

UT Austin Essay

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### Statement of Purpose

The University of Texas at Austin will help me achieve my big dream: making comedy movies in Japan that appeal to both Japanese and American tastes, and changing the Japanese movie industry. This dream comes from my experience in the past as a comedy performer, writer, and viewer.

First of all, as a performer, I learned that comedy should be the basis for the rest of my life. Everything started when I performed comedy at the graduation ceremony in high school. When the presenter called my name and I showed up on the stage in front of five hundred people, I felt not fear but excitement. Every time they clapped their hands and laughter filled the big auditorium, I felt like I was on the top of the world. Ever since this experience, I had kept performing comedy to people in high school. Hoping to make the wider variety of people laugh, I started participating in monthly public comedy shows. I also held my own comedy shows with my fellow comedians. For all these comedy shows, I kept writing the countless scripts of performance day and night every day. I even participated in National Comedy Competition to prove to myself I could make people laugh. I made it to the semi-finals, even though I was a new face in the competition. This gave me the confidence to continue.

Not only as a performer on the stage but I have also expressed my comedy as a director of short movies. These experiences have given me the idea that films have a million ways to move people's heart. When I first made several short comedy films in an Ethics class, I was overwhelmed by the infinite possibility of the film; I could convey many aspects of comedy in ways I couldn't express as just a performer on a stage. Also, in these two years, I have

engaged in making many documentary videos intended to motivate current student at Spokane Falls Community College and prospective students abroad. This experience taught me that any kind of movie has to be well organized upon introduction, development, turn, and conclusion to convey the message. I also learned that music is the major component to build up and control the audience's emotion, which I think Japanese directors currently underestimate.

As a viewer of American movies as well, I also learned that in the United States, there are so many keys to make Japanese movies more interesting. The tipping point was when I saw the American version of the sitcom *The Office*. Just one episode made a huge impact because I had never seen a comedy TV show realistically depicting everyday lives. Everything about this show was new to me: the camera work, casting, and uncanny atmosphere that tickles people's funny bone. This show already gave me the idea as a future director: making the Japanese version of *The Office*.

All of these experiences shape who I am now and who I want to be in the future. I am already excited to discover new things at UT Austin, and do my favorite things as a lifetime career. Ultimately, I want to change the Japanese movie industry, which is now overshadowed by the animation and comic industry. I want to be the one who expand this industry to the world. To carry out this attempt, UT Austin is the best school for me to study film because it provides many opportunities to experience different industries. UTLA is an amazing program, which would allow me to study at the center of the movie industry. Study abroad program would also give me the great opportunity to sharpen my ability to present cultural values and stories to the world. This ability is the most important thing I would need to change the Japanese movie industry. I surely believe this school has everything that allows me to boldly step into my future career.