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[anan] Tsuchiya Tao × Murakami Nijiro Cross Talk

Nijiro: When I was offered the role of Chishiya, it wasn't long before the crank start. I remember downloading all the volumes of the original manga and reading it in one sitting on the airplane.
Tao: Wow! just in one sitting.

Nijiro: I was going to read it while thinking about whether I could play Chishiya or not, but it was so interesting that I forgot about that and got absorbed in it (laughs)
Tao: I read it like crazy too. I thought it'd be difficult to make a live-action based on a manga.

Some authors have been drawing for decades, and then they put the story together in a few hours in a movie or drama. I had a hard time believing that the appeal of the story would be conveyed properly. But when I realized that there are some fans of the original manga

who will watch the live-action version, but there are also people who will read the original for the first time after watching the live-action version, I was able to switch to pursuing the fun of the live-action version.

Nijiro: I studied abroad in Canada for a year when I was a student, and I had a strong image of manga and ninja when I thought of Japanese. Incidentally, Nijiro was called NINJA because (Nijiro) looked like (Ninja) when written in Roman letters.
Tao: I see! (laughs)

Nijiro: Well, it doesn't really matter (laughs), because there are certainly ardent manga fans all over the world. Otakus overseas know about works that I don't even know about, and my study abroad experience reaffirmed to me that manga is a culture that represents Japan.

However, if I wanted to make a live-action film, I would not go to Hollywood. I think it's us Japanese who can convey this culture, its true merits, and its meaning. And when it's directed by Sato (Shinsuke), who is known for his live-action films, there's nothing more to say.

Tao: This is the second time I've worked with director Sato, and I was really impressed when I saw the finished film with all the VFX. In reality, I often acted in a green background without any background, but since I have done special effects before,

I tried to act in a way that would not be outdone by the video, but the result was beyond my imagination. It's really amazing to think that the director always has that picture in his mind.

Nijiro: I had some discussions with the director about the costume fitting and the degree of Chishiya's blond hair, but other than that, I don't remember talking to him at all. Basically, the actors were left to their own, which in a way was a great honor.

I'm sure there are too many scenes that need to be seen at the same time, and the picture the director is looking at is much bigger, both macro-micro. That's where I think Netflix can spend more time on production, and the Sato-gumi's technology can be used wonderfully.

Tao: You're right. But still, playing the role of Chishiya looks difficult.
Nijiro: That's right. Alice is very smart but ordinary, and then there are characters with special abilities that are out of the ordinary, and Chishiya is somewhere in between.

But each of them has their own circumstances, and if they don't have their own values, they won't find what's important to them or happiness. I hope you can feel that.

Tao: The character I play, Usagi, is living her life without finding the meaning of life, but her heart is stretched by Alice and the people she meets. I hope the audience will see this and explore the meaning of life and having friends.