



Search 6600+ reviews by keyword, title or reviewer...



Hafu 2013

✓ Recommended

Distributed by Third World Newsreel, 545 Eighth Avenue, Suite 550, New York, NY 10018; 212-947-9277

Producer n/a

Directed by Megumi Nishikura and Lara Perez Takagi

DVD , color, 85 min., Japanese with English subtitles

High School - General Adult

Children, Discrimination, Diversity, Education, Family, Language, Multiculturalism, Sociology

Date Entered: **07/30/2015**

Reviewed by [Linda Frederiksen, Washington State University, Vancouver, WA](#)

Once considered ethnically homogenous with very little racial or cultural diversity, the face of Japan is in the process of changing. Currently, one in 49 children born in the island nation is half-Japanese or *hafu*. While many of those with 'mixed roots' would like to explore or fully embrace the Japanese side of their heritage, the dominant culture still sees them as outsiders or foreigners. This documentary looks at the stories of five *hafus*, for whom Japan essentially remains a closed society, discussing both their desire to be accepted as Japanese and the difficulty of being so.

David raises funds to build schools in his mother's home country of Ghana, Sophia comes to Japan from Australia to learn the language and culture of one set of relatives, 9 year old Alex struggles to fit into public school where he is teased for his language and academic skills, half-Korean Fusae feels she must hide her non-Japanese roots to be accepted and find a husband, and Ed creates a Mixed Roots Kansai community where other *hafus* can gather for support and acceptance. All personally experience discrimination and bias, while at the same time helping to build a different Japan for the future.

Narrated through interviews with the five participants and their families, the film seeks to answer questions about the *hafu* experience and how Japan is adjusting to a more multicultural population.

Recommended for general audiences and for libraries that support diversity and multicultural education programs.



LIBRARIES
EMRO

Copyright © 2019 The
Pennsylvania State
University.
All Rights reserved.
[Legal Statements](#) | [PSU
Hotlines](#)

**PENN STATE
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES**
[Libraries Home](#)
[Libraries Intranet \(Staff
Only\)](#)
[Accessibility Help](#)
[Website Feedback](#)
[Policies and Guidelines](#)
[Staff Directory](#)
(814) 865-6368

**CONNECT WITH
EMRO**
[Facebook](#)
[Twitter](#)