

Mark
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THE BEST FILMS OF THE DECADE:

your name.

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Makoto Shinkai raised more than a few eyebrows with his visually sumptuous, but regrettably sparse, *Garden of Words* (2013). Heedless of its episodic and immature quality, *Garden of Words* permitted plenty to admire and verified an ample stepping stone for where the talented young animation director might take us next.

Fast forward three years, and Mr. Makoto made good on his promise with *Your Name*.

I've always loved animation: it is a medium of film that I find fascinating and am perpetually frustrated by how often it is dismissed or not taken as seriously as live action films.

My first real foray into Japanese Animation (or *anime* for short), was in the summer of 1992 when I first watched Katsuhiro Otomo's groundbreaking feature *Akira* (1988). This would ineluctably introduce me to the works of Mamoru Oshii—of whose *Ghost In The Shell* (1995) film adaption sparked a similar blaze and even enjoyed a limited release in select American cinemas--and of course the great Hayao Miyazaki.

My cognition and investment in the genre is palpable, but I by no means speak as a convert when I give *Your Name*. my highest level of recommendation.

The star-crossed characters that inhabit this remarkable film transcend cultural barriers and yet, at its core, *Your Name*. is still a very Japanese film. There are traditional and contemporary fundamentals to Japanese lifestyle elegantly displayed on screen, and it's done with a sincere and delicate beauty that never cease to enchant. Shinkai effortlessly integrates these facets into his story weaving a heartfelt tapestry of yearning, dreams, and love.

Your Name. is an astounding and lovingly told fantasy that will triumph over any cynic.

It is a beautiful film.

See it with someone you love.



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YOUR NAME.
(2016)

D: Makoto Shinkai

C: Masami Negasawa,
Mone Kamishiraishi,
Ryunosuke Kamiki,
Nobunaga Shimazaki, Kaito
Ishikawa, Kanon Tani,
Masaki Terasoma, Etsuko
Ichihara, Ryo Narita, Aoi
Yuki, Sayaka Ohara, Kana
Hanazawa.

PG