



**Critical Acclaim For  
'THE BIRTH OF SAKÉ'**

By Erik Shirai

"Erik Shirai's 'The Birth of Sake' is an engrossing introduction to the traditional cultivation of the rice-based alcohol that is part of Japan's cultural heritage. . . . his shots of sky, sea and early morning landscapes could fit amid Hokusai woodcuts."

—**Daniel M. Gold, *The New York Times***

"A richly immersive documentary . . . achieves a remarkable level of intimacy without ever sacrificing its reserve or restraint."

—**Justin Chang, *Variety***

"A lushly shot look at an endangered tradition."

—**John DeFore, *The Hollywood Reporter***

"Engrossing."

—**Jason Newman, *Rolling Stone***

"Gorgeous portrait of life inside the close-knit Tedorigawa brewery quickly casts its spell."

—**Eric Kohn, *Indiewire***

"A contemplative portrait. . . . Both atmospheric and informative, Shirai's film looks for the small changes that define a vocation rooted in tradition."

—**Joshua Rothkopf, *Time Out New York***

"A must-see delectable delight."

—**Stephen Ashton, *The Desert Sun***

"Turns the act of working into a glorious ballet of image and sound."

—**Steve Kopian, *Unseen Films***

"Entrancing."

—**Zachary Shevich, *Way Too Indie***

"Captures both the beauty and the melancholy of the saké brewing process."

—**Hubert Vigilla, *Flixist***

"WARNING: if you love the very special beverage called saké, your mouth will be watering throughout this doc's mesmerizing 94-minute running time."

—**David Noh, *Film Journal International***

"[The] film, with its subtle, meditative pace and delicate style, may be a surprise, but it successfully hits on two moments in the cultural zeitgeist: documentary visuals are becoming increasingly cinematic, and global audiences care more about where their food comes from."

—Liz Nord, No Film School