

■ ANIME ■

## THE FRAGRANT FLOWER BLOOMS WITH DIGNITY

stands tall in the romance anime hall of fame



AYAAN SHAMS SIDDIQUEE

If you've watched any romance or romcom anime lately, you have to admit that you've scoffed at the same tired tropes popping up again and again. So, you can imagine my absolute delight when Studio Cloverworks decided to adapt Saka Mikami's highly rated manga series, *The Fragrant Flower Blooms with Dignity*. Not only is the series filled with heartwarming, mature writing, but it also follows a unique narrative.

Two neighbouring high schools — Chidori and Kikyo — lie at the heart of the premise of the story. Chidori is a poorly funded public all-boys school filled with ragtag troublemakers while Kikyo is a noble and private all-girls academy that houses some of the richest and brightest minds in the nation. Despite being in close proximity to each other, students from both schools harbour a deep sense of animosity towards each other.

Enter the male lead, Rintarou Tsumugi, a Chidori student who checks nearly every box for the classic high school anime delinquent. Kaoroku Waguri, on the other hand, studies in Kikyo and is essentially an amalgamation of everything that is bright

and wholesome. When the two of them befriend each other, it gives birth to a new set of interpersonal complications.

Rather than using washed out tropes to move the plot forward, clear and honest communication are at the heart of the show. That isn't to say the story is without tension. The rivalry between Chidori and Kikyo creates social barriers that are difficult to overcome, and the judgment from peers feels palpable.

Beyond the heavier and tense moments, this show does not lack in the feel-good department in any way. The main romance between Rintarou and Kaoroku is incredibly heartwarming from the onset. They're two people who clearly care about each other, and it shows in all their interactions.

It is this ability to balance emotional complexity with the chaotic, silly energy of high school life that makes this show such a good watch. It gives us characters who are thoughtful without losing their youthful awkwardness. It gives us a main duo who, despite their grounded intentions, get intensely flustered and rattled during the more light-hearted moments.

## OPPORTUNITIES



BRAC

Senior Officer (Learning and Leadership Development)

### ELIGIBILITY

Graduation in any discipline.

Minimum two years of experience in digital content creation.

Proficient in Adobe Premier Pro or any other popular video editing tools.

Certified content creators with prior experience in content production and published work on reputable digital platforms will be given preference.

Strong understanding of multimedia production, e-learning design, and instructional technology.

Knowledge of audiovisual equipment operation, lighting, and sound systems.

Digital literacy, change competence and partnership building.

Awareness of copyright, media rights, and organisational branding guidelines.

**DEADLINE: OCTOBER 22, 2025**

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UI & UX Designer

### ELIGIBILITY

3+ years of professional experience in UI/UX or Product Design.

Familiarity with front-end technologies like HTML, CSS, and JavaScript, plus a basic understanding of how APIs connect data to your designs.

A solid grasp of layout, typography, colour theory.

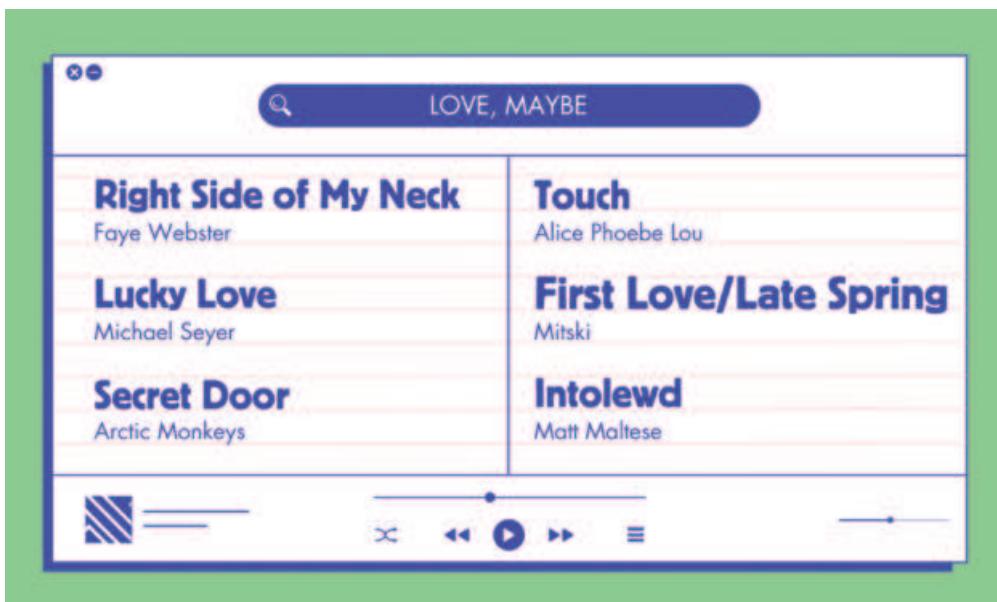
A solid grasp of interaction design principles.

Experience participating in user research and usability testing sessions.

A strong portfolio is a must.

**DEADLINE: DECEMBER 31, 2025**

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