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LITTLE MISS SUMO

A FILM BY MATT KAY







log line

Female sumo wrestling champion Hiyori confronts obstacles both inside and outside the ring in an attempt to change Japan's national sport forever.

A person in a red and white jacket is running on a snow-covered path in a village. In the background, there are traditional Japanese buildings and a large, snow-capped mountain under a cloudy sky.

" BE NOT AFRAID OF GOING SLOWLY.
BE AFRAID OF STANDING STILL."

JAPANESE PROVERB



story

Banned from competing professionally Hiyori will have to retire at the age of 21. Simultaneously juggling newfound revelations whilst preparing for the biggest tournament of her life, Hiyori is forced to question the reason women are banned from professional wrestling and why most are forced out of amateur wrestling before their peak.

She has the drive and ambition, but is that going to be enough to succeed in a country and sport that is overwhelmingly led by tradition and protocol?

“ THE NAIL THAT STANDS UP GETS HAMMERED DOWN. ”

JAPANESE PROVERB



Title	Little Miss Sumo
Year of Production	2018
Duration	18 mins
Country of Production	United Kingdom
Genre	Documentary
Shooting Format	Digital 4.5K Widescreen
Finish Format	4K DCP & 2K DCP
Aspect Ratio	2.35:1 Cinemascope
Sound Format	5:1 surround and stereo
Language	Japanese, English
Subtitles	English, Japanese

A Walks of Life Films Production

Shot and Directed by
Matt Kay

Produced by
Andrew Carver, Didi Mae Hand & Matt Kay

Executive Produced by
Chi Thai, Elliot V. Kotek & Karina Michel Feld

Edited by
Rebecca Gin and Isabel Freeman

Original Score by
Kwes

Sound Design by
Morgan Muse & Dan Weinberg

Starring
Hiyori Kon

director's statement

Growing up in a feminist and lesbian household I always questioned conventions. My upbringing presented me with the outlook that going against the grain is something to be valued. Every female wrestler I met embodies this perspective. The wrestlers' approach in their journey to justice is very organic; they are driven by their passion for sumo.

The image of a male sumo wrestler is iconic yet most people wouldn't be able to picture a female wrestler or know of her existence. The documentary focuses on the two faces of today's Japan – a society where modernity and tradition are in charged conflict. Sumo has been around for thousands of years but now is as exciting a time as ever. I am hoping our film can act as a springboard for discussion around the wider subject and perhaps even contribute to positive change.

Matt Kay is a British documentary filmmaker. He co-founded Walks Of Life Films in 2011 concentrating on producing socially conscious, character led documentaries. In the past eight years he's directed and shot a variety of projects for worldwide festivals, broadcast and online platforms. This has taken him to many different countries, whether it be in Egypt during the Arab Spring or a Brazilian favela during the World Cup.

His first film was distributed by Espresso TV, broadcast in the Middle East and acquired by VOD platforms. He has since been awarded grant funding from the BFI, European Cultural Foundation, Film London and Tribeca Film Institute, broadcast on BBC, Channel 4 and Sky Arts and has won several film festival awards.





ELLIOT V. KOTEK
exec producer

Producer and co-director of the first ever feature film generated by social media, Elliot is the innovative producer and EP of feature length documentaries ("Queen Mimi," "140"), docu-series ("Superhuman," "On the Fringe," "The New Space Race," "Wrong," "Challengers," and "Coded") for Facebook Watch, National Geographic, Netflix, UpWorthy and FastCompany.



CHI THAI
exec producer

Chi has been a Cannes Lions finalist three times over for her work in commercials. She is producing feature documentaries with Academy winning filmmakers Alex Gibney and James Gay-Rees; and produced short films that have competed at BAFTA and Academy accredited festivals.



KARINA MICHEL FELD
exec producer

With over 18 years of experience in TV and Film, Karina is a respected member of the Producers Guild of America. Past credits include "The Us Festival 1982: The US Generation Documentary" exec. produced by Steve Wozniak and "Enough" (2017) which featured in The Lady Filmmaker's Festival and The California Women's Festival.



DIDI MAE HAND
producer

With a background in new, exciting prime time programs Didi has produced for the likes of Channel 4, BBC Worldwide, National Geographic Channel and Vice. She has spent much of her career seeking out quirky, empowering and unexpected stories, working to tell these in the most engaging and beautiful way.



ANDREW CARVER
producer

Over the last 9 years Andrew has worked producing documentary and commercial projects in over 14 countries throughout the world for a variety of clients including Amnesty, Greenpeace, DFID and Virgin. His work has been featured on BBC, ITV, Sky News, CNBC and widely online clocking up millions of views.



KWES
composer

Kwes is a record producer, mixer, songwriter, musician and recording artist from London. He has worked with a variety of artists including Bobby Womack, Damon Albarn, Loyle Carner, Micachu and Solange. Kwes is signed to Warp Records as a solo artist and recently released his second album *Songs for Midi* in 2018.

A blurred background of a traditional Japanese torii gate with falling snow. The gate's wooden structure is a warm reddish-brown color, and the scene is filled with soft, white snowflakes falling from the top. The overall mood is serene and quiet.

"THE BAMBOO THAT BENDS IS STRONGER THAN THE OAK THAT RESISTS."

JAPANESE PROVERB

WWW.SUMOSUPREMES.COM/LITTLE-MISS-SUMO



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