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Official Movie Channel:



Japanese Film Festival 2007



Message from JFKL Director



Welcome to the Japanese Film Festival 2007!

This annual Japanese films festival is more meaningful this time as it marks one of the main events for this special celebration year 2007. Throughout the year, we proudly present many exciting cultural events inclusive this festival to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Malaysia independence and also of establishment of diplomatic relations between Malaysia and Japan.

The 8 selected films might reflect the recent situation of Japanese film scene, which can be considered as booming. According to the data of last year, over 400 new films were produced in a year. And even more surprising was the audience support for domestic made films are greater than to the foreign films, which had never happened for over 20 years. Hollywood films can hardly get many audiences as before except some big hits in Japanese. Subsequently, new young directors come up with new works one after another and veteran directors produce new films actively. This boom should have something to do with the innovation of technology as well as social and cultural changes in Japan. Number of screens is increasing in accordance with the development of cinema complex. In addition to that, films nowadays are not created only for cinemas. Film producers make money by selling films for other medias such as multi channel TV, DVD, Internet and so on.

In this festival, we have the chance to see a best directing and technique film through "Love and Honor", an authentic film by veteran director Yamada Yoji. Whereas, a popular film "Kamome Diner" by a young new wave film director OGIGAMI Naoko will be very entertaining. My favorite "We Shall Overcome Someday (Pacchigi)" deals with important aspects in Japanese society like culture, history, prejudice and ignorance. It is about friendship between a Japanese boy and a Korean girl. Personally, I am very curious to know how multi cultural society like Malaysian people feels about this film.

To prove one of our objectives to promote Malaysian culture to Japanese people, at the last year's Tokyo International Film Festival, we had invited 9 Malaysian films to be part of the festival. Now the films are on tour around cities in Japan with the hope that local Japanese can gain some knowledge on Malaysian culture, society and lifestyles through the films. Understanding each other is the key for a better tolerance and reverence towards each other.

Enjoy yourself, and learn something!

SHIMOYAMA Masaya
Director
The Japan Foundation, Kuala Lumpur

KUALA LUMPUR

Date: 23 (Thu) - 27 (Mon) August 2007

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

PENANG

Date: 31 (Fri) August - 2 (Sun) September 2007

Venue: GSC Gurney Plaza

1. Love and Honor
武士の一分
(YAMADA Yoji / 2006 / 121 min)

2. Hana
花よりもなほ
(KORE-EDA Hirokazu / 2006 / 127 min)

3. Linda Linda Linda
リンダ リンダ リンダ
(YAMASHITA Nobuhiro / 2005 / 114 min)

4. We Shall Overcome Someday (Pacchigi!)
パッチギ!
(IZUTSU Kazuyuki / 2004 / 119 min)

5. Yoshino's Barber Shop
バーバー吉野
(OGIGAMI Naoko / 2003 / 96 min)

6. Kamome Diner
かもめ食堂
(OGIGAMI Naoko / 2005 / 102 min)

7. The Milkwoman
いつか読書する日
(OGATA Akira / 2005 / 127 min)

8. Infection
感染
(OCHIAI Masayuki / 2004 / 98 min)

Love and Honor 武士の一分

2006 / 121min / Colour



© 2006 Love and Honor Film Partners

STAFF

Director : YAMADA Yoji 山田 洋次
Producers : FUKASAWA Hiroshi
YAMAMOTO Ichiro
Original Story : FUJISAWA Shuhei
Screenplay : YAMADA Yoji
HIRAMATSU Emiko
YAMAMOTO Ichiro

CAST

MIMURA Shinnojo : KIMURA Takuya 木村 拓哉
Kayo : DAN Rei 壇 れい
SHIMADA Toya : BANDO Mitsugoro
坂東 三津五郎

SYNOPSIS

Mimura Shinnojo is a lower class samurai who is a poison tester for the domain lord. He is poor but happily leading his humble life with his beautiful wife, Kayo. One day, however, Shinnojo is poisoned during the testing and loses his sight. He is made redundant and is reduced to poverty. It is such a time when Shimada, a clerk, offers help to Kayo. He wants her body in return, and Kayo accepts the offer to supplement the family income. When the relationship becomes public, Shinnojo is devastated for being robbed of his beloved wife and for his helplessness.

Festivals & Awards

Berlin International Film Festival 2007

Hana 花よりもなほ

2006 / 127min / Colour



STAFF

Director : KORE-EDA Hirokazu
是枝 裕和
Producers : SATO Shiho
ENOKI Nozomu
Cinematography : YAMAZAKI Yutaka
Screenplay : KORE-EDA Hirokazu

CAST

AOKI Aozaemon : OKADA Junichi 岡田 准一
Osae : MIYAZAWA Rie 宮沢 りえ
KANAZAWA Jubei : ASANO Tadanobu 浅野 忠信

SYNOPSIS

Revenge killing was the norm in 1702, when Sozaemon, a country samurai, comes from Matsumoto to Edo to revenge himself on Kanazawa Jubei for killing his father. However it takes longer than expected to find Kanazawa, and Sozaemon decides to take residence at a tenement to take time to search. He meets people with colorful personalities at the tenement, including a beautiful widow Osae. They live happily despite being poor, and Sozaemon realizes the existence of life without revenge.

Festival & Awards

International Film Festival Rotterdam 2007
Pusan International Film Festival 2006
Tronto International Film Festival 2006

Linda Linda Linda リンダ リンダ リンダ

2005 / 114min / Colour



STAFF

Director : YAMASHITA Nobuhiro
山下 敦弘
Producers : NEGISHI Hiroyuki
SADAI Yuji
Cinematography : IKEUCHI Hiromichi
Screenplay : YAMASHITA Nobuhiro
MUKAI Kosuke
MIYASHITA Wakako

CAST

Son : BAE Doona ペ・ドゥナ
YAMADA Kyoko : MAEDA Aki 前田 亜季
TACHIBANA Kei : KASHII Yu 香椎 由宇
SHIRAKAWA Nozomi : SEKINE Shiori 関根 史織

SYNOPSIS

Kei, Kyoko and Nozomi form a rock band for their school festival, but three days before the festival, their band splits up when the guitarist breaks her fingers and the vocalist storms out. Then, suddenly they hear "Linda, Linda", the famous song by legendary Japanese band, the Blue Hearts. Cheered by the song, they decide to do the cover version of it. With the new vocalist Son, a Korean student who was just walking by and was persuaded to join, they re-start rehearsing for the festival.

Festivals & Awards

Vancouver International Film Festival 2005
Pusan International Film Festival 2005

We Shall Overcome Someday (Pacchigi!) パッチギ!

2004 / 119min / Colour



© 2004 Cine Qua Non/Happinet/Eisei Genkijo/Memory-Tech./S.D.P

STAFF

Director : IZUTSU Kazuyuki 井筒 和幸
Producers : LEE Bong-ou
ISHIHARA Hitomi
Cinematography : YAMAMOTO Hideo
Screenplay : IZUTSU Kazuyuki
HABARA Daisuke

CAST

MATSUYAMA Kosuke : SHIOYA Shun 塩谷 瞬
LEE Ang-son : TAKAOKA Sosuke 高岡 蒼佑
LEE Kyong-ja : SAWAJIRI Erika 沢尻 エリカ

SYNOPSIS

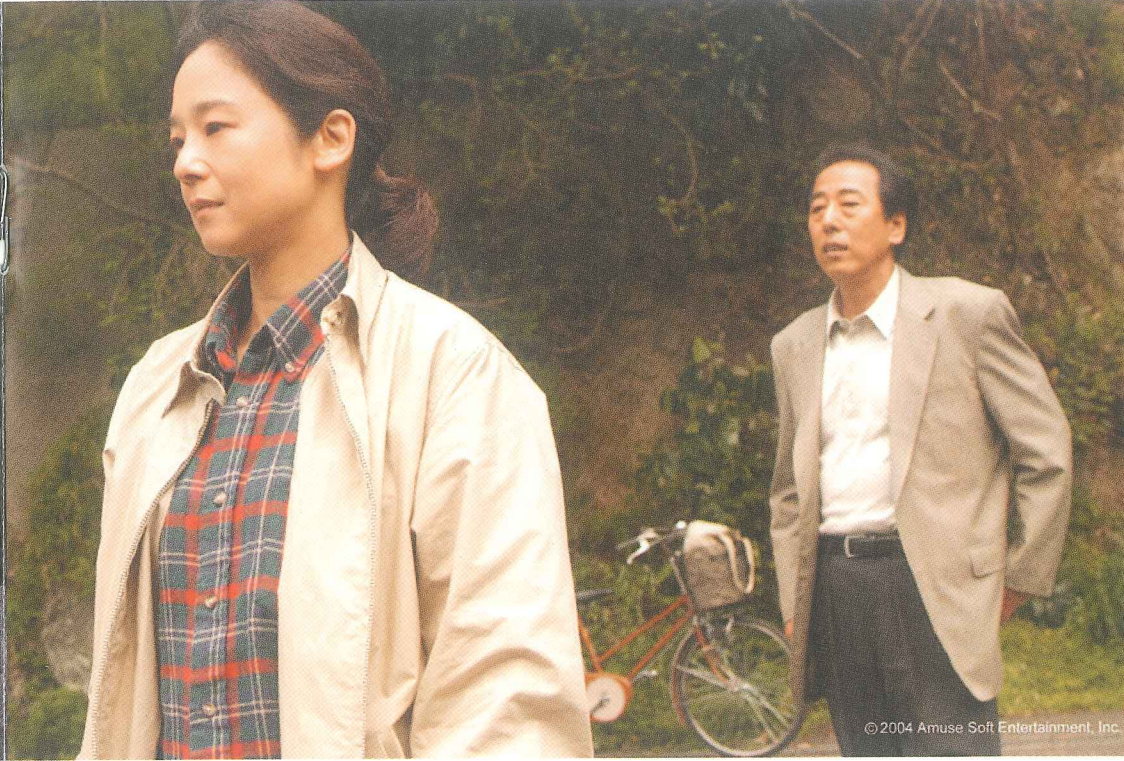
It's 1968. The Higashi High School Karate Club clashes with a gang of delinquents from a high school for resident Koreans, and their leader Ang-son. Kosuke from the Higashi High falls in love with Ang-son's sister Kyong-ja, a talented flautist. Kosuke starts studying Korean and playing the guitar to get close to Kyong-ja and learns the tune she plays called "Imujing River," a song about homesickness for Korea. Kosuke gradually wins her over and becomes friends with her brother and the other resident Koreans. But when one of his new friends dies in an accident Kosuke realizes the real depth of anti-Japanese feeling among Korean Residents in Japan.

Festivals & Awards

Pusan International Film Festival 2004

The Milkwoman いつか読書する日

2005 / 127min / Colour



©2004 Amuse Soft Entertainment, Inc.

STAFF

Director : OGATA Akira 緒方 明
Producers : OIWAKE Shiro
HATANAKA Morohiro
Cinematography : KASAMATSU Norimichi
Screenplay : AOKI Kenji

CAST

OHBA Minako : TANAKA Yuko 田中 裕子
TAKANASHI Keita : KISHIBE Ittoku 岸部 一徳
TAKANASHI Yoko : NISHINA Akiko 仁科 亜希子
WATANABE Misako 渡辺 美佐子

SYNOPSIS

In a town of hills, Minako begins her day running up and down its steep slopes delivering milk, after which she works as a supermarket cashier. She is 50, single. In one of the houses to which she delivers milk lives a man with whom she has secretly been in love since high school. That man, Keita lives with his wife Yoko, who is terminally ill. Caring for her at home, he works in the Children's Affairs Section of the local municipal office. Insisting that he wants nothing more than an 'ordinary' existence, his life is one of constant turmoil.

Festivals & Awards

Jury Award, The World Film Festival - Montreal 2005

Infection 感染

2004 / 98min / Colour



STAFF

Director : OCHIAI Masayuki 落合 正幸
Producer : ICHISE Taka
Screenplay : OCHIAI Masayuki

CAST

Akiba : SATO Koichi 佐藤 浩市
Uozumi : TAKASHIMA Masanobu 高嶋 政信
Nakazono : HADA Michiko 羽田 美智子
Akai : SANO Shiro 佐野 史郎

SYNOPSIS

A doctor's negligence causes a patient to die and the panicked hospital staff decides to cover up the fatal mistake, setting off a deadly chain of events. Paramedics bring a new patient into the hospital who has been stricken with a virus so horrible and revolting that his internal organs have mysteriously disintegrated. The doctors attempt to contain the virus, but the ill patient escapes through the ventilation system ensuring that everyone inside the doomed hospital will have to fight for their lives from the horrifying epidemic.

Director-in-Focus

OGIGAMI Naoko

Born in 1972 in Chiba Prefecture, Japan, Ogigami studied image science at Chiba University. Upon graduation, she went to the United States to study film at the University of South California. During her stay in the U.S., Ogigami worked as an assistant for TV commercials, promotional videos and films, while creating short films of her own. Ogigami returned to Japan in early 2000. "Yoshino's Barber Shop" is her first feature-length film. "Yoshino's Barber Shop" is her first feature-length film and was produced as a Pia Film Festival's Scholarship Film.



Filmography

"AYAKO" (1999 / 16mm / 12min)

"Hoshino-kun, Yumeno-kun" (2001 / video / 68min)

"Yoshino's Barber Shop" (2003 / 35mm / 96min)

"Kamome Diner" (2005 / 35mm / 102min)

"Megane" (2007 / 35mm)



Yoshino's Barber Shop



Kamome Diner

Yoshino's Barber Shop バーバーショップ吉野

2003 / 96min / Colour



© PFF Partners

STAFF

Director : OGIGAMI Naoko 荻上 直子
Producer : AMANO Mayumi
Cinematography : UENO Shogo
Screenplay : OGIGAMI Naoko

CAST

YOSHINO Toshiko : MOTAI Masako もたい まさこ
YOSHINO Keita : YONEDA Ryo 米田 良
YOSHINO Takeo : ASANO Kazuyuki 浅野 和之
Grandpa Mikawa : SAKURAI Senri 桜井 センリ

SYNOPSIS

In a picturesque rural village, everyone has their haircut at the local barber shop - the only one - by the fearsome Yoshiko. Without exception, all the local boys are required to sport the hairdresser's proprietary bowl-shaped "Yoshino Cut," which is a long-standing town tradition. But when a trendy transfer student Yosuke arrives on the scene, his fashionably dyed and coiffed locks ruffle the community's clean-cut consensus as the local boys start questioning the status quo.

Festivals & Awards

Special Mention, Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk, Berlin International Film Festival 2004
Golden Reel Award, Tiburon International Film Festival 2005

Kamome Diner かもめ食堂

2005 / 102min / Colour



© Kamome Company
Photo by Yoko Takahashi

STAFF

Director : OGIGAMI Naoko 荻上 直子
Producer : AMANO Mayumi
Original Story : MURE Yoko
("Kamome Shokudo" published by Gentosha)
Screenplay : OGIGAMI Naoko

CAST

Sachie : KOBAYASHI Satomi 小林 聡美
Midori : KATAGIRI Hairi 片桐 はいり
Masako : MOTAI Masako もたい まさこ

SYNOPSIS

Sachie, from Japan, opens the "Kamome Diner" in Helsinki, Finland. The specialty menu is Onigiri rice ball. However, the only customer day after day is a geeky Japan enthusiast, Tommi. One day, two Japanese ladies, each with some personal issues, come to help at Sachie's diner. The number of customers gradually increases, but the diner seems to attract only those with problems. Conversation with Sachie and the tasty food seem to resolve peoples concerns.

Festivals & Awards

The World Film Festival, Montreal 2007



THE FLUTE FESTIVAL IN MALAYSIA

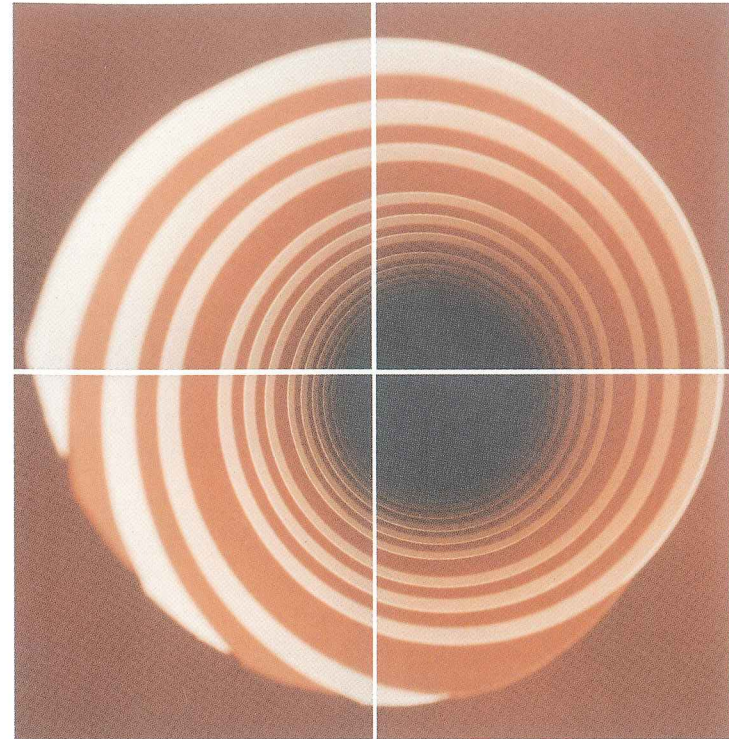
" Experience the fantastic world of woodwind music "
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8 Sept '07 8:30pm (Sat) Pentas 1, KLPac RM45 / RM30
 9 Sept '07 2:00pm (Sun) RM15 (Students, Senior Citizens, Disabled & JFKL Members)
 Available at Klpac box office 03-4047 9000

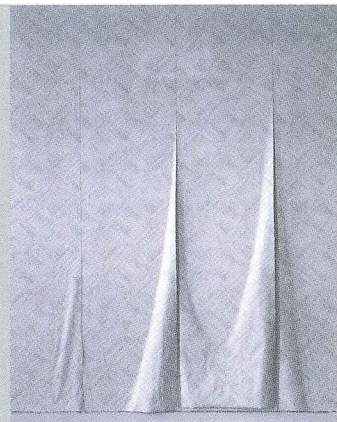
Master class for flute & saxophone players will be held. For further enquiry, please email to fl.festival.malaysia@hotmail.com

Counter-Photography Exhibition in Penang



In-spiral by Akiko Sugiyama

Duration : 17 (Mon) September ~ 12 (Fri) October 2007
 Venue : Penang State Art Gallery
 Ground Floor, Dewan Sri Penang,
 Light Street, Penang
 Opening Hours : 9am - 5pm (**Closed on Sundays**)
 Contact : 04-261 3144 / muzium@po.jaring.my



by Tomoko Yoneda

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