



FESTIVAL DE CANNES  
LA RÉSIDENCE

## In Search of Tsuyama

A film by Flóra Anna Buda

### Technical Information

**Title:** In Search of Tsuyama  
**Working Title:** In Search of Tsuyama  
**Screenplay:** Flóra Anna Buda  
**Nationality:** Hungarian  
**Genre:** Surrealist Mystery Drama  
**Length:** 90 min.  
**Shooting Location:** Paris, Tokyo

### Director's Information

Flóra Anna Buda was born and raised in Budapest. After studying fashion, her love for drawing and storytelling led her to study animation at Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design (MOME), from which she graduated at the age of 27. Her graduation film, *Entopia*, premiered at the 69<sup>th</sup> Berlinale and received the 33<sup>rd</sup> Teddy Award.

Right after graduating, she became an intern at MIYU Productions, where she later made her first professional film in co-production with Boddah. This short film, entitled *27*, premiered at the Festival de Cannes and won the Palme d'or, and then the Cristal Award at the Annecy Festival in 2023.

### Flóra Anna Buda

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### Festival de Cannes, La Résidence

Since 2000, La Résidence du Festival de Cannes has provided each year accommodation and support to 12 selected young directors in order to help them prepare their first or second feature film. These young filmmakers are selected on the basis of their short films, or even first feature film, and the merits of their feature film project.

During their 4-and-a-half-month stay in Paris, they work on the writing of their feature film project, have meetings with professionals and try, with the support of the Festival de Cannes, to bring their project to co-production status.

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Photos: © Paul Mas

## Synopsis

Alice (30) is feeling sad. It's been five years since her brother voluntarily disappeared in Tokyo. Living in a tiny Paris flat and working temporary gigs as a boom operator, she's been unable to move forward with her life. One day, she buys a second-hand leather jacket and finds a mysterious note inside: "This is my sister's keepsake. Memories of times and prayers. Please wear it. – Tsuyama." Convinced it's linked to her brother, she reaches out to an investigative Japanese TV-show and with their help she travels to Tokyo for answers. When she arrives she meets Chiaki, the dedicated tv reporter who is joining her to uncover the truth. As they dig deeper Alice finds more clues that help her understand the relationship with her brother but also begin to blur the line between past and present.

## Statement of Intent

After discovering Tsuyama's note, I couldn't understand why it moved me so much. I happened to find answers in the process of grieving the connections I have lost as a young adult. I want to investigate this journey that begins in depression, moves through grief, and ultimately arrives in the present. Alice needs to learn to recognize fleeting moments of joy and focus on what remains rather than what was lost. To capture the atmosphere, I want to play with the complex narrative structure I used in my last short film 27 and use it as a reference to create the film's visual universe while changing its medium to live action. I will accompany the picture using music composed of the sounds of Paris and Tokyo, with a touch of experimental trumpet, to embody how grief can feel in a big city.

## Synopsis

Alice, 30 ans, est triste. Cela fait cinq ans que son frère a disparu volontairement à Tokyo. Dans un studio parisien, enchaînant des petits boulots d'ingénieure du son, elle stagne. Mais un jour, dans une veste en cuir achetée d'occasion, elle découvre une note mystérieuse: « Ceci est un souvenir de ma sœur. Des souvenirs et des prières. S'il te plaît, porte-la. – Tsuyama. » Convaincue que cela est lié à son frère, elle contacte une émission de télévision japonaise d'investigation et se rend à Tokyo pour obtenir des réponses. À son arrivée, elle rencontre Chiaki, une journaliste dévouée qui l'accompagne à la recherche de la vérité. En fouillant dans les profondeurs, Alice trouve de nouveaux indices qui l'aident à comprendre sa relation avec son frère, mais la frontière entre le passé et le présent se brouille.

## Note d'intention

Après avoir découvert la note de Tsuyama, je n'ai pas compris immédiatement pourquoi elle m'avait tant émue. C'est en faisant le deuil de certains liens perdus au début de ma vie de jeune adulte que j'ai commencé à trouver des réponses. Je souhaite retracer ce voyage qui commence par la dépression pour aboutir dans le présent. Alice doit apprendre à vivre les moments de joie fugaces et à se concentrer sur ce qui reste plutôt que sur ce qui a été perdu. Pour capter l'atmosphère, je veux jouer avec la structure narrative complexe que j'ai utilisée dans mon dernier court métrage 27 et créer un univers visuel fort en prise de vue réelle. J'accompagnerai l'image d'une musique composée de sons de Paris et de Tokyo, teintée d'une touche de trompette expérimentale, afin d'incarner ce que l'on peut ressentir face au deuil dans une grande ville.