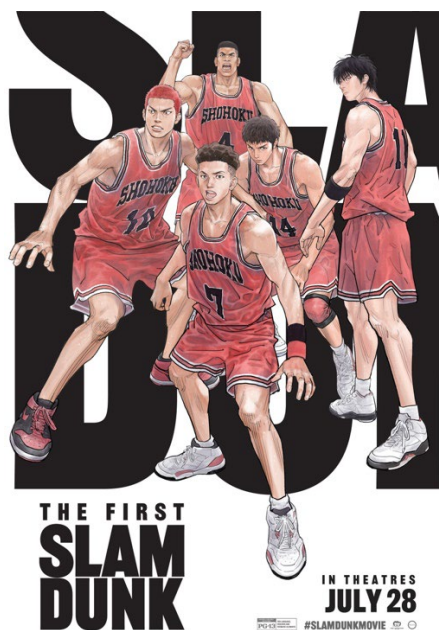


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



TOEI ANIMATION
Since 1956

**GKIDS AND TOEI ANIMATION ANNOUNCE
THE FIRST SLAM DUNK
TO BE RELEASED IN THEATRES NATIONWIDE STARTING JULY 28;
TICKETS ON SALE NOW**



Dub Cast and Trailer Revealed for the Box Office Sensation

[Dub Trailer](#)

NEW YORK (June 29, 2023) – GKIDS, celebrating its 15th anniversary as a producer and distributor of award-winning and artist-driven animation from around the world, and globally acclaimed and industry-leading animation studio Toei Animation, announced today that they will bring **THE FIRST SLAM DUNK** to theatres nationwide in the United States and Canada starting July 28th. Starting today, tickets for **THE FIRST SLAM DUNK** are available for purchase at www.SlamDunkMovie.com and participating theatre box offices. For a complete list of theater locations, visit www.SlamDunkMovie.com .

GKIDS and Toei Animation also revealed a new English dub trailer, as well as the English language voice cast for the film, which includes:

Shohoku Team:

Ryota Miyagi - Paul Castro Jr.

Hisashi Mitsui - Jonah Scott

Kaede Rukawa - Aleks Le

Hanamichi Sakuragi - Ben Balmaceda

Takenori Akagi - Aaron Goodson

THE FIRST SLAM DUNK will host its North American premiere this summer in Los Angeles at Anime Expo, the largest celebration of Japanese pop culture in North America, before having its East Coast premiere as the opening night feature of JAPAN CUTS: Festival of New Japanese Film at New York City's Japan Society. The film will go on to host its Canadian premiere at this year's Fantasia Film Festival.

THE FIRST SLAM DUNK opened domestically in Japan on December 3, 2022, and has gone on to break box office records in a number of countries during its current international release. Written and created by Takehiko Inoue, "Slam Dunk" is a beloved manga which was serialized from 1990-1996. The original manga is one of the best-selling manga series of all time, with over 170 million copies sold globally, and has been adapted to various media and video games, including a hit anime series that ran from 1993-1996. **THE FIRST SLAM DUNK** marks the first new feature-length film from the globally cherished franchise in over 33 years, as well as original manga creator Takehiko Inoue's directorial debut. The film went on to be awarded this year's Japan Academy Prize for Best Animation of the Year – marking the first nomination and win for Inoue.

Official English Synopsis

Shohoku's "speedster" and point guard, Ryota Miyagi, always plays with brains and lightning speed, running circles around his opponents while feigning composure. Born and raised in Okinawa, Ryota had a brother who was three years older. Following in the footsteps of his older brother, who was a famous local player from a young age, Ryota also became addicted to basketball.

In his second year of high school, Ryota plays with the Shohoku High School basketball team along with Sakuragi, Rukawa, Akagi, and Mitsui as they take the stage at the Inter-High School National Championship. And now, they are on the brink of challenging the reigning champions, Sannoh Kogyo High School.

Official Movie Website (North America)

www.slamdunkmovie.com

Follow **THE FIRST SLAM DUNK** on social media with hashtag #SLAMDUNKMOVIE.

About GKIDS

Celebrating its 15th anniversary, GKIDS is the producer and distributor of artist-driven and award-winning animation from around the world. The company has scored an astounding 12 Best Animated Feature Oscar nominations with *The Secret of Kells* in 2010, *A Cat in Paris* and *Chico & Rita* in 2012, *Ernest & Celestine* in 2014, *The Tale of The Princess Kaguya* and *Song of the Sea* in 2015, *Boy and the World* and *When Marnie Was There* in 2016, *My Life as a Zucchini* in 2017, *The Breadwinner* in 2018, *Mirai* in 2019, and *Wolfwalkers* in 2021. GKIDS handles North American distribution for the famed Studio Ghibli library of films, one of the world's most coveted animation collections with titles *Spirited Away*, *My Neighbor Totoro*, *Princess Mononoke* and others; as well as the critically acclaimed television series, NEON GENESIS EVANGELION. Also, GKIDS is the founder and host of ANIMATION IS FILM, the annual LA-based film festival which embraces the highest aspirations of animation as a cinematic art form, and is a vocal advocate for filmmakers who push the boundaries of the medium to its fullest range of artistic expressions. www.gkids.com

About Toei Animation

Based in Los Angeles, Toei Animation Inc. manages the distribution of Toei Animation's top properties, including franchise series *Dragon Ball*, *Sailor Moon*, *One Piece*, *Digimon*, *Saint Seiya* and many others, to North America, Latin America, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. Toei Animation's Los Angeles office further handles all categories of consumer product licensing based on its film and television brands within these territories. For more information, please visit toei-animation-usa.com.

[TWITTER](#) | [INSTAGRAM](#) | [FACEBOOK](#) | [YOUTUBE](#) | [TIKTOK](#) | [PRESS MATERIALS & IMAGES](#)

Press Contacts:

42West LA for GKIDS: Annalee Paulo & Hilda Somarriba
(310) 477-4442 | Annalee.Paulo@42West.net & Hilda.Somarriba@42west.net

42West NY for GKIDS: Todd Nickels & Kabeer Malhotra
(212) 277-7555 | Todd.Nickels@42West.net & Kabeer.Malhotra@42west.net

Brigade Marketing for GKIDS: Guillermo Restrepo & Brett Myers
(917) 580-6402 | Guillermo@BrigadeMarketing.com & Brett@BrigadeMarketing.com

Toei Animation: Scott Barretto
(214) 695-2646 | ScottBarretto@Publicity-Partners.com