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Japanese Film Festival 2008

KUALA LUMPUR

Date: 17 (Thu) - 21 (Mon) July 2008

Venue: GSC Mid Valley & GSC 1 Utama (New Wing)

PENANG

Date: 25 (Fri) 27 (Sun) July 2008

Venue: GSC Gurney Plaza

Message from the organizers

Welcome to the Japanese Film Festival 2008!

The Japanese Film Festival, which commemorates its 5th year, has finally begun! In the past we have introduced numerous much-talked about Japanese films that were seldom available in Malaysia but this year we've upgraded the event even further.

First, the screening of new works. We are presenting films that have been in the news both in Japan and at international film festivals in recent years, 4 from 2006 and 2 from 2007, all at once. We hope that you will enjoy the abundant variety they represent such as "Tokyo Tower - Mom, Me, and Sometimes Dad", the film adaptation of the best-selling semi-autobiographical novel that sold more than 2 million copies and brought many to tears; "Memories of Matsuko" which depicts the rollercoaster life of Matsuko as she rushes headlong through with her single-minded belief in a happy marriage; "Fourteen", the winner of NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema) Award, which captures the honest emotions of young boys and girls going through complicated adolescence and the adults who find it difficult to deal with them.

Another highlight is the screening of "Ultraman Mebius & Ultraman Brothers." Produced to mark the 40th year since the birth of the Ultraman series, not only does Ultraman Mebius appear in it but also the nostalgic original cast from the first Ultraman to Ultraman Seven, Ultraman Jack and Ultraman Ace, and it's one that 2 generations, fathers and children, will be able to enjoy together.

And the last highlight is the Ichikawa Kon Retrospective. We will be doing a special screening of 3 films, old and new, that are representative works of director Ichikawa, who passed away this year on 13th February and was one of the great film directors that Japan has produced.

Please get your fill of the Japanese films at this Japanese Film Festival that comes but once a year!

1. Tokyo Tower -
Mom & Me, and Sometimes Dad
東京タワー オカンとボクと、時々、オトン
(MATSUOKA Joji / 2007 / 142 min)

2. Memories of Matsuko
嫌われ松子の一生
(NAKASHIMA Tetsuya / 2006 / 130 min)

3. Tony Takitani
トニー滝谷
(ICHIKAWA Jun / 2004 / 75 min)

4. Fourteen
14歳
(HIROSUE Hiromasa / 2006 / 114 min)

5. Kaidan
怪談
(NAKATA Hideo / 2007 / 119 min)

6. The Girl Who Leapt Through Time (Animation)
時をかける少女
(HOSODA Mamoru / 2006 / 98 min)

7. Ultraman Mebius & Ultraman Brothers
ウルトラマンメビウス&ウルトラ兄弟
(KONAKA Kazuya / 2006 / 93 min)

*** ICHIKAWA Kon Retrospective ***

8. Harp of Burma
ビルマの豎琴
(ICHIKAWA Kon / 1956 / 116 min)

9. Ten Dark Women
黒い十人の女
(ICHIKAWA Kon / 1961 / 103 min)

10. Dora-Heita
どら平太
(ICHIKAWA Kon / 2000 / 111 min)

Tokyo Tower - Mom & Me, and Sometimes Dad

東京タワー オカンとボクと、時々、オトン

2007 / 142min / Colour



© 2007 "TOKYO TOWER o.b.t.o" FILM PARTNERS

STAFF

Director : MATSUOKA Joji 松岡 錠司
Original Story : Lily FRANKY
Screenplay : MATSUO Suzuki

CAST

"I" - Present day : ODAGIRI Joe オダギリジョー
Mom - Present day : KIKI Kirin 樹木 希林
Mom - Younger days : UCHIDA Yayako 内田 也哉子
Mizue : MATSU Takako 松 たか子
Dad : KOBAYASHI Kaoru 小林 薫

SYNOPSIS

Masaya grows up inheriting both sides of the genes from his forever hopeless and reckless Father and gentle and strong Mother. Leaving the Father behind, Mother brings up Masaya by her own hands. Masaya starts to live alone in Tokyo, where he had dreamt of, but it goes into a complete downfall. However, life starts to change when Mother is found sick with cancer, and Masaya invites her to live with him in the bright lights of Tokyo...

Note

Based on a national best-selling auto-biography (over 2 million copies sold) by Lily Franky.

Awards & Festivals

Japan Academy Award - Picture of the year, Director of the year, Screenplay of the year, Best actress in a leading role, Best actor in a supporting role

Memories of Matsuko

嫌われ松子の一生

2006 / 130min / Colour



© 2006 "Memories of Matsuko" Production Committee

STAFF

Director : NAKASHIMA Tetsuya 中島 哲也
Original Story : YAMADA Muneki
Screenplay : NAKASHIMA Tetsuya
Producers : ISHIDA Yuji
SATANI Hidemi
Music : Gabriele Roberto

CAST

KAWAJIRI Matsuko : NAKATANI Miki 中谷 美紀
KAWAJIRI Sho : Eita 瑛太
RYU Yoichi : ISEYA Yusuke 伊勢谷 友介
KAWAJIMA Norio : KAGAWA Teruyuki 香川 照之
KAWAJIMA Kumi : ICHIKAWA Mikako 市川 実日子

SYNOPSIS

Kawajiri Matsuko is a single woman, who was born in Onoshima, Fukuoka prefecture in 1947 and dreams of being married to a loved one. She stays on an elite course, but when she is sacked as a teacher, her life starts going downhill. Matsuko dreams of a happy life with a man, but in reality, she always ends up betrayed. Her live-in partner commits suicide, she gets ditched by her adulterous partner, and she ends up being sent to prison for killing her pimp. And yet she keeps on dreaming of happiness with someone she loves.

Awards & Festivals

30th Japan Academy Prize - Outstanding Performance by an actress in a Leading Role, Outstanding Achievement in Music & Outstanding Achievement in Film Editing

Tony Takitani

トニー滝谷

2004 / 75min / Colour



© 2005 WILCO Co., Ltd.

STAFF

Director : ICHIKAWA Jun 市川 準
Based on the short
story 'Tony Takitani' by : MURAKAMI Haruki
Screenplay : ICHIKAWA Jun
Producers : HASHIMOTO Naoki
YONEZAWA Keiko
ISHIDA Motoki
Music : SAKAMOTO Ryuichi

CAST

Tony TAKITANI : Issey OGATA イッセー 尾形
KONUMA Eiko : MIYAZAWA Rie 宮沢 りえ
SAITO Hisako : MIYAZAWA Rie 宮沢 りえ
Narrator : NISHIJIMA Hidetoshi 西島 秀俊

SYNOPSIS

Tony Takitani's mother died shortly after he was born and Tony has always been alone but never really felt lonely. Later in life he finds himself working as an illustrator and falls in love with Eiko, an editor who often comes to his place to pick up work. Tony and Eiko get married and live together happily, but there is one problem: Eiko is addicted to shopping for clothes. Whenever she sees an outfit she likes in a boutique, she just has to buy it. She tries to cure herself of her addiction but the effort makes her mentally unstable and she dies in a traffic accident. Tony employs a woman called Hisako as a secretary so that someone wear Eiko's extensive wardrobe.

Awards & Festivals

Locarno International Film Festival - Special Jury Prize, FIPRESCI PRIZE & Youth Jury Prize

Fourteen

14歳

2006 / 114min / Colour



© PFF Partners 2006

STAFF

Director : HIROSUE Hiromasa 廣末 哲万
Screenplay : TAKAHASHI Izumi
Producer : AMANO Mayumi
Cinematographer : HASHIMOTO Kiyooki

CAST

FUKATSU Ryo : NAMIKI Akie 並木 愛江
SUGINO Koichi : HIROSUE Hiromasa 廣末 哲万
Teacher KOBAYASHI : KAGAWA Teruyuki 香川 照之
AMAMIYA Taiki : SOMEYA Shota 染谷 将太

SYNOPSIS

Ryo is a junior high teacher, spends her energy mediating the tense atmosphere between students and faculty. For the young teens, there is only frustration of having ones ambitions crushed by self-important adults who treat them as children.

Note

HIROSUE Hiromasa and TAKAHASHI Izumi had formed a film production unit in 2001, christening it, "Gunjoiro (Ultramarine)." The duo primarily function with TAKAHASHI writing the scripts and HIROSUE directing. Common in all their films, in addition to their truthfulness, is the figure of human beings struggling to survive in modern society. Another film by "Gunjoiro", "The Lost Hum" (2005) won the NETPAC Award at the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2006.

Awards & Festivals

*NETPAC (Network for the Promotion of Asian Cinema) Award at the International Film Festival Rotterdam 2007

Kaidan

怪談

2007 / 119min / Colour



© 2007 Kaidan Film Partners

STAFF

Director : NAKATA Hideo 中田 秀夫
Original Story : Sanyu-tei Encho
Screenplay : OKUDERA Satoko
Producer : ICHISE Takashige
Cinematographer : HAYASHI Jyunichiro
Art Director : TANEDA Yohei

CAST

Toyoshiga : KUROKI Hitomi 黒木 瞳
Shinkichi : ONOE Kikunosuke 尾上 菊之助
Ohisa : INOUE Mao 井上 真央
Orui : ASO Kumiko 麻生 久美子
Osono : KIMURA Tae 木村 多江
Oshizu : SETO Asaka 瀬戸 朝香

SYNOPSIS

250 years ago. Soetsu, a humble moneylender, is murdered by Shinzaemon, a cruel samurai, and his body is disposed of in Kasane-ga-fuchi - the pool of a snaking river where, legend has it, those who sink into the water will never float to the surface again. 20 years later, in a chance encounter, Shinkichi, the handsome son of Shinzaemon, meets Toyoshiga, the daughter of Soetsu, and they fall in love. When Toyoshiga dies from a strange disease, Shinkichi finds that not only is he unable to avoid the mysterious fatality of the past and Toyoshiga's tenacious love for him, but he is also forced to confront the ghostly truths held by Kasane-ga-fuchi.

The Girl Who Leapt Through Time

時をかける少女

2006 / 98min / Colour



© 2006 TOKIKAKE Film Partners

STAFF

Director : HOSODA Mamoru 細田 守
Original Story : TSUTSUI Yasutaka
Screenplay : OKUDERA Satoko
Producers : WATANABE Takashi
 : SAITO Yuichiro
Cinematographer : TOMITA Yoshihiro
Music : YOSHIDA Kiyoshi

CAST

KONNO Makoto : NAKA Riisa 仲 里依紗
MAMIYA Chiaki : ISHIDA Takuya 石田 卓也
TSUDA Kosuke : ITAKURA Mitsutaka
 : 板倉 光隆

SYNOPSIS

A high school girl, Konno Makoto, obtains the power of the "time loop", an ability to leap time, following a car accident. Makoto starts using the power to satisfy her trifling desires. However, her best friend, Tsuda Kosuke, gets involved in an accident because Makoto selfishly changed the past. Her other best friend, Mamiya Chiaki, steps in to avoid the difficulties. Chiaki has come from the future by time loop, and Makoto's ability is a consequence of the equipment that he has brought.

Note

An animation based on a novel of the same title written by a Sci-Fi author, TSUTSUI Yasutaka.

Awards & Festivals

10th Japan Media Art Festival - Grand Prize, Animation Division
30th Japan Academy Prize - Animation of the Year
61st Mainichi Film Awards - Best Animation

Ultraman Mebius & Ultraman Brothers

ウルトラマンメビウス&ウルトラ兄弟

2006 / 93min / Colour



TSUBURAYA © 2006 ULTRAMAN MEBIUS & ULTRAMAN BROTHERS Production Consortium

STAFF

Director : KONAKA Kazuya
 : 小中 和哉
Screenplay : HASEGAWA Keiichi
Producer : SUZUKI Kiyoshi
Cinematographer : TAKAHASHI Sou
Art Director : OSAWA Tetsuzo

CAST

HIBINO Mirai : IGARASHI Shunji 五十嵐 隼士
(Ultraman Mebius)
HAYATA Shin : KUROBE Susumu 黒部 進
(Ultraman)
MOROBOSHI Dan : MORITSUGU Koji 森次 晃嗣
(Ultra Seven)
GO Hideki : DAN Jiro 団 時朗
(Ultraman Jack)
HOKUTO Seiji : TAKAMINE Keiji 高峰 圭二
(Ultraman Ace)

SYNOPSIS

20 years ago: An intense battle raged between the gigantic multi-tentacled monster U-Killer Saurus and four of the Ultraman Brothers; Ultraman, Ultra Seven, Ultraman Ace and Ultraman Jack. Though the battle was four against one, this monster was so powerful that the four Ultraman Brothers must use the Final Cross Shield to trap the beast forever below the waters of Kobe Bay. But in using this weapon, the heroes lost their super powers and were spending the rest of their lives as ordinary human beings. In the present day, unknown to Ultraman Mebius, a group of evil aliens have arrived in Kobe with plans to release the monster U-Killer Saurus and conquer the world.

Note

This film was produced in the celebration of 40th Anniversary of Ultraman series.

ICHIKAWA Kon Retrospective



ICHIKAWA Kon (1915 - 2008)

ICHIKAWA began his career as an animator. His first directorial effort was the puppet film, "Musume Dojoji (A Girl at Dojo Temple)" in 1945 but since shifting to live action films later on he undertook a wide variety of genres from pure entertainment to experimental films, and worked on the forefront for a long time. His feature films alone number close to 80 titles.

Some of his representative works include "The Burmese Harp" (1956) which won numerous awards at international film festivals such as the St. George at Venice Film Festival; "Her Brother," a story about an older sister and her brother set in Taisho period; "Alone in the Pacific," based on a documentary about sailing across the Pacific Ocean in a small yacht. However, "Tokyo Olympiad" in 1965 for which he was chief director resulted in much debate on whether it was a "documentary or an art film" due to its high artistic quality.

In the 1970s, he directed the "Kindaichi Kousuke" series which are leading examples of Japanese horror film that did well at the box office thanks to their gorgeous imagery and brisk pace of story.

Even after passing 90 years of age, his desire to create did not dissipate, and in 2006 he remade "The Inugami Family" using the same screenplay and leading actors as 30 years ago. Passed away on February 13, 2008 of pneumonia. His last work was an appearance in a scene of "The Magic Hour" directed by Kouki Mitani, scheduled for release in June.

Harp of Burma

ビルマの豎琴

1956 / 116min / Black & White

STAFF

Director : ICHIKAWA Kon 市川 崑
Original Story : TAKEYAMA Michio
Screenplay : WADA Natto

CAST

MIZUSHIMA : YASUI Shoji 安井 昌二
Commander INOUE : MIKUNI Rentaro 三國 連太郎
Sergeant ITO : HAMAMURA Jun 浜村 純

SYNOPSIS

In the summer of 1945 on the Burma front in World War II, the unit of Captain Inoue's is making its way with a Burmese harp accompaniment played by Mizushima, a private soldier, to the group singing. Near the border, the company is informed of the ending of the War. Discarding their weapons, they are to be taken to a prison-of-war camp in Mudon.

Mizushima is sent on a mission to inform another unit of the surrender and to convince them to stop fighting, but becomes lost and is missing.

Awards & Festivals

J17th Venice International Film Festival - San Giorgio Award

29th Academy Awards - Nominated for Best Foreign Language Film

Ten Dark Women

黒い十人の女

1961 / 103min / Black & White



STAFF

Director : ICHIKAWA Kon 市川 崑
Screenplay : WADA Natto
Director of photography : KOBAYASHI Setsuo
Music : AKUTAGAWA Yasushi

CAST

KAZE Matsukichi : FUNAKOSHI Eiji 船越 英二
ISHINOMOTO Ichiko : KISHI Keiko 岸 恵子
KAZE Futaba : YAMAMOTO Fujiko 山本 富士子
Miwako : MIYAGI Mariko 宮城 まり子
GOTO Sayoko : KISHIDA Kyoko 岸田 今日子

SYNOPSIS

Kaze Matsukichi, a TV producer, is a selfish married TV producer who conducts ongoing affairs with nine different women, practically simultaneously. After a certain amount of bickering among themselves, the nine mistresses, along with the wife, decide to knock the guy off.

Note

It wasn't a big success when this film was originally released in 1961, despite the fact that ICHIKAWA was already an established bi-name director and the cast included many of Japan's top actresses. However, it turned out to be a huge hit, when it was revived as a midnight show in Tokyo in 1997.

Dora Heita

どら平太

2000 / 111min / Colour



STAFF

Director : ICHIKAWA Kon 市川 崑
Original Story : YAMAMOTO Shugoro
Screenplay : KUROSAWA Akira
ICHIKAWA Kon
KINOSHITA Keisuke
KOBAYASHI Masaki
(The Committee of Four Knights)
Executive Producer : NAKAMURA Masaya

CAST

Dora-Heita : YAKUSYO Koji 役所 広司
Kosei : ASANO Yuko 浅野 ゆう子
Nadahachi : SUGAWARA Bunta 菅原 文太

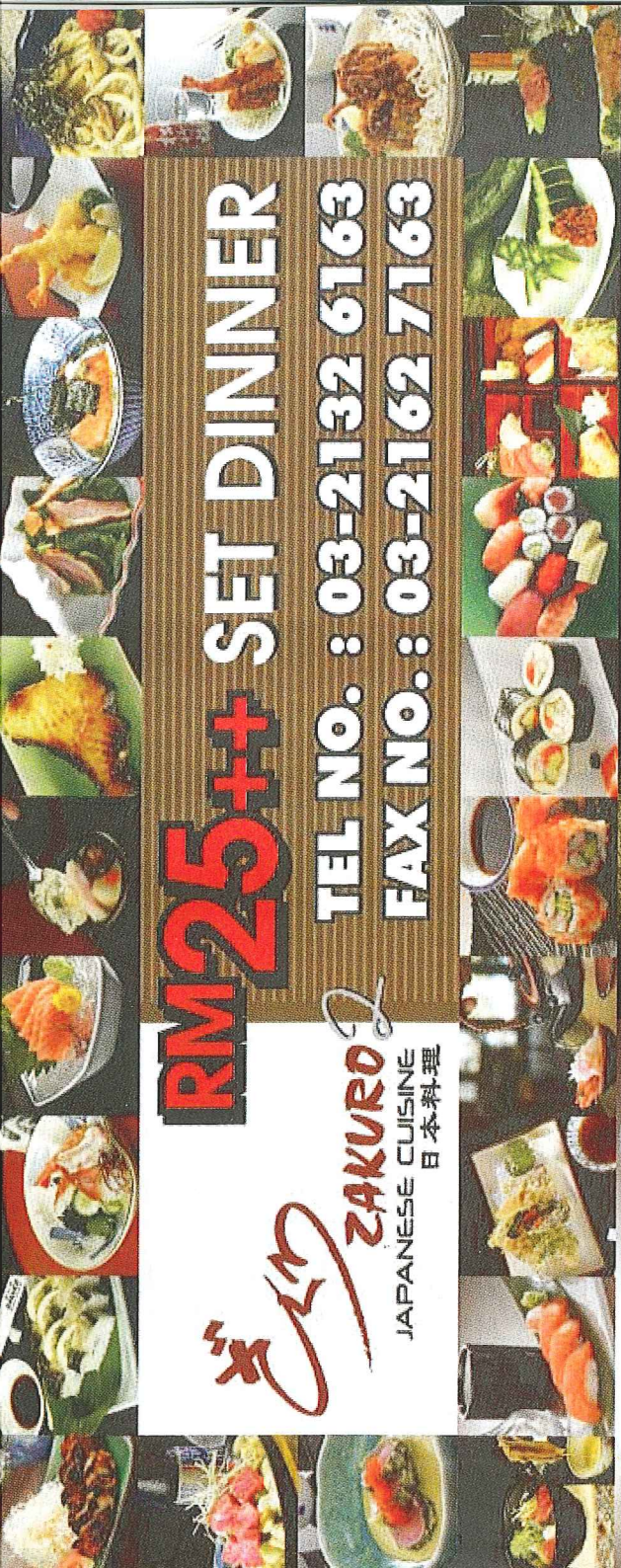
SYNOPSIS

The town magistrate's office in a certain minor lord's domain has been without a magistrate for a while, ever since the three previous officials mysteriously disappeared.

The new magistrate's name is Koheita Mochizuki, but he's better known as Dora Heita, the 'Alley-cat Magistrate,' on account of his debauched lifestyle.

Note

50th Berlin International Film Festival

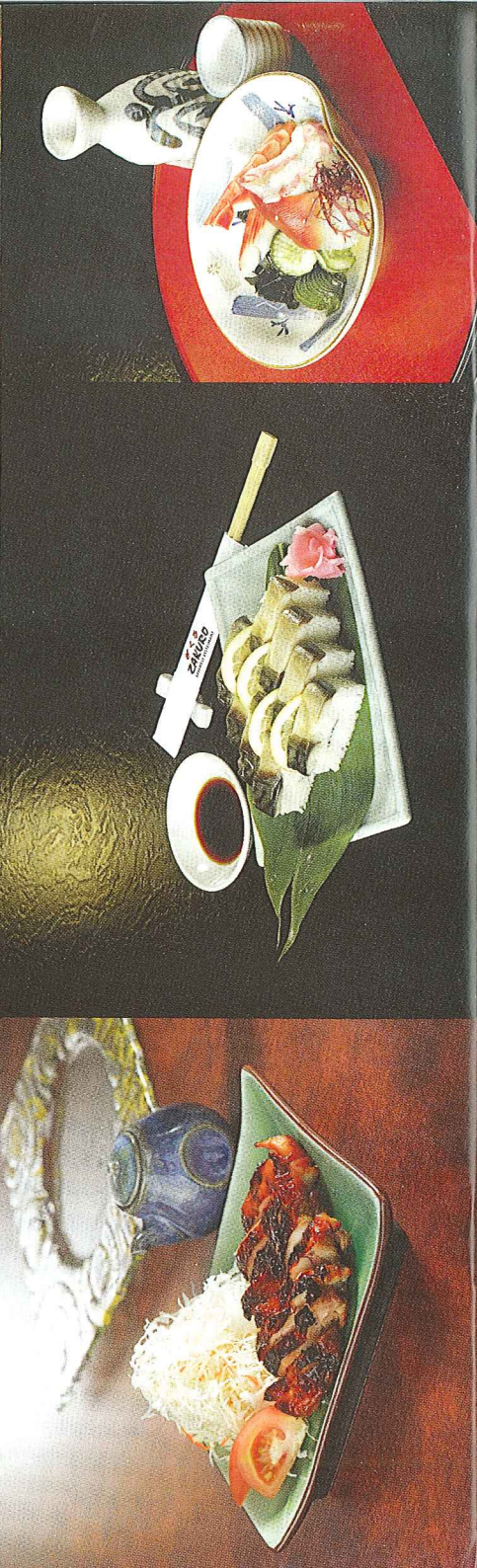


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