

A FILM BY KASHYAP KULKARNI

DOCUMENTARY · 90 MIN

Beneath the Sky of August

An atomic bomb survivor and a child peace guide meet at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park. One carries lived memory. The other is choosing to carry it forward.

Kunihiko Iida was three years old when the bomb detonated nine hundred meters from where he stood. Buried under debris, he tried to call for his mother. No sound came. Within weeks, his mother and sister were dead. His father had already been killed in the war. He was orphaned before he could form a memory of their faces.

For sixty years, he said nothing. Like many hibakusha, he lived inside a silence shaped by censorship, stigma, and the fear of being treated as contaminated. Now eighty-three, a "Former" Special Communicator for Peace, he stands almost every morning inside Peace Memorial Park and tells strangers what he witnessed. He delivers testimony in Japanese and in steadily practiced English, which he continues to study so his message can travel beyond Japan.

Some visitors lean in, ask questions, stay. Others pose for photos and move on. Around them, Hiroshima's warning has settled into the smooth routine of memorial tourism, absorbed by the reassuring belief that the lesson has been learned. He keeps speaking. The film stays with that friction.

Shun Sasaki is eleven. His great-grandmother survived the bombing, but his family buried the story in silence for decades. Shun went looking for it. At seven, he asked his mother why the Atomic Bomb Dome still stands. She answered: "Let's find out together." What he found changed him. Now he volunteers as a peace guide at the same park, carrying handmade materials and origami cranes, explaining what happened to strangers in careful English. He believes the scariest thing is that people will forget what happened here.

The film follows them separately, then brings them together, unscripted. When Shun's questions reach past rehearsed testimony into private, fragile memory, something shifts. What begins as lecture becomes conversation. In that moment, testimony stops being performance and becomes a handover.



Shun Sasaki, 11, guiding visitors at the Atomic Bomb Dome

The greatest danger is forgetting what happened here. Within a decade, no one will remain who can say, "I was there." This film follows the fragile transfer from living witness to those who must carry the responsibility forward.

TEAM

Kashyap Kulkarni, *Director*
Award-winning documentary filmmaker (MFA). Director of *Kadalin Kural*, on climate and community voice. His work explores how ordinary people carry warnings across generations. Credits include Netflix, Amazon Prime, Channel News Asia.

Akash Yadav, *Producer*
Research Fellow at Harvard University with experience in community voice, resilience, welfare, and peace. Fieldwork across 100+ disaster contexts globally, including humanitarian response in Ukraine, 2022. NYU alumnus.

STATUS

15–20% shot during January 2026 in Hiroshima. Access to all subjects and key locations secured. Supported by Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park, Hiroshima Film Commission, Hiroshima TV, and JALTAP.

Principal photography: May–Aug 2026
Post-production: Sep 2026 – Mar 2027
Festival premiere: 2027

WE ARE SEEKING

- Endorsement: a letter of support for grant applications and co-production conversations
- Networks: connections to disarmament, peace studies, and educational organizations
- Funding: direct support or co-application for principal photography