

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 15, 2021

**New animated short film inspired by Olympism and produced by Studio Ponoc,
Tomorrow's Leaves, ready for special screenings and worldwide distribution!**

Tomorrow's Leaves, the new animated short film from **Studio Ponoc** and inspired by Olympism, will have its worldwide release with a special limited theatrical release in Tokyo, Japan and worldwide distribution from 23 July 2021.

Following its world premiere last month at the Opening Ceremony of the Annecy International Animated Film Festival 2021 in France, the world's largest animation film festival, *Tomorrow's Leaves* will at last be available for viewing around the world. Created in collaboration with the **Olympic Foundation for Culture and Heritage**, *Tomorrow's Leaves* is a landmark work of art celebrating the Olympic Values of Excellence, Friendship and Respect.

With its beautiful and rich hand-drawn animation, *Tomorrow's Leaves* depicts "an island somewhere on this earth," where children of different countries, cultures and languages, each bearing their own "Tomorrow's Leaf", run fearlessly with joy and hope through a world that is beginning to wither.

Tomorrow's Leaves is directed by **Yoshiyuki Momose**, a recognized master in the world of animated films who played a central role in renowned films including Isao Takahata's *Grave of the Fireflies* and *The Tale of The Princess Kaguya*, and Studio Ponoc's *Life Ain't Gonna Lose*. The film's music was composed by **Takatsugu Muramatsu**, a prolific film and television score creator who crafts musical experiences that challenge boundaries between music and sound effects and accompany the story magnificently. His recent works include the film scores of Studio Ghibli's *When Marnie Was There* and Studio Ponoc's *Mary and The Witch's Flower*.

The film will join the permanent collection of the **Olympic Museum** in Lausanne, Switzerland and will be screened regularly for audiences around the world, especially in countries and regions that host the summer and winter editions of the Olympic Games in the years to come.

We would be honored if you share the news of the public release of *Tomorrow's Leaves*.

Limited Special Theatrical Screening

United Cinemas Toyosu, Tokyo

July 23 (Friday) - July 29 (Thursday) Limited Special Theatrical Screening

URL: <https://www.unitedcinemas.jp/toyosu> (details available from July 16)

Worldwide Distribution Online

July 23 (Friday) at <https://ioc.org/tomorrowsleaves>

Summary and Synopsis of the Film

Title: *Tomorrow's Leaves*
Director: Yoshiyuki Momose
Music: Takatsugu Muramatsu
Producer
and Story: Yoshiaki Nishimura
Length: 8 minutes, 27 seconds

The annual arrival of the message leaf causes concern – something is undeniably wrong. Its usually vibrant and lasting colors quickly fade, and it suddenly withers and crumbles.

Five envoys, from five diverse lands, are dispatched to find out what has happened.

The envoys travel to a distant land, quietly guided by tiny spirits. Each envoy has its own strengths and vulnerabilities. They compete and support each other as they draw closer to their destination, facing treacherous terrain and difficult conditions. Through athletic challenges and the uniting power of sport, they discover the positive fundamental values that come with playful competition.

Together, the envoys approach near the source of the message leaf.

Can they restore life to a future in peril?

Comment from Producer Yoshiaki Nishimura

The creators of Studio Ponoc made this short film with thoughts for children’s “tomorrow”. It has become extremely difficult to screen the film in many countries, but thanks to the internet, I am grateful that we can deliver the film to children not only in Japan but around the world.

The film is 8 minutes and 27 seconds long. I hope you sense something important through this film. Thank you for watching it.

From the Producer, Yoshiaki Nishimura