

# Noriko's Dinner Table

35 mm / 158 min. / Color / Vista / 2004 Japan

Drama/Horror

**A Film by**  
Sion Sono

Starring

Kazue Fukiishi

Tsugumi

Ken Mitsuishi

Yuriko Yoshitaka

**Distribution Contact: Ko Mori**



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## SYNOPSIS

Noriko Shimabara is an ordinary 17 year-old girl. Her family includes a younger sister Yuka, father Tetsuzou, and Mother Taeko. Noriko couldn't help but feel discomfort with her ordinary life in a suburban town. One day, she discovers an interesting site on the internet called Haikyo.com where teenage girls from all over Japan gathered. There, Noriko for the first time in her life, feels that she is being understood by others. Noriko runs away from home to seek a new home in Tokyo. Arriving in Tokyo, she meets Kumiko, who is the center figure of Haikyo.com. Along with Kumiko, Noriko becomes a member of a strange business called FAMILY CIRCLE, which is a rental family service. At FAMILY CIRCLE, members are dispatched to people with no family to create an instant pseudo-family. Noriko finds true beauty of family while playing a role in pseudo-family, and through pseudo-family, she begins realizing about the relationship between herself and her family, as well as her relationship with herself.

On May 26<sup>th</sup> 2002 at 7:29 P.M. at Shinjuku station, 54 high school girls committed a group suicide by jumping off of platform number 8 into a running train. At the meantime, Noriko's sister Yuka finds a key to this eerie incident at Haikyo.com. With a feeling that Noriko might have been one of the 54 girls, Yuka disappears from home to Tokyo. Losing two daughters, mother Taeko feels plagued by feelings of responsibility, and ends up committing a suicide. Father Tetsuzou is the only one left in the family. Tetsuzou starts searching for his two missing daughters. After a long research, he finds out that his daughters are the members of FAMILY CIRCLE, which is run by a girl named Kumiko. In hopes to get back his daughters, Tetsuzou makes an order at the FAMILY CIRCLE as a customer, and asks for Noriko and Yuka as his "daughters" and Kumiko as his "wife." The family reunites for the first time in years. Tetsuzou, who was frantic about getting back his daughters, ends up spending a happy time together with the member of pseudo-family. At early hours of the following morning, Yuka sneaks out of the house, while Noriko pass her over in silence. The family parts again, with each members of the family going their own separate ways.

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## KEY STAFF/CREW

### Biography of Sion Sono (Short Version)

Prior to becoming a filmmaker, Sono made his debut as a poet at the young age of 17. He began making 8mm films when he enrolled University in Tokyo. In 1990, Sono wrote, directed, and starred in a 16mm film "Bicycle Sighs," and the film toured the festival circuit for 2 years, played at over 30 venues in Europe and Asia. Since then, "Room" won the Special Jury Prize at the Sundance Film Festival in Tokyo, and "Suicide Club" won the Audience Prize at 2003 FanTasia Festival in Canada. Sono also staged a controversial, guerrilla performance art project called Tokyo GAGAGA, which generated a buzz in Japan. Sono's diverse talents mesmerize fans all over the world. "HAZARD" and "In a Dream" are a few of his latest films.

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## TECHNICAL CREDITS

### -STAFF-

Director ..... Sion Sono  
Executive Producers..... Yutaka Morohashi  
Producer..... Takeshi Suzuki  
Screenplay ..... Sion Sono  
Original Author..... Sion Sono  
CINEMATOGRAPHER.....Souhei Tanigawa  
Director of Art..... Toru Fujita  
Music ..... Tomoki Hasegawa  
Editor .....Junichi Ito  
Production Company .....MOTHER ARK CO., LTD.

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## TECHNICAL CREDITS

### - CAST -

Noriko Shimabara ..... Kazue Fukiishi  
Kumiko(Ueno 54) ..... Tsugimi  
Tetsuzo Shimabara ..... Ken Mitsuishi  
Yuka Shimabara ..... Yuriko Yoshitaka

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## CAST BIOS

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## Awards • Festival

Karlovy Vary International Film Festival;

Winner of the 2005 Don Quijote Prize Don Quixote Prize, Special Mention,

Puchon International Fantastic Film Festival

Winner of Best Actress choice, Jury's choice

Philadelphia Film Festival

Hong Kong International Film Festival

Film Fest Hamburg

Singapore International Film Festival

New Montreal FilmFest