

EVOLVING *Pictures*

Evolving Pictures Presents, *'Sadako and the Magic of Paper Cranes'*

Three-time Academy Award and 16-time Emmy [Winning Writer/Director Malcolm Clarke](#) was contracted by **Evolving Pictures Entertainment** at the American Film Market (AFM) to helm *'Sadako and the Magic of Paper Cranes'*.



This Motion Picture is based on the true story, and it chronicles the events of a group of fifth graders who in Albuquerque, New Mexico when inspired by their teacher, make their dream of building a monument come true, to honor the legend and spirit of the young girl Sadako Sasaki.



[Sadako Sasaki](#) was a Japanese girl who was two years old when the Atomic bomb was dropped on August 6, 1945, near her home by Misasa Bridge in Hiroshima, Japan. Sadako was at home when the explosion occurred, about one mile from Ground Zero. In November 1954, Sadako developed swellings on her neck and behind her ears. In January 1955, purple spots had formed on her legs. Subsequently, she was diagnosed with leukemia (her mother referred to it as "an atom bomb disease"). She was hospitalized on February 21,

1955, and given, at the most, a year to live.

On August 3, 1955, Sadako's best friend Chizuko Hamamoto came to the hospital to visit and cut a golden piece of paper into a square to fold it into a paper crane, in reference to the ancient Japanese story that promises that anyone who folds a **thousand origami cranes** will be granted a wish by a crane.



Though she had plenty of free time during her days in the hospital to fold the cranes, she lacked



paper. She would use medicine wrappings and whatever else she could scrounge up. This included going to other patients' rooms to ask to use the paper from their get-well presents. Chizuko would bring paper from school for Sadako to use.

During her time in the hospital her condition progressively worsened. Around mid-October her left leg became swollen and turned purple. After her family urged her to eat something, Sadako requested tea on rice and remarked "It's good." Those were her last words. With her family around her, Sadako died on the morning of October 25, 1955 at the age of 12. A popular version of the story is that Sadako fell short of her goal of

folding 1,000 cranes, having folded only 644 before her death, and that her friends completed the 1,000 and buried them all with her.

After her death, Sadako's friends and schoolmates published a collection of letters in order to raise funds to build a memorial to her and all of the children who had died from the effects of the atomic bomb. In 1958, **a statue of Sadako holding a golden crane** was unveiled in the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, also called the Genbaku Dome. At the foot of the statue is a plaque that reads,

"This is our cry. This is our prayer. Peace on Earth."



There is also a statue of her in the Seattle Peace Park. Sadako has become a leading symbol of peace that is taught in schools on the **anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing**. In dedication to her, people all over the world celebrate August 6th, as **the annual Peace Day**.

Sadako's story has become familiar to many school children around the world through the novels *The Day of the Bomb* (1961, in German, *Sadako will leben*) by the Austrian writer Karl Bruckner and *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr, first published in 1977. Sadako is also briefly mentioned in *Children of the Ashes*, Robert Jungk's historical account of the lives of Hiroshima victims and survivors.

The ***"Sadako and the Magic of Paper cranes"* Motion Picture** will inspire millions to hope for lasting peace in the world.

Evolving Pictures Entertainment is indeed honored to be responsible for a project with such high artistic merit and **potential for critical acclaim**.



This is our cry
This is our prayer
Peace on earth

