

“Okane kasegu, watashi wa suta.” The hook has become unescapable if you’ve scrolled at all the past few weeks. [Megan Thee Stallion](#)’s viral “Mamushi” has become a cultural touchstone, blending fans from across the globe with a cunning feature by Japanese rapper [Yuki Chiba](#).

Today, the glossy “Mamushi” music video arrives. The visual is an ode to iconic Japanese cinema, and to the song title, which is the name of a venomous snake native to the country. Filmed in Tokyo, the video stars actor Shô Kasamatsu, who along with other sleazy men, shows up to a Japanese spa only to be killed by a shapeshifting viper played by Meg herself. Toward the end, she takes the souls of the dead gangsters to create an army of blue-faced minions, a scene that pulls directly from Akira Kurosawa’s 1990 film *Dreams*.

If there’s anything Thee Stallion knows how to do best, it’s being on the pulse of the culture. “Mamushi” has inspired a whole internet dance craze with its punchy, sparse hook, and with Meg’s oeuvre always having been partly inspired by anime and Japanese influencers, the new video only furthers her massive impact on the youth. Not to mention that the rapper recently performed the song at a Kamala Harris [rally](#) in Atlanta.

Below, we touch base with the video’s director Kevin “Onda” Leyva to discuss the making of “Mamushi” and its whole visual universe.