



**WORLD PREMIERE: DocLisboa: International Competition (Lisbon, Portugal - 2016)**  
**US PREMIERE: DOC NYC (New York, NY - 2016)**

**\*\*NOMINATED for the 2017 EUROPEAN DOC ALLIANCE AWARD**

*In this affectionate portrait, filmmaker Kimi Takesue turns the camera on her resilient Japanese-American grandfather, a retired postal worker who has lived in Honolulu for nearly a century. A recent widower in his 90's, Grandpa Tom seems content to go about his daily routines until he shows surprising interest in Kimi's stalled fictional screenplay and offers advice that is as shrewd as it is surprising. In alternately funny and poignant discussions, Kimi's fictional love story—and Tom's creative revisions soon serve as a vehicle for his past memories of love and loss to surface.*

Kimi Takesue (Director / Producer) [kimitakesue@gmail.com](mailto:kimitakesue@gmail.com)



## **SYNOPSIS**

*In 95 AND 6 TO GO, a resilient widower's memories become intertwined with the fictional screenplay his granddaughter is writing, revealing the fine line between life and art, rumination and imagination.*

*Filmmaker Kimi Takesue captures the cadence of daily life for Grandpa Tom, a retired postal worker born to Japanese immigrants to Hawai'i in the 1910's. Amidst the solitude of his home routines - coupon clipping, rigging an improvised barbecue, lighting firecrackers on the New Year - we glimpse an unexpectedly rich inner life. As his granddaughter queries his history of love and loss, a stalled film project becomes a collaborative inquiry into mortality and how one constructs a personal narrative with memories that span almost a century.*

*Shot over six years in Honolulu, this intimate meditation on absence and family expands the vernacular of the "home movie" to consider how history is accumulated in the everyday and how sparks of humor and creativity can animate an ordinary life.*



**DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT:** While growing up in Hawai'i, I never knew my Japanese American grandfather, Tom Takesue, harbored creative interests. I never saw him read a novel or talk about art. For me, he existed on the fringes; he was a pragmatic, hard-working, authoritarian grandfather who consistently reinforced the importance of family obligation and a steady job.

Unlike my grandfather who had limited educational and career opportunities, I was able to attend graduate school and pursue artistic ambitions. When I was at the peak of development on my first feature film project, a cross-cultural love story, I was shocked when my grandfather became intrigued with the screenplay. While slurping noodles or munching on toast, he offered suggestions about a catchy title and happy ending.

In 2007, after the death of my grandmother, I returned to Hawai'i to provide support and assistance. My grandfather was far from sentimental about her death, already keen to find a new companion. My optimism surrounding my feature film project had faded as I waited for the producers to secure financing. My grandfather expressed his fear of dying alone.

We were both in periods of transition and emotional loss. During this time, we finally came to know one another; I offered him company and he offered advice on my film project. His frank critiques reflected his concerns about love, aging, and the recent death of his wife. He also shared personal stories of a life filled with loss and regret, in stark contrast to his romantic and idealized suggestions for my screenplay. Although his imagination was animated by the screenplay he displayed increasing skepticism about my project coming to fruition, warning me to move on with my life: "If you wait for this film, you will wait forever."

Life and artistic paths are typically filled with digressions and setbacks but sometimes lead to unanticipated discoveries. *95 AND 6 TO GO* explores personal and creative loss and how loss is countered with perseverance. It is a film about unrealized ambitions and the ways we respond to disappointments. The film also tracks how my grandfather moves from resistance to involvement and even encouragement to make a film about him. *95 AND 6 TO GO* is a film about an unlikely artistic collaboration between a granddaughter and grandfather and how an inter-generational bond is forged through art.

**CULTURAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT:**

95 AND 6 TO GO contributes to documentary filmmaking by presenting the life and experiences of a man who is part of a distinct, but under-represented, generation of Japanese Americans in Hawai'i. It is meaningful to have complex Asian American experiences represented on screen. To this day, we have very few non-stereotypical depictions of our families and personal relationships.

Most previously produced documentaries of Japanese Americans have concentrated on important historical events in relation to World War II, highlighting the outrage of the internment and the heroic service of Japanese Americans in the 442nd Division. What has gone undocumented is an immersion in the everyday lives of a generation of Japanese American citizens who came of age during the Great Depression, survived the war years, worked diligently, raised families, and served as an economic and moral backbone to life in Hawai'i.

95 AND 6 TO GO is an intimate portrait of an elderly Japanese American man who has lived for more than 90 years in Honolulu. Tom Takesue's interactions with his granddaughter offer an opportunity to observe the complexity of a common man and provoke us to consider universal issues around family, aging, memory, creativity and loss. This film will elicit lively discussions around many topics, including Japanese American identity in Hawai'i, the cultural specificity of values, the ethics of personal documentary filmmaking, the challenges of aging, and the possibility of inter-generational connections.

## CREATIVE TEAM

### **KIMI TAKESUE (Director, Producer, Cinematographer & Editor)**

Kimi Takesue is an award-winning filmmaker and the recipient of the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in Film. Other honors include a Rockefeller Media Arts Fellowship, two artist fellowships from NYFA, a Kodak Cinematography Fellowship, a CAAM Fellowship (Center for Asian American Media), and grants from the ITVS, Ford Foundation, Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, NYSCA, The Arts Council of England and artist fellowships at Yaddo and the MacDowell Colony.

Takesue's critically acclaimed Ugandan feature-length documentary WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME? was commissioned by the International Film Festival Rotterdam and premiered at the festival, followed by screenings at the Museum of Modern Art (NYC), the LA Film Festival, and festivals in Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Uganda, Poland, Portugal and India, among others. WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME? was theatrically released by Icarus Films, was a Critics' Pick by *Time Out*-New York and *LA Weekly* and was described by *Variety* as, "Beautifully meditative...an uplifting observational documentary that plays on seeing and being seen."

Takesue's films have screened at more than two hundred film festivals and museums internationally including Sundance, New Directors/ New Films (MoMA & Lincoln Center), Locarno, Rotterdam, SXSW, Mar del Plata, London's ICA, Shanghai Museum of Contemporary Art, the Walker Art Center, and the Museum of Modern Art (NYC) and have aired on PBS, IFC, Comcast, and the Sundance Channel.

Film honors include BEST SHORT DOCUMENTARY, Philadelphia Festival of World Cinema; SPIRIT OF SLAMDANCE AWARD, Slamdance Film Festival; ITVS Futurestates AUDIENCE AWARD; GRAND JURY PRIZE, Brooklyn International Film Festival; GOLD MEDAL & GRAND JURY PRIZE, Brno International Film Festival, Czech Republic; JURORS' CHOICE AWARD (1st place), Black Maria Film and Video Festival; BEST NARRATIVE SHORT, San Diego Asian Film Festival; and the GOLDEN REEL: NEW VISIONS AWARD, Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival.

Takesue's films are distributed by Women Make Movies and Icarus Films. She is Associate Professor in the Department of Arts, Culture, and Media at Rutgers University-Newark.

### **CHIEMI KARASAWA (Producer)**

Award-winning producer Chiemi Karasawa founded Isotope Films in 2007 to develop and produce content based on non-fiction sources. Her producing credits include ELAINE STRITCH: SHOOT ME; HARRY DEAN STANTON: PARTLY FICTION; LOVE ETC.; ELEVATE; BILLY THE KID and the Academy Award nominated epic, THE BETRAYAL. Her films have premiered at prestigious films festivals including the Sundance Film Festival, Berlin Film Festival, Venice Film Festival,

Toronto Film Festival, SXSW, and the Tribeca Film Festival; and have been distributed domestically and internationally in theaters, on HBO, POV, OWN, NetFlix, Hulu, and iTunes. She began her career as a Script Supervisor in feature film and television production alongside such notable directors as Spike Jonze, Jim Jarmusch, Larry Clark, Sam Mendes, Stephen Frears and Martin Scorsese.

**RICHARD BEENEN (Co-Producer)**

Richard Beenen is a visual artist / photographer / producer whose fine art and video art have been exhibited at MoMA, Museo D'Arte Contemporanea Roma, White Columns (NYC), Los Angeles Museum of Art, Viper-Basel, Courtisane Festival, and the Brooklyn Museum of Art. Richard has co-produced numerous award-winning documentaries and short fiction films that have screened at film festivals and museums internationally including Sundance, Rotterdam, SXSW, Los Angeles Film Festival, Locarno, and MoMA (NYC).

# 95 AND 6 TO GO

A film by Kimi Takesue

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**Title:** 95 AND 6 TO GO  
**Director / Producer:** Kimi Takesue  
**Producer:** Chiemi Karasawa  
**Co-Producer:** Richard Beenen  
**Cinematographer:** Kimi Takesue  
**Editor:** Kimi Takesue  
**Colorist:** Gabriele Turchi  
**Re-recording Sound Mixer:** Tom Efinger  
**Sound Editor:** Jeff Seeyle  
**Additional Music:** Paul Brill  
**Key Art / Design:** Eddie Chu  
**Production Coordinator:** Meera Aiyagari  
**Post & Publicity Assistants:** Minna Son & Sophie Luo

**Production Company:** Kimikat Productions  
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Brooklyn, NY 11205 USA  
Tel: 646-327-7323

**Contact Email:** [kimitakesue@gmail.com](mailto:kimitakesue@gmail.com)

**Website:** [www.95and6togo.com](http://www.95and6togo.com)

**Trailer:** <http://www.95and6togo.com/trailer/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/95and6togo/>

**Production:** USA

**Screening Format:** DCP, Blu-ray, Apple Pro-res

**Length:** 85 minutes

**Release Date:** October 22, 2016

**World Premiere:** **-Doclisboa-** *International Competition*, Lisbon, Portugal

**US Premiere:** **-DOC NYC,** New York, NY

**Festival Screenings:** **-RIDM:Montreal Internat'I Documentary FF,** Canada  
**-Hawai'i International Film Festival-** *Documentary Competition*

**Upcoming Screenings:**

**-CPH:DOX-** *Doc Alliance Competition,*  
Copenhagen Denmark

**-BAFICI-Buenos Aires Internat'I Fest. of Independent Cinema-** *International Competition, Argentina*

**-CAAM Fest** *-Documentary Competition, San Francisco*

**-Krakow International Film Festival-** *International Competition, Poland*

**-Los Angeles Asian Pacific Internat'I Film Fest.**  
Los Angeles, CA

**-International House,** Philadelphia

**-Nippon Connections,** Frankfurt, Germany

**-Massachusetts Multicultural Film Festival,** Amherst

**Funding & Support:**

The John Simon Guggenheim Foundation  
The MacDowell Colony  
Rutgers University-Newark  
Women Make Movies-Production Assistance Program  
The Corporation of Yaddo