

## **“Is the ‘funny man’ role close to the truth? An interview with a traditionally handsome actor”**

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### **Profile: Shosuke Tanihara**

Born in 1972 in Kanagawa, Tanihara entered the limelight as an exclusive model to the men’s fashion magazine ‘Men’s Non-no’ in 1992. After making his film debut in the 1995 film ‘Boys over Flowers’, Tanihara has been widely active in magazines, film, TV dramas, commercials, stage productions, and as the host of TV variety shows. At present, as well as working as an exclusive model for the men’s fashion magazine ‘Men’s Club’, Tanihara appears in the info-tainment style show ‘The King’s Brunch’. Tanihara’s most recent appearances, ‘My Rainy Days’ and ‘Nodame Cantabile’ will hit the cinemas on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November and 19<sup>th</sup> of December respectively.

*Q: You say that surfing is one of your interests. Have you ever been to Australia, which is famous for surfing?*

**Tanihara:** I’ve been to Sydney before, but I wasn’t into surfing then, so I’d really like to go there some time to ride the waves. Speaking of Australia, I loved that film ‘Priscilla’.

*Q: Have you ever been better off, or even worse off because you are handsome? What are your individual thoughts on the theme of the film “does handsome equal happy?”*

**T:** I’ve been both better and worse off, but I suppose that I’ve mostly been better off. Wouldn’t you agree that the best result has been my appearance in ‘The Handsome Suit’ and being able to appear in the Japanese Film Festival? As for whether being handsome makes you happy, I think it depends on one’s frame of mind.

*Q: You play the role of the handsome man and of the funny man in this film. Which do you think is closer to your real self? Can you tell us any highlights or points of interest of your role in the film?*

**T:** I was able to act the funny man role most naturally. In this comedy film, I played two characters in one body. I hope you will enjoy the parts where I play the different roles.

*Q: You could say that the film is abundant with elements of Japanese pop-culture, with fashion being one of the highlights. In that light, what elements would you like foreign viewers to focus on in the film?*

**T:** I think that ‘The Handsome Suit’ is a typically Japanese piece of entertainment. As though it symbolises the Japanese “city”, the film depicts the duality of the sordid but heart-warming human tapestry of downtown, as opposed to the refined but cold nature of the city centre. I’d like people to look at that gap.

**Q:** *Are there any inside stories or episodes from the filming of “The Handsome Suit”?*

**T:** The director (Hanabusa Tsutomu) took me along to a cabaret club. Apparently the director was a regular at the club during the busy editing process, but nobody believed that he was a film director, so he took me and Muga Tsukaji along, and they finally believed him.

**Q:** *Your international exposure has been increasing, with the Australian debut of “The Handsome Suit” following the showing of the film “My Rainy Days” at the Tokyo International Film Festival last month. For the last question, what are your plans from here?*

**T:** I want to continue performing each scene and cut with care, without forgetting my original intentions. I hope that that will lead to me doing well internationally.