

Japan celebrates Godzilla's monster win at Oscars



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This year's academy awards turned out to be a big night for Japanese movies. Studio Ghibli's latest, *The Boy and the Heron*, took home the Oscar for best animated feature, but one of the surprise wins went to another Japanese legend.

Godzilla Minus One took home the prize for Best Visual Effects. Director Yamazaki Takashi and his team accepted the Oscar in Los Angeles.

This award is proof that everyone has a chance. We did it. Thank you so much.

It's the 30th Japanese film starring the big guy. This time Godzilla unleashes chaos in post war Japan. The team used visual effects to bring the fight between man and monster to life. It became the highest grossing Japanese live action film ever in the United States. After the awards, tourists celebrated by taking pictures with Godzilla's star on the Hollywood walk of fame.

Congratulations. They won the Oscar yesterday, so congratulations to Japan.

It was really good in my opinion. I love good detail. Really good visual effects and everything.

This monster toy shop in Los Angeles said many came out to bask in the wind.

A lot of fans stopped by saying how great it was that Godzilla won the award. Everyone was really happy.

It beat out other nominees including *Mission Impossible* and a recent Marvel blockbuster despite having just a fraction of their budget. This V-effects expert says it's because the team nailed even the smallest details.

I'm impressed by the way they handled water scenes showing Godzilla emerging from the water or swimming in the water or fighting against ships.

He says it takes a lot of work to make every splash of water look just right. If a sequence doesn't look realistic, it has to be redone. He says the team likely had to do an enormous amount of calculations over and over again. But, the v-effects team aren't the only ones celebrating the win. Many of films extras were residents of Okaya in Nagano prefecture. Parts of the movie were shot in town. And the former city hall even has a starring role. It was chosen because it still embodies the feeling of Japan's postwar era.

I hope this will encourage people from overseas to come visit Okaya city, the surrounding areas, and Nagano prefecture.

The movie's director also has high hopes. After his acceptance speech, Yamazaki said he wants to see change in Japan's film industry.

If we keep performing well abroad, I think the Japanese film environment will change for the better. We need to change.

Source: (NHK World News)

Now discuss the questions with a partner.

1. Have you seen either The Boy and the Heron or Godzilla Minus One? What was your opinion? If not, would you like to see them? Why or why not?
2. Do you agree that the Japanese film environment will change for the better if Japanese films continue to perform well abroad?
3. Are there any other Japanese movies you think are deserving of an Oscar?
4. What differences can you notice between Japanese films and Western films?
5. What do you think are some of the most famous Japanese films worldwide?