Hosoda hopes to surpass anime legend Miyazaki

Description

Posted by Larry Gleeson



Japanese anime director Mamoru Hosoda attends a news conference for the Tokyo International Film Festival 2016 in Tokyo.

REUTERS/Toru Hanai

TOKYO â??

Mamoru Hosoda, one of Japanâ??s young anime directors hoping to lead the industry after the retirement of legendary animator Hayao Miyazaki, says he hopes to surpass his boyhood hero one day, but donâ??t look for Miyazaki in his movies.

â??That wonâ??t happen. It is only right that different directors create totally different works,â?• Hosoda, 49, told Reuters TV ahead of the Tokyo International Film Festival next month where a retrospective of his work will be shown.

â??I think there are movies that only I can create and movies that only I know how to make people enjoy them,â?• he said.

Hosodaâ??s rise to fame culminated with his 2015 box office hit â??Boy and the Beastâ?•, which grossed over 5.8 billion yen ($57 million) to become the second most watched movie in Japanese theatres that year.

His movies are colorful and vibrant and appear to follow in Oscar-winning Miyazakiâ??s footsteps. However, Hosoda regularly chooses themes related to family and identity, which disappoint some fans who seek the more immersive fantasy provided by works out of Miyazakiâ??s Studio Ghibli.

â??The Boy and the Beastâ?• explores the relationship between a paternal beast-father figure and a run-away child. His previous film, â??Wolf Childrenâ?•, centered on a single mother raising children fathered by a werewolf.

Hosoda said his deeper exploration of the meaning of self-identity in an extremely homogeneous nation are often lost on viewers.

â??I think there are possibly people in the audience here who were not able to understand that. And that, in a way, is representative of Japan today,â?• he said.

Hosoda is hopeful for the future of Japanâ??s animation industry despite the fact that more and more animators rely on computer graphics to polish their work.

â??There are, or should be, multiple correct ways to express oneself in animation,â?• he said.

â??If you start saying that only Disney or Pixar animations are the right kind of animations, that just becomes very boring. If everything needs to have computer graphics,then you lose a lot of the richness in expression available in animations,â?• he added.

â??The World Of Mamoru Hosodaâ?• retrospective runs from October 25 to November 3 at the Tokyo International Film Festival and will include movies such as the critically acclaimed â??Summer Warsâ?• .

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Category

1. Tokyo International Film Festival

Tags

1. Animation
2. Art
3. Boy and the Beast
4. Director
5. Film
6. Filmmaking
7. Hayao Miyazaki
8. Mamoru Hosoda
9. Media
10. News
11. Programming
12. Technology

13. The World of Mamoru Hosoda
14. Tokyo
15. Tokyo International Film Festival

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