LITTLE MISS SUMO
A FILM BY MATT KAY
Female sumo wrestling champion Hiyori confronts obstacles both inside and outside the ring in an attempt to change Japan's national sport forever.
“BE NOT AFRAID OF GOING SLOWLY.
BE AFRAID OF STANDING STILL.”

JAPANESE PROVERB
Banned from competing professionally Hiyori will have to retire at the age of 21. Simultaneously juggling newfound revelations whilst preparing for the biggest tournament of her life, Hiyori is forced to question the reason women are banned from professional wrestling and why most are forced out of amateur wrestling before their peak.

She has the drive and ambition, but is that going to be enough to succeed in a country and sport that is overwhelmingly led by tradition and protocol?
"THE NAIL THAT STANDS UP GETS HAMMERED DOWN."

JAPANESE PROVERB
**Title**: Little Miss Sumo

**Year of Production**: 2018

**Duration**: 18 mins

**Country of Production**: United Kingdom

**Genre**: Documentary

**Shooting Format**: Digital 4.5K Widescreen

**Finish Format**: 4K DCP & 2K DCP

**Aspect Ratio**: 2.35:1 Cinemascope

**Sound Format**: 5:1 surround and stereo

**Language**: Japanese, English

**Subtitles**: English, Japanese

**Production Credits**

- **Shot and Directed by**: Matt Kay
- **Produced by**: Andrew Carver, Didi Mae Hand & Matt Kay
- **Executive Produced by**: Chi Thai, Elliot V. Kotek & Karina Michel Feld
- **Edited by**: Rebecca Gin and Isabel Freeman
- **Original Score by**: Kwes
- **Sound Design by**: Morgan Muse & Dan Weinberg

**Starring**: Hiyori Kon
director’s statement

Growing up in a feminist and lesbian household I always questioned conventions. My upbringing presented me with the outlook that going against the grain is something to be valued. Every female wrestler I met embodies this perspective. The wrestlers’ approach in their journey to justice is very organic; they are driven by their passion for sumo.

The image of a male sumo wrestler is iconic yet most people wouldn’t be able to picture a female wrestler or know of her existence. The documentary focuses on the two faces of today’s Japan – a society where modernity and tradition are in charged conflict. Sumo has been around for thousands of years but now is as exciting a time as ever. I am hoping our film can act as a springboard for discussion around the wider subject and perhaps even contribute to positive change.

Matt Kay is a British documentary filmmaker. He co-founded Walks Of Life Films in 2011 concentrating on producing socially conscious, character led documentaries. In the past eight years he’s directed and shot a variety of projects for worldwide festivals, broadcast and online platforms. This has taken him to many different countries, whether it be in Egypt during the Arab Spring or a Brazilian favela during the World Cup.

His first film was distributed by Espresso TV, broadcast in the Middle East and acquired by VOD platforms. He has since been awarded grant funding from the BFI, European Cultural Foundation, Film London and Tribeca Film Institute, broadcast on BBC, Channel 4 and Sky Arts and has won several film festival awards.

Chi has been a Cannes Lions finalist three times over for her work in commercials. She is producing feature documentaries with Academy winning filmmakers Alex Gibney and James Gay-Rees; and produced short films that have competed at BAFTA and Academy accredited festivals.

With over 18 years of experience in TV and Film, Karina is a respected member of the Producers Guild of America. Past credits include "The Us Festival 1982: The US Generation Documentary" exec. produced by Steve Wozniak and "Enough" (2017) which featured in The Lady Filmmaker's Festival and The California Women's Festival.
Over the last 9 years Andrew has worked producing documentary and commercial projects in over 14 countries throughout the world for a variety of clients including Amnesty, Greenpeace, DFID and Virgin. His work has been featured on BBC, ITV, Sky News, CNBC and widely online clocking up millions of views.

With a background in new, exciting prime time programs Didi has produced for the likes of Channel 4, BBC Worldwide, National Geographic Channel and Vice. She has spent much of her career seeking out quirky, empowering and unexpected stories, working to tell these in the most engaging and beautiful way.

Kwes is a record producer, mixer, songwriter, musician and recording artist from London. He has worked with a variety of artists including Bobby Womack, Damon Albarn, Loyle Carner, Micachu and Solange. Kwes is signed to Warp Records as a solo artist and recently released his second album Songs for Midi in 2018.
“THE BAMBOO THAT BENDS IS STRONGER THAN THE OAK THAT RESISTS.”

JAPANESE PROVERB