that night , Aya awakes to another phone call from her father . Having learned of Mii 's death , she visits her father and has lunch with him , an experience that brings the two closer together . Aya later visits her father to see the new kitten he buys . At the same time , her mother rings the doorbell and the family is reunited , their happiness renewed .

= = Production = =

Dareka no Manazashi was written and directed by Makoto Shinkai , who directed Voices of a Distant Star and 5 Centimeters Per Second . It was produced by CoMix Wave Films , NEST , and TYO M1 Production in collaboration with The Answer Studio Co . , Ltd . The assistant director was Makoto Taiga , the animation director and character designer was Miho Suzuki , and the art director was Takumi Tanji . The music was directed by Akihisa Matsuura , and the theme song , " Sore de li yo " (?????? , lit . It 's all fine) , was performed by the singer @-@ songwriter Kazusa . Shinkai said he chose Kazusa to perform the theme song because she could provide " the sort of music that the young encounter " , fitting with the film 's theme . The voice cast includes Fumi Hirano as Mii , Satomi Hanamura as Aya Okamura , and Shinji Ogawa as K?ji Okamura . The short film is 6 minutes 40 seconds in length .

The short film was made with the support of Nomura Real Estate Group for its " Proud Box Appreciation Festival " (?????????????) , a home living exposition at the Tokyo International Forum . According to Shinkai , the greatest challenge in the project was to keep the animation both short and

entertaining while also covering the two main themes : family bonds and the future . Hirano 's narration , which provided character background and insight into their personalities , helped Shinkai structure the film .

= = Release = =

Dareka no Manazashi was announced on Shinkai 's official website on January 10 , 2013 . On January 23 , Nomura Real Estate Group streamed the trailer , and announced plans to screen the short film on February 10 , during the " Proud Box Appreciation Festival " . On May 22 , 2013 , Shinkai tweeted that he would also include the short with the Japanese premiere of The Garden of Words on May 31 , 2013 . The two films were also screened together for the Italian cinematic release on May 21 , 2014 .

The entire film was uploaded to YouTube through Nomura Real Estate Group 's ProudChannel on September 5 , 2013 , and was streamed starting September 9 . English subtitles were added on September 11 . It was originally scheduled to be taken down on January 12 , 2014 , but remained available until January 21 . During the four months it was available , it was viewed more than 745 @, @ 000 times . On March 28 , 2014 , Dareka no Manazashi was included with the " Extras " on the limited edition The Garden of Words DVD distributed by Kazé in Germany (subtitled in German) .

= = Reception = =

Dareka no Manazashi was positively received in Japan , and attracted particular interest once available on YouTube . Megumi Sawai of RocketNews24 quoted what she called typical online comments on the film , all of which described the emotional impact it had : " It was very good , and deeply emotional . " " Hopelessly , I was reduced to tears . " Sawai herself credited the film for the high quality of the art , and its message , saying it reminded her of the " bonds between family members , which remain unchanged even as the form of a family changes " . ASCII.jp said that " even young viewers can be moved by sympathy " after watching it , but that its greatest emotional impact might be for older audiences .

According to Curtis Stone at Geekenstein , the artwork was " vibrant and meticulous " and story was " exceptional " , and along with its execution and character development , he felt that Dareka no Manazahshi was " utterly enrapturing " despite its shortness . Stone was most impressed by how people could so easily relate to the characters emotionally , despite the film 's brevity . His only minor criticism was that the ending left open tantalizing questions about the family 's future , though he noted that this did not detract from the film 's message . UKAniFest called the short film " heartstringy " and characterized it as one of those hard @-@ to @-@ find " little gems " .