

Japan National Tourist Organization London Office
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Premiere Japan '07 Film Festival - 14-16 September

British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA), Piccadilly, London W1

Tel: 020 7465 6500; films@jpembassy.org.uk

In order to raise awareness of Japanese cinema among the British public, the Embassy of Japan and the British Academy of Television Arts will present *Premiere Japan*, a season of Japanese films not so far released in the UK at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA). Admission is free.

The works to be shown will be selected by film critics Tony Rayns and Alexander Jacoby. Here is a list of the films of this year's films.

Friday, 14 September, 19:30 | Sunday, 16 September, 14:30

MEMORIES OF TOMORROW

Tsutsumi Yukihiro | Japan | 2006 | 122 mins

Saeki Masayuki is a successful manager of an advertising agency who, although not yet fifty years old, is diagnosed with the early onset of Alzheimer's disease. Through a simple yet poignant storyline, the film examines the how he, his wife, his daughter and his colleagues cope with the disease's progression. Lacking neither tenderness nor honesty, it features solid performances from the ever-popular Watanabe Ken, who won a Japanese Academy award for his leading role and Higuchi Kanako as his wife Saeki Emiko.

Saturday, 15 September, 15:00

TEN NIGHTS OF DREAMS

Featuring the work of ten directors | Japan | 2007 | 110 mins

"I am an ambitious man, who wants the people of one hundred years hence to solve my riddle." So wrote author Natsume Soseki, whose collection of short, fantastic stories, published a century ago next year, forms the basis of this remarkable new film. Eleven directors - from veterans Ichikawa Kon and the late Jissoji Akio to youthful talents such as Yamashita Nobuhiro and Nishikawa Miwa - have crafted imaginative recreations of Soseki's ten mysterious dreams, in a film which combines live-action with animation and colour with monochrome. It is a visually splendid evocation of an unreal world.

Saturday, 15 September, 19:00

HULA GIRLS

Lee Sang-il | Japan | 2006 | 110 mins

It is 1965 and in Japan, the country has started to shift from coal to oil. One by one the old mining towns begin their long slow decline. But for one small town way up north, its leaders and mining company officials have come up with an idea to develop Japan's first Hawaiian Village. And what's a Hawaiian Village without a troupe of Hula dancers? The only problem is, no one knows how to do the dance or even knows what the Hula is! In this touching comedy, the scepticism and conservatism of the locals is gradually overcome as their daughters fall under the spell of one talented and determined dance instructor from Tokyo; a Japanese *Full Monty*?

Sunday, 16 September, 14:30

NITABOH

Nishizawa Akio | Japan | 2004 | 90 mins

Set in mid-nineteenth century Japan, this *anime* focuses on the early years of musician Nitaro Akimoto (1857-1928), creator of the Tsugaru style of *shamisen* playing. The eight-year old Nitaboh, as he is known, is stricken with an illness that leaves him blind. He inherits the *shamisen*, a three-string banjo-like instrument, once used by his mother, and is taught its basics by a blind travelling *shamisen* player. Taking the instrument to new levels, Nitaboh pioneers a revolutionary new music style that would impress Jimi Hendrix;

an animated film for all the family filled with the electrifying fusion Tsugaru-jamisen music of J-pop star, Agatsuma Hiromitsu.

Sunday, 16 September, 19:30

THE YOUTH OF KAMIYA ETSUKO

Kuroki Kazuo | Japan | 2006 | 111 mins

This screening is a tribute to director Kuroki Kazuo, who died in April 2006 aged 75, before this, his final work, was released. Like many of his later films, its subject is the defining trauma for Japanese of his generation: the Second World War. But there is no action or violence in this bittersweet comic drama about a young woman torn between two suitors in the last months of the conflict. Kuroki directs with his characteristic restraint, subtlety and sympathy for the feelings of ordinary people in difficult situations, qualities which make this a fitting swansong.

BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN

Your exclusive **FREE** film tickets (subject to availability) are available from the Embassy of Japan via email films@jpembassy.org.uk.

Tickets will be limited to one screening per person.

When booking, please provide the following:

- your full name
- your postal address
- your email address
- a daytime telephone number
- whether you wish to apply for a single ticket or a pair
- your guest's full name
- the film you wish to see

Please book early

Only successful applicants will be contacted with a booking number

Maximum of **ONE** film per person

ENDS

For more information or images please contact Kylie Clark, PR Manager,
Japan National Tourist Organization

T: 020 7734 6870

E: kylie@jnto.co.uk

W: www.seejapan.co.uk