

KAKEHASHI Project: Japan-U.S. Young Creators Exchange Five emerging U.S. animation creators show their works at Tokyo Anime Award Festival 2015!

The press release dated March 4, 2015 contained some incorrect information. Please refer to this press release for information. We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience that caused you in this connection.

The Japan Foundation carries out the Japan-U.S. Young Creators Exchange Program to cover major areas of *Cool Japan*. As the final group of its invitation program, it invites five young creators from the U.S.. They are highly acclaimed worldwide by character design for the 2015 Oscar winner *Big Hero 6*, creating an Oscar nominee *The Dam Keeper*, and other internationally renowned works.

They will visit Japan and attend the Tokyo Anime Award Festival (TAAF) 2015, where their works are screened as well as talk sessions are organized. They will also interact, exchange opinions and build a network with top creators and producers of Japan and other countries, to gain hints for their future works.

For information or interview request, please contact us as shown below.

Japan-U.S. Young Creators Exchange Invitation program Group 4
<Duration of Stay> Wednesday, March 18 – Wednesday, March 25
<Destinations> Tokyo, Kyoto
<Main Activities> Participating in TAAF 2015(<http://animefestival.jp/en/>)
***Screening of their works and talk sessions**
Interaction with top creators and producers of Japan and other countries
<Participants> Chosen by recommendation of Justin Leach (8-Bit Pictures) and Daisuke Tsutsumi



Erick Oh

Oh is one of the animators for an Oscar winner *Brave* (2012) and other major films created by Pixar Animation Studios. *The Dam Keeper*, which he worked as a supervising animator, was nominated for the Academy Awards 2015.



Pendleton Ward

The animated series *Adventure Time*, which Ward wrote, created and directed, became No.1 program by audience rating in the U.S. and a big hit worldwide.



Timothy Reckart

Reckart's debut animated short film *Head Over Heels* was nominated for an Oscar. The film has been screened at film festivals all over the world and won more than 30 awards.



Minkyu Lee

Lee has worked with Walt Disney Animation and Pixar. He designed characters of *Frozen*. *Adam and Dog*, which he directed, won a 2012 Annie Award.



Natasha Allegri

Allegri created a series of short movies *Bee and Puppycat* and obtained \$872,133 through crowdfunding Kickstarter campaign. It is the highest amount of money for a YouTube animation movie.

* The KAKEHASHI Project – The Bridge for Tomorrow is operated as a part of the Youth Exchange Program with North America promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MOFA). <http://www.jpf.go.jp/j/intel/youth/index.html>

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