

of a dance studio. The image haunts him so much that a few days later he impulsively jumps off the train and applies for ballroom dancing lessons at the studio, hoping to learn from the lovely instructor, Mai Kirishima, whose face he saw.

* There will be no screening on 3 January 2004 due to Japanese New Year Holiday.

THEATRE TECHNICIAN WORKSHOP

The Japan Foundation is co-organizing with Pro-tem Committee of Malaysian Alliance of Technical Theatre (MATT) to conduct a workshop for theatre technicians from 12 to 18 January 2004 at The Actors Studio Bangsar. About 20 participants are expected to attend the workshop, which will be conducted by a group Japanese expert from Japan.

For enquiry, please call JFKL.

NOTICE FROM JFKL LIBRARY

Please be informed that The JFKL Library will be closed for stock check from the 15 until 16 December 2003. Members are only allowed to borrow library materials for one week, from 2 to 6 December 2003.

From 9 to 13 December, members are only allowed to return materials and use the library for reference purposes. There will be no borrowing within this period.

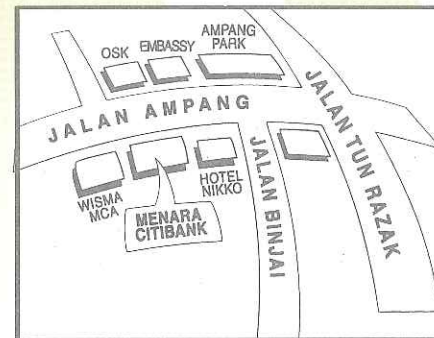
During the closure (15 until 26 December) members must place returned materials into the Library Drop Box located at the entrance of the JFKL office.

The Library will also be closed on the following days:
25 December (Thu) – Christmas Day
27 December 2003 (Sat) to 5 January 2004 (Mon) – Year End Holiday
22 (Thu) and 23 (Fri) January 2004 – Chinese New Year.

The Library will be reopened on 6 January 2004 (Thu).

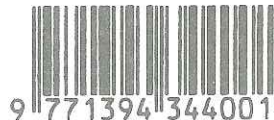
ANNOUNCEMENT

The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur wish to announce that our office will be closed from 29 December 2003 to 4 January 2004 for Year End Holiday. The office will be reopened on Monday, 5 January 2004. We wish all our readers, A Happy and Prosperous New Year.



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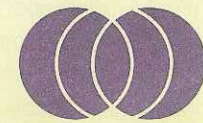
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DEC 2003/JAN 2004

TEMAN BARU



A scene from the Japanese Street Performance
-see inside for details-



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JAPANESE STREET PERFORMANCE

Another event to be held under ASEAN – Japan Exchange Year 2003 by The Japan Foundation will be Street Performance and Workshop in Kuala Lumpur presented by U-Stage, which is, consists of eight performers from Japan. It is Co-organized by the Department of Museum and Antiquity.

Two performances will be held on 3rd December (3 to 4 p.m.) and 4th December (11 a.m. to 12 noon) at the vicinity of Muzium Negara. A children theatre workshop will also be held on 4th December (2 to 3.30 p.m.) in order to encourage children to expose themselves in acting and performing arts as well as experiencing Japanese Street Performance. The workshop is co-organized by Do Do Children's Theatre and 30 children will participate in the workshop. Public Audiences are most welcome.



This is the first time they will perform the exciting performance in Malaysia.

According to the Chairman of U-Stage, Mr. Yasushi Shimazaki, they had toured England, Wales, Scotland and Northern England performing such routines as the Seven Gods of Fortune, Traditional Marching Band Chindon*, Lion Dance and Japanese Drumming (Taiko) for four months beginning in May 2001. While in Scotland he teamed up with a local troupe to write and perform "Myths from Kojiki".

* "Chindon" is Japanese classical street performance. "Chindon-ya", defined, as "loudly dressed street musicians employed for advertisement purposes", is one of the most amenable to change. At various points in its roughly 150 years history, "chindon" has welcomed a diverse range of visual sources that include the circus clown, the street performer, and the kabuki actor, oratorical sources that include the sumo referee, street seller and the sideshow barker; and musical sources that include Japanese festival

and theatre music, popular songs, and Dixieland jazz.



In 2002, they toured England once again (Plymouth) and America (Portland, ME). While in Plymouth, he was presented with a "Commemorative Shield" by the Mayor after a successful performance. Furthermore, he conducted workshops for twelve schools in the surrounding of Plymouth.

The group also received Special Judge's Award at the Toyama Traditional Marching Band competition (2000) and Second place (2002).

In Malaysia the group will also perform at the following places:

- 6 December – Padang Merdeka, Kota Kinabalu
- 7 December – Gaya Street Sunday Market
- 10 & 12 December – Prangin Mall, Penang

In Penang, the street performance performances is co-organized with The Consulate-General of Japan at Penang and in Kota Kinabalu it is co-organized with The Consulate-General of Japan at Kota Kinabalu.

THE WEEKEND FILM SHOWS

Our regular film show will re-start in December at Mini Auditorium, Malaysia Tourism Centre (formally known as MATIC). As a kick-off we will screen two films on 20 December.

All films are with English subtitles and the shows start at 4.30 p.m. Admission is free. Film titles are subject to change without prior noticed.

Dates and titles of films are as follows:

20 December 2003 – **A Scene At The Sea** (Takeshi KITANO, 1991, 101 min)
Starting at 4.30 p.m.

Born with a hearing handicap, Shigeru is a part timer working for the sanitation service. On his usual pickup route, Shigeru finds a broken surfboard in a pile of garbage. He fixed it and tries it out at the beach. Together with Shigeru at the beach is Takako, his girlfriend. No matter how bad Shigeru surfs and how much the other surfer laugh at Shigeru, Takako is always smiling, watching Shigeru surfs.



Starting at 6.30 p.m. – **Kids Return** (Takeshi KITANO, 1996, 108 min)



Shinji and Masaru meet some year after their high school graduation and are reminded of their old times when they were always together. In high school, they were trouble-

makers. They skipped classes, burn a new car of their young, bigheaded teacher's. One day, one guy challenged Masaru and the challenger floored him with a punch. Masaru was disappointed and disappeared after that.

17 January 2004 – **"Shall We Dance?"** (Masayuki SUO, 1995, 136 min)
Starting at 4.30 p.m.

Shohei Sugiyama leads a safe but dull life of a corporate accountant. One day, on the way from work, he spots a beautiful but forlorn face staring out the window

