

(Press Release)



American actress Charlotte Kate Fox stars in NHK's morning serial drama "Massan"



TOKYO, March 5th, 2014 – American actress Charlotte Kate Fox is to star in NHK's new morning serial drama, *Massan*, to be aired from September. NHK's morning dramas run for six months and largely focus on the lives and experiences of women in Japan. The programs have proven popular with a audience for more than 50 years. *Massan* is the 91st NHK drama and will break new ground with a foreign actress as the focus of the tale for the first time. Expectations for the production are high.

Charlotte is 28 and was born and raised in New Mexico, U.S. She completed a Master in Fine Arts (Acting) at Northern Illinois University and has performed in a number of theater productions and independent movies, including "Chicago" and "Venus In Fur."

Massan is based on a true story that dates back in the early 20th century about the first Japanese person to produce whisky in Japan and his Scottish wife, Rita. In the drama, Rita is named Ellie. The couple met in Scotland when he was studying the crafting of whisky, and Ellie has given her husband the nickname Massan. The drama will portray how Ellie and Massan cope with the difficulties of an international marriage and challenges in the production of Japan's first whisky, as well as Ellie's struggles to get to grips with Japanese culture.

At a press conference on March 4th in Tokyo and Osaka, Charlotte said "I'm very excited to be here. I think that we [my character and I] are the same in the fact that both of us have moved across the world for something or someone that we love".

Charlotte's grandmother is from Scotland, and she was selected for the role from more than 500 applicants from Japan and overseas.

Tetsuji Tamayama, a popular Japanese actor who will play her husband, said "Charlotte is very peaceful and open-minded, and I am grateful to be able to perform with her. She may struggle as Ellie with Japanese culture and the language, but I will support her, whatever happens, as her husband".

Massan will be aired from September 29th to March 28th, 2014. Filming is planned from May in Osaka, Hokkaido, Hiroshima and Glasgow, Scotland.