

# THE TOKYO TOILET Art Project with Wim Wenders

- Project News vol.01 -

## Legendary filmmaker Wim Wenders announced new film starring Koji Yakusho at the Press Gathering on May 11th.

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We are pleased to announce that legendary German filmmaker Mr. Wim Wenders, who continues to accept new challenges and is extremely popular in Japan, has decided to shoot his latest film in Shibuya, Tokyo.

Film director Wenders will shoot an original film set in Tokyo and its renovated public toilets. He will be visiting Japan for the first time in 11 years and will be searching for film locations. At the press gathering, the director will talk about the appeal of this art project, the transformation of Tokyo, and the questions we ask ourselves about art.

Mr. Koji Yakusho, who has been cast in the lead role, also attended this press gathering, together with Mr. Koji Yanai, Founder of TTT, Mr. Ken Hasebe, Mayor of Shibuya Ward, and Mr. Takuma Takasaki, Project Producer. Also, Mr. Tadao Ando, the architect of one of these toilets joined us and Mr. Jumpei Sasakawa, the General Manager of TTT. They shared their experiences working on such a unique art project.

Anyone,  
having a good day, or a bad day,  
escaping from, or searching for something,  
who fell in love, or fighting off paranoia,  
or always with a sleepy head,  
we all go to the toilet  
in a day.

A toilet, perhaps, is a place  
where we come to understand  
that we are all the same.

A place.  
I might come up with a breakthrough idea.  
Or a place,  
I decide to quit sending messages that might hurt  
someone.

Without enough space to be alone,  
we are now all rushing through our lives.  
A brief pause in the restroom  
from time to time  
reminds me of this fact.

The new toilets born in Shibuya.

For how long can we look after the new toilets with respect?

Our project began to take on this challenge.

If we manage to keep the new toilets nice and clean,  
these toilets would each become a mirror  
reflecting the beautiful spirit of Tokyo.

The beauty that lies there is the new culture of Tokyo in the future.  
This is what we hope to bring.



There are dedicated cleaning staff taking care of “The Tokyo Toilet”.

They are at work 365 days a year to keep the toilets comfortable and clean for us.

The cleaning staff is the protagonist of our film produced together  
with Wim Wenders and the actor, Koji Yakusho.

“The Tokyo Toilet” art project and film will speak to us.

Perhaps, with no clear answer.

And for that, it would become something unforgettable.

“The Tokyo Toilet” –what would “The Tokyo Toilet“ speak to us?

Let us open our minds and wait.

Its filming will take place this year and the launch is scheduled in 2023.

Further details are to be released soon.

Please visit the official website to learn more about “The Tokyo Toilet”.

## Wim Wenders

Wim Wenders (born 1945) is considered one of the pioneers of the New German Cinema of the 1970s and one of the most important representatives of contemporary cinema.

In addition to multi-award-winning feature films, such as *PARIS, TEXAS* (84) and *WINGS OF DESIRE* (87), he has also created several innovative documentaries such as *BUENA VISTA SOCIAL CLUB* (99), *PINA*(11), *THE SALT OF THE EARTH* and *POPE FRANCIS – A MAN OF HIS WORD* (18). Wenders is a director, producer, photographer and author; his photographic work has been exhibited in museums around the world, and his output includes numerous photo books, film books and collections of essays. Wim Wenders and his wife Donata Wenders live in Berlin.

In 2012, they founded the non-profit Wim Wenders Foundation in Düsseldorf, which brings together Wim Wenders' film, photographic and literary life's work by restoring it and making it permanently accessible to the public. The Wim Wenders Foundation is also committed to promoting young talent in the field of innovative cinematic storytelling through the Wim Wenders Grant.

## Koji Yakusho

Born January 1, 1956. In 1996 Yakusho dominated the best actor awards in Japan for *Shall we Dance?*, *Sleeping Man: Nemuru Otoko* and *Shabu Gokudo*.

Also, he starred in films that were acclaimed at various international film festivals including *CURE* at the Tokyo International Film in 1997 which he won the Best Actor Award, *The Eel* which won the Palm d'Or in 1997 and *EUREKA* which won the prize of the Ecumenical Jury in 2000 both at Cannes Film Festival.

In 2005 he was one of the main cast in *Memoirs of a Geisha* and in 2006 in *Babel* which was premiered in the Cannes Film Festival and was nominated for the best film at the Academy Awards.

In 2017 Yakusho was awarded the Nippon Honor Award at the 17<sup>th</sup> Nippon Connection, Japanese film festival in Frankfurt, Germany, as well as the Cinema Legend Award at the Singapore International Film Festival. In 2019 he received two awards at the 13<sup>th</sup> Asian Film Awards: Excellence in Asian Cinema Award and the Best Actor Award for *The Blood of Wolves*.

Other international awards include the best actor awards for *Walking My Life* at the Film Madrid in Spain in 2008, for *The Woodsman* and *the Rain* at the Debai Film Festival in 2011, for *The World of Kanako* at the Festival Internacional de Cinema Fantàstic de Catalunya in 2014. In 2020 Yakusho won the Best Actor Award at the Chicago International Film Festival for *Under the Open Sky* after receiving the same award for *Warm Water Under the Red Bridge* in 2001.

Yakusho made his debut as a film director in 2009 with *Toad's Oil* in which he also played the leading role.

His latest film *The Pass: Last Days of the Samurai*, directed by Takashi Koizumi, will be released on June 17 in Japan.