

# INTRODUCTION

**Brutal warfare breaks out among Tokyo's street gangs, known as “tribes.” Who will emerge victorious?**

**Territory, friendship, pride, love... Everything is put on the line in a desperate struggle for supremacy!**

Santa Inoue's legendary manga “TOKYO TRIBE2”, which sold over 2.5 million copies in total and heavily influenced Japanese urban culture in the 1990s, has at last become a live-action film! In the director's chair is fearsomely talented filmmaker Sion Sono, who injects his own inimitable style. A brand new “Tokyo Tribe” will scrawl its name on the walls of history this summer!

The film's main antagonist, Merrra, is played by the in-demand Ryohei Suzuki, a talented young actor known for his imposing physique and performance in the smash hit film “HK: Hentai Kamen”, as well as his more genteel and gentlemanly side on display in the current NHK morning drama serial “Hanako & Anne”.

In the role of the hero Kai is acting novice YOUNG DAIS, a rapper by trade whose unique charisma put him head and shoulders above his competition in a fiercely-contested audition. Nana Seino, who was chosen to play the mysterious female lead Sunmi, was handpicked by Sono, who has boosted the careers of numerous actresses over the years.

The supporting cast features a glittering array of familiar faces from Sono's past works as well as impressive newcomers, including Ryuta Sato, Shunsuke Daitoh, Takuya Ishida, Yui Ichikawa, Shoko Nakagawa, Mika Kano, Shota Sometani, Denden, Yosuke Kubozuka, and Riki Takeuchi.

What's more, many of Japan's top rappers appear as themselves, and in a Japanese film industry first, cast members selected from an open audition via YouTube also join the ranks of a huge and mind-blowingly wild cast like none seen before. Watch them clash on the streets of a neofuturistic Tokyo!

**The world's first “battle rap musical”?!**

**This is super heavy caliber, in-your-face action entertainment!**

One of the highlights of “Tokyo Tribe” is its soundtrack, a flood of sound that flows through the entire movie. As depicted in Inoue's manga, the street culture of hip hop is a form of self-expression, so Sono made the bold decision to use rap to deliver much of the dialogue. It elevates the film's inventive and intense approach to a whole new level, and the result is what can only be described as a “battle rap musical.” The aggressive assault of its beats and rhymes wreaks havoc as a massive ensemble cast shocks, excites, and incites an unparalleled sonic war!

# STORY

**Tokyo has only one rule: each area is controlled by each tribe.**

**Those who trespass get no mercy.**

In Tokyo in the not-too-distant future, each area is home to a unique “tribe” (street gang), and their members maintain control while defending their territory with an iron fist. Riots and skirmishes break out between the tribes on a daily basis, but a delicate balance is maintained as they remain roughly equal in force. That is, until a certain incident causes their equilibrium to shatter and disintegrate. In the sex trade mecca of Bukuro, Buppa, his son Nncoi, and Bukuro Wu-Ronz tribe boss Merra use their political connections to expand their influence. One day, Merra sets a trap for Kim of the Musashino Saru, a fun and peace-loving tribe that he despises with all his being. His ulterior motive is to lure his hated nemesis Kai, whose very existence fills him with an uncontrollable rage. In a bid to save Kim, Musashino Saru leader Tera crosses over into treacherous Bukuro turf with his homies Kai and Hasheem to confront Merra and the rest of his Wu-Ronz crew. There they find not only Kim being held prisoner, but also a mysterious girl named Sunmi. Why does Merra burn with such hatred for Kai? What is Sunmi's true identity? And who on earth is the High Priest that Buppa and his clan worship? Merra initiates a war against Musashino Saru that will eventually embroil all Tokyo Tribes. This will be a night that no one will ever forget.

# CAST PROFILES

## **Ryohei Suzuki as Merra**

Born on March 29th, 1983 in Hyogo Prefecture. Made his acting debut in television series “Regatta: Kimi to ita Eien” in 2006, and went on to appear in other dramas including “Majo Saiban” (2009) and “Honjitsu wa Taian nari” (2012). After gaining his first movie role in “Tsubaki Sanjuro” (2007), he was subsequently cast in a succession of films including “Surely Someday” (2010), “Hankyu Railways – A 15-minute Miracle” (2011), “Kid's Police” (2013), and “Gatchaman” (2013). Also featured in stage productions such as “Anjin” (2009) and “Taking Sides” (2013). “HK: Hentai Kamen” (2013) marked his first starring role in a film and was a major box office hit, while his regular appearances in the current NHK morning drama serial “Hanako & Anne” have also boosted his profile considerably. “Tokyo Tribe” is his first collaboration with director Sion Sono. He also appears in Takahiro Miki's “Hot Road”, scheduled for release in Japan on August 16th.

## **YOUNG DAIS as Kai**

Born on October 11th, 1981 in Asahikawa, Hokkaido. Attended a boarding high school in New Hampton, New Hampshire in the United States from the ages of 16 to 19. Was accepted to a local university there, but returned to Japan in 2001 to fulfill his burning desire to become a rapper. Subsequently based himself in Hokkaido and performed with various hip hop crews before making his official debut in 2004 with the North Coast Bad Boyz, renamed N.C.B.B. in 2008. As a solo artist, he became the main personality for major Hokkaido radio station FM North Wave's hip hop show “DDG Thing”, and released his debut album “Playlist” in September of 2012. It became a seminal Japanese rap milestone, and still remains a top seller on the hip hop charts. His second album “Accent”, released in May of 2013, gained attention for its genre-transcending collaborations with artists including Jesse of rock band Rize. He was chosen to play Kai after attending an open casting call, despite having never acted before.

## **Nana Seino as Sunmi**

Born on October 14th, 1994 in Aichi Prefecture. Debuted as a model in 2007 under contract to magazine Pichilemon. Boxing, stunt work, backflips and other acrobatics, and sword fighting are among her versatile athletic talents, and as a junior high student she also competed in the high jump at a national athletics meet. After appearing in TBS television drama series “Ouran Koko Host Club”, she steadily built a career as an actress with roles in the television series “Shogeki Goraigan” (2013), film “Wood Job!” (2014), play “Complex Sticker” (2014), and a commercial for Juju cosmetics before being picked to play the female lead in “Tokyo Tribe”. She also appears in Shusuke Kaneko's “Danger Dolls”, scheduled for release in Japan in autumn this year.

# STAFF PROFILES

## **Writer/Director: Sion Sono**

Born in Aichi Prefecture. Won the Pia Film Festival Grand Prize in 1987 for “A Man's Hanamichi”. Subsequent PFF scholarship film “Bicycle Sighs” (1990) was an official selection of over 30 film festivals around the world, including the Berlin International Film Festival. Went on to unleash a constant stream of controversial works that won numerous prizes internationally. “Love Exposure” (2009) won the Agnes B. Award at TOKYO FILMeX 2008, and the Caligari Film Award and FIPRESCI Prize at Berlin in 2009. “Cold Fish” (2010) was selected by many festivals including the 67th Venice Film Festival's Orizzonti section and the 2010 Toronto International Film Festival's Vanguard programme. It also became a box office hit at home, breaking attendance records at Theatre Shinjuku in Tokyo. “Guilty of Romance” (2011) was screened in the 2011 Cannes International Film Festival's Director's Fortnight section, and “Himizu” (2012) picked up Marcello Mastroianni Awards for its two young leads at the 68th Venice International Film Festival. “Why Don't You Play in Hell?” (2013) won the People's Choice Award in the Midnight Madness section at Toronto, the largest festival in North America, which drew considerable attention. One of Japan's most recognized and prodigiously talented filmmakers, whose works are always eagerly anticipated.

## **Creator: Santa Inoue**

Made his debut as a manga artist in 1989 with “Murder”, which won a prize for best newcomer from weekly manga magazine Young Sunday. His “Tokyo Tribe” series, which he began in 1993, became the touchstone of his career. “Tokyo Tribe 2” , Inoue's most famous manga, also has many fans abroad and translated editions have been published in Hong Kong, Taiwan, the United States, France, Spain, and Italy. His psychological thriller “The Neighbor No. Thirteen” began its serialization in Comic Scholar from 1994, and was later self-published online when the magazine went on hiatus. Collected editions were published from 1999, and a film adaptation was made in 2005 starring Shun Oguri and Shido Nakamura. Opened his own flagship store Santastic! in Shibuya in 2002. His latest manga “Motesuke” is currently serialized in Young Champion.

## **Producer: Yoshinori Chiba**

Made his debut as a producer in 1981 with Keita Umemiya's science fiction-action movie “Zeiram”, and has since helped bring more than 30 films to fruition in genres such as action and horror, as well as manga adaptations. His most notable credits include Takashi Miike's “Yatterman”, a major commercial success that topped the Japanese box office in its first week of release; Sion Sono's highly acclaimed “Cold Fish” and “Guilty of Romance”; and Kazuya Shiraishi's “The Devil's Path”, which received numerous awards in 2013. Also produced Japan-Indonesia co-production “Killers”, directed by The Mo Brothers, which had its world premiere in January 2014 at the Sundance Film Festival and was released in Japan the following month.

## **Cinematography: Daisuke Soma**

Learned his trade under veteran cameraman Akira Sako, and made his professional debut on Takafumi Hatano's “SP: The Motion Picture” (2010) and “SP: The Motion Picture II”. Credits include Mika Ninagawa's “Helter Skelter” (2012), Masahide Ichii's “Blindly in Love” (2013), Sabu's “Miss Zombie” (2013), and Hiroshi Shinagawa's “One Third” (2014).

## **Art Direction: Yuji Hayashida**

One of Japan's foremost art directors, who has worked on a host of major productions by directors such as Ryuhei Kitamura and Kazuaki Kiriya, and several works by Takashi Miike in recent years including “Yatterman” (2008), “13 Assassins” (2010), and “The Mole Song: Undercover Agent Reiji” (2014). His work on “13 Assassins” won him a Japan Academy Prize for Outstanding Achievement in Art Direction, and Best Production Designer at the 5th Asian Film Awards.

## **Lighting: Kota Sato**

Made his professional debut on Norihiro Koizumi's "Gachi Boy: Wrestling With a Memory" (2008). Credits include Takashi Miike's "Zebaman 2: Attack on Zebra City" (2010), Nika Ninagawa's "Helter Skelter" (2012), Shin Togashi's "Oshin" (2013), and Keisuke Yoshida's "My Little Sweet Pea" (2013).

**Sound Recording: Shinji Watanabe**

Debuted as a sound recordist with Koto Nagata's "Shibuya Maruyama Story" (2007). Credits include Norihiro Koizumi's "Gachi Boy: Wrestling With a Memory" (2008), Tomoyuki Furumaya's "Bushido Sixteen" (2010), Kiyoshi Kurosawa's "Penance" (2012) and "Real" (2013). "Tokyo Tribe" represents his first teaming with Sono since "Guilty of Romance" (2011).

**Sound Effects: Masatoshi Saito**

Experienced sound effects technician with an extensive filmography. Credits include Shohei Imamura's "The Eel" (1997), Shinji Somai's "Kazahana" (2001), Kiyoshi Kurosawa's "Bright Future" (2003), and Isao Yukisada's "Year One in the North" (2005). Past collaborations with Sono include "Guilty of Romance" (2011), "Himizu" (2012), and "Why Don't You Play in Hell?"

**Editing: Junichi Ito**

A regular crew member on most of Sono's films, including "Noriko's Dinner Table" (2006), "Love Exposure" (2009), "Cold Fish" (2011), "Himizu" (2012), and "Why Don't You Play in Hell?" (2013). Also edited Takahiro Miki's "Girl in the Sunny Place" (2013), and his diverse filmography includes animated works and documentaries.

**Music: BCDMG**

A leading hip hop production and creative collective formed around leader Jashwon and including T-KC, G.O.K., LostFace, Bombrush!!, and I-DeA. Their work runs the gamut from underground joints to major label projects.