

Studio Ghibli

Studio Ghibli, Inc. (株式会社スタジオジブリ Kabushiki-gaisha Sutajio Jiburi?) is a Japanese animation film studio based in Koganei, Tokyo, Japan.[1] The studio is best known for its anime feature films, and has also produced several short films, television commercials, and one television film. It was founded on June 15, 1985 after the success of *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind* (1984), with funding by Tokuma Shoten.

Eight of Studio Ghibli's films are among the 15 highest-grossing anime films made in Japan, with *Spirited Away* (2001) being the highest, grossing over US\$290 million worldwide. Many of their works have won the Animage Anime Grand Prix award, and four have won the Japan Academy Prize for Animation of the Year. Five of Studio Ghibli's films received Academy Award nominations in the United States. *Spirited Away* won a Golden Bear in 2002 and an Academy Award for Best Animated Feature Film in 2003.

On August 3, 2014, Studio Ghibli announced it was temporarily halting production following the retirement of director Hayao Miyazaki, who co-founded the studio with Isao Takahata.[2][3]

The name [Ghibli](#) was given by [Hayao Miyazaki](#) with reference to the [Caproni Ca.309 Ghibli](#) aircraft.^[4] The Italian noun "ghibli" is based on the Libyan-Arabic name for the [sirocco](#), a Mediterranean wind, the idea being the studio would "blow a new wind through the anime industry".^{[4][5]} Although the Italian word is pronounced with a [hard g](#), the Japanese pronunciation of the studio's name is with a [soft g](#), [\[d͡ʒɨ̞buri\]](#)

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History

Founded on June 15, 1985, the studio is headed by the directors Hayao Miyazaki and Isao Takahata and the producer Toshio Suzuki. Prior to the formation of the studio, Miyazaki and Takahata had already had long careers in Japanese film and television animation and had worked together on *Hols: Prince of the Sun* and *Panda! Go, Panda!*; and Suzuki was an editor at Tokuma Shoten's *Animage* manga magazine.

The studio was founded after the success of the 1984 film *Nausicaä of the Valley of the Wind*, written and directed by Miyazaki for Topcraft and distributed by Toei Company. The origins of the film lie in the first two volumes of a serialized manga written by Miyazaki for publication in *Animage* as a way of generating interest in an anime version.[5][6] Suzuki was part of the production team on the film and founded Studio Ghibli with Miyazaki, who also invited Takahata to join the new studio.

The studio has mainly produced films by Miyazaki, with the second most prolific director being Takahata (most notably with *Grave of the Fireflies*). Other directors who have worked with Studio Ghibli include Yoshifumi Kondo, Hiroyuki Morita, Gorō Miyazaki, and Hiromasa Yonebayashi. Composer Joe Hisaishi has provided the soundtracks for most of Miyazaki's Studio Ghibli films. In their book *Anime Classics Zettai!*, Brian Camp and Julie Davis made note of Michiyo Yasuda as "a mainstay of Studio Ghibli's extraordinary design and production team".[7] At one time the studio was based in Kichijōji, Musashino, Tokyo.[8]

In August 1996, Disney and Tokuma Shoten Publishing agreed that Disney would distribute internationally Tokuma's Studio Ghibli animated films.[9]

Many of Ghibli's films in Japan are theatrically distributed by Toho while home video releases are handled by Walt Disney Studios Home Entertainment Japan.[10] Wild Bunch holds the international sales rights to many of Ghibli's films.[11] Ghibli's main international distribution partners also include Disney (Japan Home Video, Taiwan, North America Home Video, France),[10][11] GKIDS (North America),[12] StudioCanal UK, and Madman Entertainment (Australia).

Over the years, there has been a close relationship between Studio Ghibli and the magazine Animage, which regularly runs exclusive articles on the studio and its members in a section titled "Ghibli Notes." Artwork from Ghibli's films and other works are frequently featured on the cover of the magazine. Between 1999 and 2005 Studio Ghibli was a subsidiary of Tokuma Shoten, the publisher of Animage.

In October 2001, the Ghibli Museum opened in Mitaka, Tokyo.[13] It contains exhibits based on Studio Ghibli films and shows animations, including a number of short Studio Ghibli films not available elsewhere.

The studio is also known for its strict "no-edits" policy in licensing their films abroad due to *Nausicaä of the Valley of Wind* being heavily edited for the film's release in the United States as *Warriors of the Wind*. The "no cuts" policy was highlighted when Miramax co-chairman Harvey Weinstein suggested editing *Princess Mononoke* to make it more marketable. A Studio Ghibli producer is rumoured to have sent an authentic Japanese sword with a simple message: "No cuts".[14]

On February 1, 2008, Toshio Suzuki stepped down from the position of Studio Ghibli president, which he had held since 2005, and Koji Hoshino (former president of Walt Disney Japan) took over. Suzuki said he wanted to improve films with his own hands as a producer, rather than demanding this from his employees. Suzuki decided to hand over the presidency to Hoshino because Hoshino has helped Studio Ghibli to sell its videos since 1996, also helping to release the *Princess Mononoke* film in the United States.[15] Suzuki still serves on the company's board of directors.

Two Studio Ghibli short films created for the Ghibli Museum were shown at the Carnegie Hall Citywise Japan NYC Festival: "House Hunting" and "Mon Mon the Water Spider" were screened on March 26, 2011.[16]

Takahata developed a project for release after Gorō Miyazaki's (director of *Tales from Earthsea* and Hayao's son) *From Up on Poppy Hill* – an adaptation of *The Tale of the Bamboo Cutter*. The last film Hayao Miyazaki directed before retiring from feature films was *The Wind Rises* which is about the Mitsubishi A6M Zero and its founder.[17]

On Sunday, September 1, 2013, Hayao Miyazaki held a press conference in Venice to confirm his retirement, saying: "I know I've said I would retire many times in the past. Many of you must think, 'Once again.' But this time I am quite serious." [18]

On January 31, 2014, it was announced that Gorō Miyazaki will direct his first anime TV series, *Sanzoku no Musume Rōnya*, an adaptation of Astrid Lindgren's *Ronia the Robber's Daughter* for NHK. The series is computer-animated, produced by Polygon Pictures, and co-produced by Studio Ghibli.[19][20]

In March 2014, Toshio Suzuki retired as a producer and assumed a new position of general manager. Yoshiaki Nishimura replaced Suzuki in the producer role.[21]

On August 3, 2014, Toshio Suzuki announced that Studio Ghibli would take a "brief pause" to re-evaluate and restructure in the wake of Miyazaki's retirement. He stated some concerns about where the company would go in the future.[22] This has led to speculation that Studio Ghibli will never produce another feature film again. On November 7, 2014, Miyazaki stated, "That was not my intention, though. All I did was announce that I would be retiring and not making any more features." [23]

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Films and Awards

Significant achievements

- The highest-grossing film of 1989 in Japan: [Kiki's Delivery Service](#)
- The highest-grossing film of 1991 in Japan: [Only Yesterday](#)
- The highest-grossing film of 1992 in Japan: [Porco Rosso](#)
- The highest-grossing film of 1994 in Japan: [Pom Poko](#)
- The highest-grossing film of 2013 in Japan: [The Wind Rises](#)^[24]
- The first Studio Ghibli film to use computer graphics: [Pom Poko](#)
- The first Japanese film in Dolby Digital: [Whisper of the Heart](#)
- The first Miyazaki feature to use computer graphics, and the first Studio Ghibli film to use digital coloring; the first animated feature in Japan's history to gross more than 10 billion yen at the box office and the first animated film ever to win a [National Academy Award](#) for [Best Picture of the Year](#): [Princess Mononoke](#)
- The first Studio Ghibli film to be shot using a 100% digital process: [My Neighbors the Yamadas](#)
- The first Miyazaki feature to be shot using a 100% digital process; the first film to gross \$200 million worldwide before opening in North America; the film to finally overtake [Titanic](#) at the Japanese box office, becoming the top grossing film in the history of Japanese cinema; the only anime, non-English-speaking and traditionally animated winner, so far, of an Academy award for Best Animated Feature: [Spirited Away](#)

Feature films							
#	Film	Release date	Director	Screenwriter(s)	Producer(s)	Music	RT
1	Castle in the Sky	August 2, 1986		Hayao Miyazaki	Isao Takahata	Joe Hisaishi	95% ^[25]
2	Grave of the Fireflies	April 16, 1988		Isao Takahata	Toru Hara	Michio Mamiya	97% ^[26]
3	My Neighbor Totoro						93% ^[27]
4	Kiki's Delivery Service	July 29, 1989		Hayao Miyazaki	Hayao Miyazaki	Joe Hisaishi	96% ^[28]
5	Only Yesterday	July 20, 1991		Isao Takahata		Katz Hoshi	100% ^[29]
6	Porco Rosso	July 18, 1992		Hayao Miyazaki		Joe Hisaishi	94% ^[30]
7	Pom Poko	July 16, 1994		Isao Takahata		Shang Shang Typhoon	78% ^[31]
8	Whisper of the Heart	July 15, 1995	Yoshifumi Kondō	Hayao Miyazaki	Toshio Suzuki	Yuji Nomi	91% ^[32]
9	Princess Mononoke	July 12, 1997		Hayao Miyazaki		Joe Hisaishi	92% ^[33]
10	My Neighbors the Yamadas	July 17, 1999		Isao Takahata		Akiko Yano	75% ^[34]
11	Spirited Away	July 20, 2001		Hayao Miyazaki		Joe Hisaishi	97% ^[35]
12	The Cat Returns	July 20, 2002	Hiroyuki Morita	Reiko Yoshida	Nozomu Takahashi & Toshio Suzuki	Yuji Nomi	89% ^[36]
13	Howl's Moving Castle	November 20, 2004		Hayao Miyazaki		Joe Hisaishi	87% ^[37]
14	Tales from Earthsea	July 29, 2006	Gorō Miyazaki	Gorō Miyazaki & Keiko Niwa		Tamiya Terashima	41% ^[38]
15	Ponyo	July 19, 2008		Hayao Miyazaki	Toshio Suzuki	Joe Hisaishi	92% ^[39]
16	Arrietty	July 17, 2010	Hiromasa Yonebayashi	Hayao Miyazaki & Keiko Niwa		Cécile Corbel	95% ^[40]
17	From Up on Poppy Hill	July 16, 2011	Gorō Miyazaki			Satoshi Takebe	83% ^[41]
18	The Wind Rises ^[42]	July 20, 2013		Hayao Miyazaki			89% ^[43]
19	The Tale of the Princess Kaguya ^[42]	November 23, 2013	Isao Takahata	Isao Takahata & Riko Sakaguchi	Yoshiaki Nishimura & Seiichiro Ujie	Joe Hisaishi	100% ^[44]
20	When Marnie Was There ^[45]	July 19, 2014	Hiromasa Yonebayashi	Hiromasa Yonebayashi, Keiko Niwa & Masashi Ando	Yoshiaki Nishimura & Toshio Suzuki	Takatsugu Muramatsu	92% ^[46]

Year ↕	Film	Director	Producer	Purpose
1995	On Your Mark	Hayao Miyazaki		A promotional music video for Chage & Aska
2000	Ghiblies	Yoshiyuki Momose	Hiroyuki Watanabe	TV short film
2001	Kujiratori (The Whale Hunt)	Hayao Miyazaki		Ghibli Museum
2001 - 2009	Film Guru Guru - Kūsō no Kikaitachi no Naka no Hakai no Hatsume! (2002) - The Theory of Evolution (2009)		Hiromasa Yonebayashi	
2002	Ghiblies Episode 2			
2002	Koro's Big Day Out	Hayao Miyazaki		Ghibli Museum
2002	Imaginary Flying Machines		Toshio Suzuki	
2002	Mei And The Kittenbus			
2004	Portable Airport	Yoshiyuki Momose		A music video created by Studio Kajino for Capsule
2004	Space Station No. 9			
2005	Doredore no Uta	Osamu Tanabe		A promotional music video for Meiko Haigou
2005	A Flying City Plan (Soratobu Toshikeikaku)	Yoshiyuki Momose		A music video created by Studio Kajino for Capsule
2005	Looking For A Home	Hayao Miyazaki		Ghibli Museum
2006	The Day I Raised/Harvested a Planet			
2006	Water Spider Monmon			
2006	The Night of Taneyamahara	Kazuo Oga		A DVD version was released for Japan on July 7, 2006
2007	Iblard Jikan	Naohisa Inoue		Released in Japan on DVD and Blu-ray disc on July 4, 2007, as part of the Ghibli ga Ippai Collection
2009	Piece	Yoshiyuki Momose		A promotional music video for Yui Aragaki
2010	Chu Zumo			Ghibli Museum
2010	Mr. Dough and the Egg Princess	Hayao Miyazaki		
2011	The Treasure Hunt			
2012	Giant God Warrior Appears In Tokyo			Shown at Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo