

HIROSHIMA

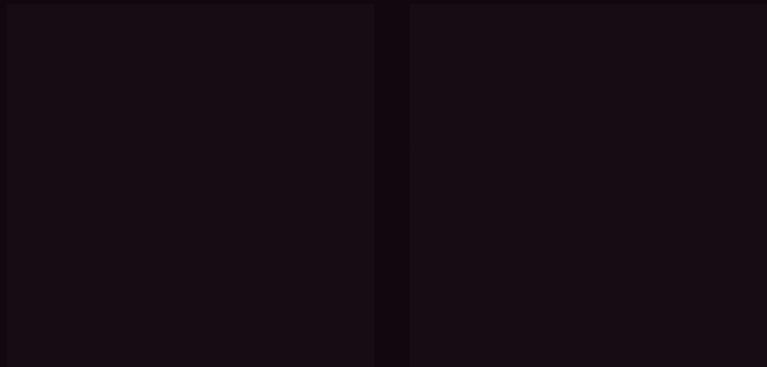
Paper Cranes and Ashes

"To remember is an act of resistance. To love is an act of survival."



OFFICIAL PITCH DECK · 2025

Feature Film · Drama / War / Romance · Based on the Novel by Joseph Holder



WRITTEN BY
Joseph Holder

ORIGINAL SCORE
The Shadow007

PRODUCTION
Paper Cranes & Ashes Productions

CONFIDENTIAL · FOR INDUSTRY USE ONLY

In Hiroshima, 1944, a Japanese general's daughter falls in love with her British poetry teacher — who is actually an American spy. When he learns that the city will be destroyed by a weapon unlike anything the world has seen, he must choose between duty and love, and she must choose between safety and the man who has seen her more clearly than anyone ever has.

— Seventy-nine years later, their son learns the whole truth.



War & Identity

An American spy embedded in wartime Japan — living a life of necessary lies.



Forbidden Love

A love that crosses every boundary: nationality, duty, safety, and war.



Memory & Survival

A story that spans 79 years — from the flash to the present day.

PERIOD DRAMA

WARTIME ROMANCE

HISTORICAL EPIC

ADAPTED FROM NOVEL

ACT ONE

The Classroom

Hiroshima, 1944. Aoi Tanaka, 24, daughter of General Tanaka, enrolls at Hiroshima University. A new English poetry teacher arrives — James Hartley, ostensibly British, actually a deeply embedded American intelligence officer. Through Keats and Wordsworth, in stolen meetings by the Motoyasu River and the back alcove of a dusty bookshop, they fall in love despite knowing it is impossible, dangerous, and absolutely real.

ACT TWO

The Crossing

As the Kempeitai close in, James confesses the truth: he is a spy. And he carries an even more terrible secret — the Americans are planning to deploy a weapon unlike anything in history, and Hiroshima is the target. Aoi's father, General Tanaka, refuses to flee. James, who could escape, chooses to return — to sit with the general, enemy to enemy, in the final hours. Aoi, carrying James's child, escapes with her family. She watches from the sea as the world she knew is erased in a single flash of light.

ACT THREE

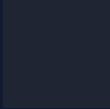
The Ashes

Present day. 87-year-old Aoi finally tells her son David — who has spent his life navigating prejudice as a mixed-heritage child — the full truth of who his father was. A spy. A teacher. A man who chose love over duty and died for it. The film weaves between 1944 Hiroshima and the present, asking: what survives? What must be carried? What can finally be released?

AOI TANAKA

24 · Present Day: 87

The general's daughter. Brilliant, perceptive, fiercely independent. She has spent her life playing by the rules she was given — until James teaches her that beauty itself is an act of defiance. Her arc spans 79 years: from university student to survivor to keeper of impossible secrets.



JAMES HARTLEY (James William Hartley)

30 · American Intelligence

A man of layers and lies who finds the one truth he cannot sustain: he loves Aoi more than his mission. His choice to return to Hiroshima when he could have fled is the moral center of the film. He teaches Keats and Wordsworth; he lives — and dies — by what they mean.



GENERAL TANAKA

52 · Imperial Army

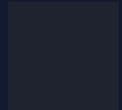
A career soldier who is also a devoted, if distant, father. He knows the truth about James far sooner than he admits. His final choice — to stay with his city and die with honor — frames the film's central question: what do we owe to principle, and what to the people we love?



DAVID TANAKA

53 · Present Day

The child of the impossible love. Half-Japanese, half-American, raised in the shadow of prejudice and loss. His journey to learn the truth of his origins is the frame story — and the film's emotional destination.



"Beauty is survival. Resistance is love. Memory is the only immortality."

— The thematic spine of HIROSHIMA: PAPER CRANES AND ASHES

LOVE ACROSS ENEMY LINES

The film refuses to reduce its characters to national symbols. Aoi and James are fully human — complex, flawed, desperate. Their love is the film's moral argument: that human connection transcends the categories war tries to impose.

THE WEIGHT OF SECRETS

James lives inside layers of false identity. Aoi carries 79 years of truth she cannot tell. General Tanaka knows more than he admits. The film asks: what do we owe the living, and what do we owe the dead?

BEAUTY AS RESISTANCE

The Keats motif runs through the entire film. In teaching poetry in a city about to be destroyed, James and Aoi assert that beauty is not a luxury — it is survival itself. The paper crane becomes the film's central symbol: fragile, deliberate, defiant.

THE LONG AFTERMATH

The film is as much about the decades after the bomb as the event itself. David's story — navigating a Japan that marks him as other while claiming him as native — is the living consequence of the love his mother refused to renounce.

VISUAL APPROACH:

Two distinct visual registers — 1944 Hiroshima: warm, golden, intimate handheld. Present day: cooler, steadicam, reflective. The bomb's flash is never shown directly. Only light. Only silence. Only the cloud, seen from the sea.

80

YEARS SINCE HIROSHIMA

August 6, 1945 — August 6, 2025 · The last surviving hibakusha are in their final years

This film must be made now — before living memory becomes only history.

Nuclear Urgency

With nuclear arsenals expanding across multiple nations and geopolitical tensions at their highest in decades, a human-scale story about what these weapons actually do to real people is not just timely — it is necessary.

The Last Hibakusha

The atomic bomb survivors are the oldest living witnesses to the nuclear age. Their stories — of impossible love, impossible loss, impossible survival — must be told now, while the emotional truth can still be transmitted through human testimony.

Identity & Belonging

David Tanaka's experience as a mixed-heritage child in postwar Japan resonates with contemporary global conversations about identity, nationalism, and the complex legacy of war. His story is not a historical curiosity — it is a present reality for millions.

Women's Hidden History

Aoi's story represents the countless women who navigated impossible circumstances with extraordinary courage and were never written into official history. This film is a corrective to the record.

HIROSHIMA: PAPER CRANES AND ASHES sits at the intersection of prestige historical epic and intimate love story.

CASABLANCA

1942 · Studio

The defining template: impossible love in wartime, duty vs. desire, sacrifice as the ultimate expression of love. Our film inherits this DNA and complicates it — Aoi chooses survival where Ilsa chose safety.

\$10.4M

Academy Award · Best Picture

ATONEMENT

2007 · Working Title / Focus

A love story destroyed by war and a single act of misreading. Lavish period production, dual timeframes, a female protagonist whose entire life is shaped by one morning's events. Tonal and structural cousin.

\$130M WW

BAFTA · Golden Globe · 7 Oscar Noms

THE ENGLISH PATIENT

1996 · Miramax

International romance complicated by war, espionage, and national identity. Dual-timeline structure, extraordinary production design, literary source material. Won 9 Academy Awards.

\$231M WW

9 Academy Awards incl. Best Picture

LETTERS FROM IWO JIMA

2006 · Warner Bros.

Clint Eastwood's humanizing portrait of Japanese soldiers in WWII — proof that American audiences will embrace Japanese protagonists in war films when the storytelling demands it.

\$68M WW

Academy Award · Best Film Editing

PRIMARY

Prestige Drama Audience

35–65, College-educated

The core audience for films like *Atonement*, *The English Patient*, and *Cold Mountain*. Drawn to emotionally complex narratives, strong performances, and sophisticated storytelling.

42M
US Adults

SECONDARY

WWII & History Enthusiasts

45+, Active Readers

A significant and passionate audience for WWII-era storytelling across film, television, and literature. Particularly engaged with under-told perspectives from the Pacific theater.

28M
US Adults

TERTIARY

Asian-American & Global Asian Audience

18–45

A rapidly growing and underserved audience seeking prestige narratives centered on Asian protagonists. International co-production potential with Japan, France, and the UK.

24M
US + Global

AWARDS

Academy & Festival Voters

Industry

The film's literary source material, dual-timeline structure, and historical weight position it squarely in the prestige awards lane — alongside its thematic urgency.

Top
Festival Tier



Q4 2026

World Premiere

Sundance Film Festival or TIFF — positioning for awards season launch



Q1 2027

Awards Circuit

Strategic platform release in key markets. Oscar campaign. BAFTA, Golden Globes



Q2 2027

Theatrical Wide

Domestic wide release. Japan theatrical co-release. UK/France expansion



Q3 2027

Streaming

Premium streaming deal — target Netflix, Apple TV+, or Amazon for global reach



2028+

Broadcast & Education

PBS, NHK, BBC licensing. Educational distribution through documentary channels

REVENUE STREAMS

- Theatrical (US + International)
- Streaming Rights (SVOD)
- Broadcast Licensing (PBS / NHK / BBC)
- Home Video & EST
- Educational Distribution
- Ancillary (Soundtrack, Book tie-in)

TOTAL PRODUCTION BUDGET

\$12,000,000

FINANCING SECURED

\$4,800,000

40% of budget

BUDGET CATEGORY	AMOUNT	STATUS
Development & Script	\$180,000	Complete
Pre-Production (Research, Casting, Location)	\$320,000	In Progress
Principal Photography — Japan (45 days)	\$3,200,000	Planned
Principal Photography — US / UK (20 days)	\$1,400,000	Planned
Period Production Design & Costumes	\$1,800,000	Planned
Archive Licensing (NHK, Peace Museum, NARA)	\$600,000	Negotiating
Visual Effects (Hiroshima recreation)	\$1,200,000	Planned
Post-Production (Edit, Color, Sound)	\$1,600,000	Planned
Original Score — The Shadow007	\$300,000	Committed
Festival Strategy & Delivery	\$200,000	Planned
Marketing & Publicity	\$1,200,000	Planned

* Budget structured for international co-production incentives across Japan, UK, and France.

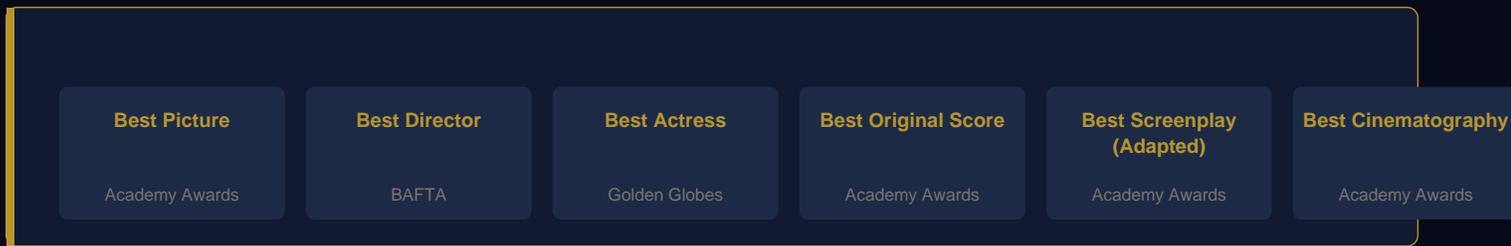
<p>Equity Investment \$5,000,000</p>	<p>Private equity investors seeking prestige film exposure with awards potential</p> <p>42%</p>
<p>Japan Co-Production (NHK / WOWOW) \$2,000,000</p>	<p>NHK and WOWOW have strong precedent for WWII-era co-productions. Subject matter is a...</p> <p>17%</p>
<p>UK / French Tax Incentives \$1,500,000</p>	<p>UK Film Tax Relief (25%) + French TRIP rebate. UK creative elements qualify for full rebate.</p> <p>12.5%</p>
<p>US Film Tax Credits \$800,000</p>	<p>State-level production incentives for US shoot days. Georgia / New Mexico qualifying production.</p> <p>7%</p>
<p>Grants & Foundations \$700,000</p>	<p>Sundance Institute, ITVS, Japan Foundation, MacArthur Foundation (nuclear disarmament mandate).</p> <p>6%</p>
<p>Pre-Sales (International) \$1,000,000</p>	<p>Japan theatrical pre-sale. UK broadcast pre-sale (BBC / Channel 4). French theatrical.</p> <p>8%</p>
<p>Already Secured \$4,800,000</p>	<p>Development funding and initial equity committed. Full package in active assembly.</p> <p>40%</p>

Q1 2025 ✓ COMPLETE	Development Complete Screenplay final draft. Novel rights secured. Key cast conversations initiated.
Q2 2025 ✓ COMPLETE	Packaging Phase Director attachment. DP and Production Designer locked. Producers assembled.
Q3–Q4 2025 ✓ COMPLETE	Financing Close International co-production agreements signed. Tax incentive applications filed.
Q1 2026 ■ PLANNED	Pre-Production Full casting complete. Japan location scouts. Period research and design finalized.
Q2 2026 ■ PLANNED	Principal Photography 65-day shoot across Hiroshima, Tokyo, and UK period recreation stages.
Q3–Q4 2026 ■ PLANNED	Post-Production Edit, VFX, score recording with The Shadow007. Color and sound mix.
Q1 2027 ■ PLANNED	Festival Launch World premiere. Target: Sundance or TIFF. Begin awards strategy.

KEY LOCATIONS

Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park · Hiroshima University (original buildings) · Tokyo period recreation · UK studio stages · Pacific coast maritime sequences
Japan Film Commission support confirmed. NHK archive access in negotiation.

This film is designed to compete at the highest level of international prestige cinema.



SUNDANCE FILM FESTIVAL

World Premiere Target

Primary target for US launch. Dramatic competition or Premieres section. Strong precedent for prestige historical dramas. Immediate acquisition interest.

TORONTO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Secondary Target

TIFF's strong prestige awards track record. Gala Presentations section. Major studio acquisition deals regularly initiated at TIFF.

HIROSHIMA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Special Screening

Invitation screening at the Hiroshima International Animation & Film Festival. Enormous local significance. Japanese premiere event.

CANNES FILM FESTIVAL

Competition Consideration

If production timeline allows, Cannes competition consideration. Strong precedent for historical epics with literary pedigree.

J

JOSEPH HOLDER

Writer / Creator

Author of the novel HIROSHIMA: PAPER CRANES AND ASHES. Joseph's research-intensive approach to historical fiction — spanning Japanese, American, and British perspectives on the Pacific War — provides the film's foundation of rigorous emotional and historical authenticity. His intimate knowledge of the material positions him as the creative anchor.

T

THE SHADOW007

Original Score Composer

Composer of the acclaimed 10-track score for HIROSHIMA: PAPER CRANES AND ASHES. The Shadow007's music navigates between traditional Japanese instrumentation and contemporary orchestral composition, creating a soundscape that holds grief and beauty in equal measure. Tracks include: Sunrise, Hour Glass, Love is..., White Light, and Rise (Theme of Hiroshima).

[

[DIRECTOR — TBC]

Director

Seeking a director with proven command of intimate emotional storytelling within large-scale historical settings. Must demonstrate fluency in dual-timeline narrative structure and experience working with both Japanese and Western creative teams. Conversations in progress.

[

[CINEMATOGRAPHER — TBC]

Director of Photography

The visual approach requires mastery of period lighting — warm and intimate for 1944 sequences, cooler and more considered for the present day. The bomb's flash is rendered through light alone — no explosion, only the terrifying beauty of too much illumination.

**HIROSHIMA
PAPER CRANES
AND ASHES**

Joseph Holder

HIROSHIMA: PAPER CRANES AND ASHES

A Novel by Joseph Holder

An epic novel spanning 1944 Hiroshima to the present day. The story follows Aoi Tanaka from her first English poetry class through the bombing and its 79-year aftermath. The novel is meticulously researched, emotionally devastating, and built around a love story that refuses simple resolution.

NOVEL

Full manuscript completed · 120,000+ words · All 20 chapters plus epilogue

SCREENPLAY

Feature film adaptation in development · Faithful to novel's dual-timeline structure

ORIGINAL SCORE

10 original compositions by The Shadow007 · Available for sync and theatrical licensing

ORIGINAL ARTWORK

Cover art by Joseph Holder · Period research archive · Character visual development

RIGHTS STATUS

All rights held by Paper Cranes & Ashes Productions · Full chain of title clear

HIROSHIMA

Paper Cranes and Ashes

"Beauty is survival. And love is resistance."

IN DEVELOPMENT

EQUITY OPEN

SEEKING: DIRECTOR · DP · CAST

WRITTEN BY

Joseph Holder

Paper Cranes & Ashes Productions

joseph@papercranesproductions.com

ORIGINAL SCORE

The Shadow007

Hiroshima: Paper Cranes and Ashes OST

music@papercranesproductions.com

GENERAL ENQUIRIES

Production Office

Paper Cranes & Ashes Productions

info@papercranesproductions.com

WE ARE SEEKING:

Equity Partners · International Co-Producers · Director Attachment · US / UK / Japan Distribution Partners · Prestige Cast

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Based on the novel HIROSHIMA: PAPER CRANES AND ASHES by Joseph Holder