

# Transcultural Cinema Forum 2025

The Transcultural Studies Division holds lecture series as a part of the course,  
“Transcultural Asian Cinema” conducted by Prof. Mitsuyo Wada-Marciano.

## "The Making of" THE MAKING OF A JAPANESE -- How and Why I made the Documentary on Japanese Public Elementary School --



**Ema Ryan  
YAMAZAKI**  
Filmmaker

『小学校～それは小さな社会～』監督・編集：山崎エマ  
2023年/日本・アメリカ・フィンランド・フランス/カラー/99分/5.1ch  
制作：ハビネットファントム・スタジオ  
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Director Ema Ryan Yamazaki spent 10 years conceiving, filming, editing, and delivering to audiences her film *THE MAKING OF A JAPANESE*. The film, known in Japan as *小学校～それは小さな社会～*, has been a huge theatrical hit in Japan in recent months, and the parallel short documentary *INSTRUMENTS OF A BEATING HEART* was nominated for an Academy Award. Ema will talk about why the film's theme interested her, the process of gaining unprecedented access into a public elementary school, how the 150 days of filming took place, and the choices she made in the editing to create the film. The lecture will explore Ema's point of view on the strengths and weaknesses of the Japanese elementary school system as well as the craft of documentary filmmaking.

**April 15, Tuesday 15:00-18:15**

**Place: Lecture Room 9, Basement Floor, Research Building No.2 (Map<sup>34</sup>)**

[http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ja/access/campus/yoshida/map6r\\_y/](http://www.kyoto-u.ac.jp/ja/access/campus/yoshida/map6r_y/)

**Language: English    Free to All**

**Further information:** <https://www.cats.bun.kyoto-u.ac.jp/jdts/events/2025/03/transcultural-cinema-forum-2025/>

You may also contact Prof. Mitsuyo Wada-Marciano at [wadamarciano.mitsuyo.6w@kyoto-u.ac.jp](mailto:wadamarciano.mitsuyo.6w@kyoto-u.ac.jp)



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