

## Inochi

SHINOHARA Tetsuo / 2002 / 111 min / Colour



Miri is pregnant with the child of a man who already has a family. At first he wants her to have the child, but unable to forsake his present family, he remains indecisive. Looking for help, Miri visits the house of a playwright, Higashi Yutaka, who is both her patron and former lover, and she comes to know that Higashi is affected by incurable cancer. She makes up her mind to support him to fight with the illness and they promise to bring up the child together.

## Heaven's Bookstore

SHINOHARA Tetsuo / 2004 / 111min / Colour



Kenta, a just fired pianist, finds himself at a bookstore in Heaven after he was dead drunk out of desperation in a tavern last night. He's not dead. The bookstore has hired him for a short-term job, and he can go back to the earth after the working period. Soon, Kenta knows Heaven is not like what he imagined before and not much different from the earth. He meets a beautiful woman named Shoko. She has a grand piano in her cottage and that reminds him that he met her on the earth when he was a boy. She was a gifted pianist and inspired him to make himself a pianist.

## A Stranger of Mine

UCHIDA Kenji / 2004 / 98 min / Colour



It all started one Friday night when broken hearted and lackluster businessman Miyata returned home after losing the love of his life, only to be called out again by his private investigator friend. The two meet at a restaurant, where Miyata runs into a woman and falls in love, but in the shadows something unbelievable awaits them all...

## Fireflies: River of Light

SUGAWARA Koji / 2003 / 101min / Colour



After finally earning the right to teach, Miwa finds himself at the mercy of his elementary school students. Hajime lost in parents' demands and school

policy notices a young girl, Hikari, who doesn't speak a word to anyone in the class. Hajime accidentally grabs his student's attention remarking, "Fireflies would be beautiful dancing here." The class begins a firefly project. Hikari hearing that she can meet her deceased mother when the fireflies fly, works as hard as she can to raise them. Hajime finding only opposition from the school puts his job on the line to make the fireflies' flight a reality. But one problem after another stands in the way of the fireflies' flight.

### **Kamikaze Girls**

NAKAJIMA Tetsuya / 2004 / 103min. / Colour



Momoko lives in her father's hometown Shimotsuma, humdrum rural hometown. She has no friends and the only thing she is interested in is to swath herself from head to toe in doll-like "Lolita" garb. One day, she meets her diametrical opposite on the fashion scale, the surly black lipstick biker chic Ichiko, who takes a

liking to Momoko's unexpectedly gutsy nature. First, Momoko feels annoyed by Ichiko, but the two gradually form an unlikely alliance.

### **Quill**

SAI Yoichi / 2004 / 100min / Colour



A puppy born with a distinctive marking on its belly is raised by a couple that names him "Quill". On his first birthday, the puppy begins training as a guide dog under the trainer Tawada and eventually becomes a partner to Watanabe, a visually impaired man who has trouble coming to terms with the dog's presence. Quill

gradually grows into a dependable and trustworthy companion, Watanabe begins to form a loving bond with his new friend.

### **Ramblers**

YAMASHITA Nobuhiro / 2003 / 83min / Colour



Two amateur filmmakers, Kinoshita and Tsuboi, were invited to a trip to a remote town by an actor Funaki, and they meet at the small station. Kinoshita and Tsuboi know each other through Funaki but not really close. Unfortunately, Funaki fails to show up at the station, and with feeling awkwardly the two starts the

journey.

It's a very cold winter day. The small town they arrive at is near the Japan Sea. When they are on the beach looking at the sea, there is a young girl, running towards them without wearing much on her.

### **The Stars Converge**

SASABE Kiyoshi / 2003 / 114 min / Colour



In 1977 in the port city of Shimonoseki, Ikuko is an entrant in a track and field meet being held as a goodwill event with South Korean sister city Pusan. There she meets and falls in love with South Korean boy An Tei Hou, a fellow high jump competitor. A year later on the day of the Tanabata festival (known as "Chirusoku" in Korean), the young lovers are reunited and vow to meet again in four years time. Some twenty-six years later, Ikuko has become a high school P.E. teacher and fondly remembers her youthful love affair. The track and field event she competed in has not been held since the onset of Japan's economic recession, but is to be revived this year. Ikuko participates as a coach, and she comes to know that a Korean man is the sponsor to make this event happen again.

### **ULTRAMAN: The Next**

KONAKA Kazuya / 2004 / 97min / Colour



Maritime Self-Defense Force captain Udo encounters a strange blue light that transforms him into a deranged monster called "The One". Meanwhile, F15 pilot Maki collides with the same phenomenon and miraculously survives, but is turned into a being called "The Next". Growing to gigantic proportions, The One attacks the Tokyo city center of Shinjuku and threatens the lives of millions. In order to protect his beloved family, Maki evolves from The Next into the heroic Ultraman, and goes to battle with the mutated Udo.