Studio Chizu’s upcoming film ‘BELLE’

Mai Vang

KP: Belle

**Plot of movie**

[“BELLE”](https://studiochizu.com/works/belle) is about a 17-year-old high schoolernamed Suzu who lives in the countryside of the Kochi Prefecture with her father. Suzu loved to sing, especially with her mother. However, after her mother’s death, her ability to sing disappeared as she was unable to overcome the pain and heartache. She eventually grew more and more distant from her father and kept her heart shut from the rest of the world.

Suzu felt that writing music was her only purpose left in her life. One day, she discovers the massive online space known as ‘U’ and creates her own alter ego through her avatar, Belle. Suzu quickly realizes that when she is inside the virtual world as Belle, she can sing naturally. As she continues to showcase her own music in ‘U,’ she becomes a world-famous singing princess, gaining millions of followers and creating a new persona for herself.

Through singing as Belle, Suzu has the ability to release the pent-up emotions within herself. The song in the trailer represents an important moment in Belle’s character, showcasing her powerful yet vulnerable musical composition. Belle’s desires are also carried through the lyrics, as she wishes to see what kind of world lies beyond the small melody she composed.

However, this new experience is short-lived when she comes across a mysterious mythical creature that resembles a bipedal dragon. Together, they embark on a journey full of adventures, challenges and love, pursuing their quest of becoming who they truly are.

Based off the [trailer](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Iqt8tzH4c6Y) for “BELLE,” the audience can expect to explore romance, action and suspense, along with deeper themes such as life and death.

**Studio Chizu films**

Mamoru Hosoda is the director of [Studio Chizu](https://studiochizu.com/studio/), the headquarters was established during the production of Wolf Children and thus the studio was given its name, ‘*chizu*’, which means “map" in Japanese. Director Hosoda's [main philosophy for his movies](https://studiochizu.com/news/216) is that: "They should serve the public like a park where many people gather," and Studio Chizu is the place that fully embodies his thoughts and philosophies. A recurring concept in many of his movies have to do with the character overcoming the struggles in their lives and striving for a better future.

The main characters in Hosoda’s films tend to possess a lot of spirit, energy and freewill when it comes to choosing and cultivating their own futures. Studio Chizu's logo is a silhouette of a young person leaping into the air, manifesting that cheerfulness and liveliness Hosoda is trying to cultivate. The logo also uses "minchotai," a font that is known to be favored by many newspapers and books in Japan.

**Productions**

The production for “BELLE” features a number of [international collaborations](https://variety.com/2021/film/global/belle-mamoru-hosoda-creative-team-trailer-1234942641/). [Jin Kim](https://www.iamag.co/the-art-of-jin-kim/) is a Korean animator for Walt Disney Animation Studios. His works include character designs for movies as “Tangled,” “Frozen,” “Moana” and “Big Hero 6.” Kim’s concept designs can already be seen in the trailer since Belle’s features strongly resemble Elsa and many other Disney characters. [Cartoon Saloon](https://www.cartoonsaloon.ie/) is an Irish animation studio who also have staffs working on the film. They are known for works such as “Wolfwalkers,” and took part in creating the different worlds in “BELLE.” Lastly, the concept illustration of the massive digital community of “U” was created by Eric Wong, an up-and-coming British architect and designer. Director Hosoda personally [commissioned Eric](https://studiochizu.com/news/652) to come up with the universal “internet space” from both an architectural and design perspective.

Studio Chizu also [hosted a global open casting call](https://animamo.com/mamoru-hosodas-belle-film-holds-global-casting-call-for-singing-extras/) for singing extras. Those who passed the auditions will take part in a pivotal scene in the film where people from all over the world sing along with Belle. Despite holding a global audition online, there’s no doubt that people had issues with the language barrier since everything was in Japanese. Nonetheless, it is still an impressive move to try and include singers from many different countries.

**Release Date + Updates**

Without a doubt, the film looks breathtaking so far and the production team makes the film appear even more promising. “BELLE” will be released on July 16 in Japan. There has yet to be any confirmed dates on when the film will be released internationally. However, everyone can get updates about “BELLE” from Studio Chizu’s [official global twitter account](https://twitter.com/StudioChizu?ref_src=twsrc%5Egoogle%7Ctwcamp%5Eserp%7Ctwgr%5Eauthor), where information concerning the characters and the behind-the-scenes can be found, along with posts about the other films created by Studio Chizu.