

# BONDI TSUNAMI

## HITS THE ROAD

Real-life Japanese tourists sign on for surf road movie up the East coast of Oz

Photographs by Christopher Morris  
Styling by Paula Rodriguez



### TAKI ABE

**Plays Shark:** "He is a really tough guy and girls like him, but he doesn't care much 'cause he thinks girls always bring trouble. He's not like me -- I'm not that tough."

**Fave film moment:** "During filming I can go different places."

**Best waves:** Manly

IF '80S JAPANESE CULT CLASSIC "MONKEY MAGIC" WAS SET ON THE EAST COAST beaches of Australia and the hairy monkey man was actually a Japanese surfer tourist hallucinating along the yellow brick road, then you'd have the basic premise for *Bondi Tsunami*. The psychedelic guerrilla-style film is the creative baby of Bondi Tsunami festival founder Anthony Lucas-Smith and filmmaker Rachael Lucas. The cast is made up of actual Japanese tourists who came to Australia primarily to surf and then study in their free time. They had no acting experience, except for Miki Sasaki (she plays tarty Kimiko) who appeared in a Japanese bank commercial. Heading the cast is Taki Abe, a surfer whose photo grabbed Lucas' attention immediately. "I saw Taki's shot and said to Anthony 'he's got the right look for (main character) Shark,'" Lucas says. Taki even has Japanese star hottie potential: "During filming, he got mobbed by girls at Coffs Harbour," Lucas laughs.

Filming wrapped up in February and the film is being edited MTV-like for its planned Japanese summer release in September. Lucas, whose background is in making music videos, says, "The movie is a string of music videos strung together. I was inspired by watching too many sessions of music videos." Expect electronic dub cut with rockabilly country, reggae, Hawaiian, and even ABBA. Lucas penned seven songs for the soundtrack and enlisted help from her friends for the rest. "I've got contributions from friends: Jeff Dread who's a dub artist in Sydney; Dan Brodie is putting a song on ... I just got sent a heap of stuff from James (Cruckshank) from the Cruel Sea," Lucas says. The film will be released here in DVD form next summer and the crew will tour around the Australian coast to promote it.

"It's become trendy again now to go and hire a hall or a drive in and drive the car up the coast to the major ports where we filmed and have a screening for the locals," says Lucas. Sounds like it's got all the ingredients for a chiko roll surf safari.

LIZZA GEBILAGIN

Keita wears: Shoes by Puma, \$160; jeans by Diesel, \$550; top by Hurley International, \$45; armlets from JFK, \$69. Miki wears: Skirt by Bracewell Vision, \$149; top by Naughty Girl, \$160; jacket by Nolita, \$575; boots by Camper, \$380; belt by Quiksilver, \$34.95. Taki wears: Shoes by Dunlop Volleys, \$50; jeans by Hurley International, \$150; watch by Swatch, \$230; coat by Nolita, \$429; belt by Diesel, \$220; hat, shades and top Taki's own.

## KEITA ABE

**Plays Yuto:** Lucas says, "We wanted a young Japanese surfer with a crazy personality, good sense of humour who can surf."

**Fave film moment:** "Surfing on top of the car. Beating up a stuffed kangaroo."

**Best waves:** Maroubra

Hair & Makeup by Angela Davis-Deacon for Issada Brushes (DLM) and Anita Carroll. Car supplied by Anthony Lucas Smith. Stockists information:

Puma 1800 811 511  
Camper (02) 9970 5580  
Crystelle (02) 93162800  
Nolita, She's Beck, Bracewell, M Range, Diesel, 55 DSL, Bowie (02) 9280 3304  
Naughty Girl 0425 269104  
Sass & Bide at CAPITAL-L (02) 9361 0111  
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Stussy (03) 9421 2611  
Roxy (03) 5261 6000  
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Quiksilver (03) 5261 6000

## MIKI SASAKI

**Plays Kimiko:** "My character has sad parts and sometimes Kimiko has strange hairstyles and make-up - maybe people will laugh."

**Film moment:** "It's the first time wearing strange clothes." Lucas adds, "The style is so strange she looks very unique - it's more like art. Kimiko is art."

**Best waves:** Manly