

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **2016 JAPAN FILM FESTIVAL OF SAN FRANCISCO ANNOUNCES THEATRICAL FILM PREMIERES SHOWCASING DYNAMIC JAPANESE CINEMA**

*The S.F. Bay Area's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Dedicated Japanese Film Festival Returns With  
Premiere Screenings And Very Special Guests Of Honor Taking Place  
At NEW PEOPLE Cinema In Japantown*

San Francisco, CA, June 9, 2016 – The 2016 Japan Film Festival of San Francisco (JFFSF), the first and only fully-dedicated Japanese film celebration for the S.F. Bay Area, has announced a diverse roster of films that are set to screen as part of this year's program.

This year's JFFSF proudly presents a broad collection of current and acclaimed Japanese cinema across a variety of genres such as action, sci-fi, documentary, anime, shorts, live music, kabuki theatre, crime mystery, and family drama. All films will be presented in Japanese language with English subtitles.

The 2016 Japan Film Festival of San Francisco opens Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> and runs thru Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup> at NEW PEOPLE Cinema located inside the NEW PEOPLE in Japantown at 1746 Post St., San Francisco, CA 94115 ([www.newpeoplecinema.com](http://www.newpeoplecinema.com)). Tickets to individual screenings are \$15.00 each, unless otherwise noted. All ticket prices include the service fee with no further extra charge.

For the true film aficionado, this year, the JFFSF also offers the special JFFSF Festival Passports. Available for \$150 each, a passport grants the holder priority access and seating at all JFFSF 2016 screenings. **A complete listing of film summaries, trailers, screening times and advance tickets as well as festival passports are available at: [JFFSF.org](http://JFFSF.org).**

Special 2016 JFFSF Guests of Honor include Director Shinsuke Sato (*Gantz*, *The Princess Blade*), who appears in person for the U.S. premiere of *LIBRARY WARS: THE LAST MISSION*, Director Shunji Iwai (*Love Letter*, *All About Lily Chou-Chou*, *Hana and Alice*), who will appear for the California premiere of *A BRIDE FOR RIP VAN WINKLE*, and Director Ryusuke Hamaguchi, who will appear for the screening of *HAPPY HOUR*.

"We are honored to welcome three prominent directors from Japan as our Guests of Honor this year," says Manami Iiboshi, Executive Director of the Japan Film Festival of San Francisco. "It is exciting to share with our beloved audience this rare opportunity to hear about the creative vision behind their films in person. I hope everyone enjoys exploring diversity of Japanese cinema through this year's program."

This year's JFFSF also complements an extensive roster of entertainment also set to take place for J-POP SUMMIT 2016, the weekend of July 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at Fort Mason.

***The following films will play at the NEW PEOPLE Cinema on the dates noted beginning on Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> with screenings continuing until Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup>.***

### **LIBRARY WARS: THE LAST MISSION**

**Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 12:00pm**

Featuring a special in-person appearance by Director Shinsuke Sato (Gantz, The Princess Blade)! In this new sequel to the first Library Wars film, the story is set in a near future where the expression of thought is censored and the media is controlled. Under instructor Atsushi Dojo whom she admires, Iku Kasahara is now a full-fledged member of the Library Defense 'Task Force'. They are ordered to guard a public exhibition featuring 'The Handbook of Library Law' known as the symbol of freedom, with no clue what fate awaits ahead.

### **J-POP SUMMIT 2016 PRESENTS: IA 1<sup>ST</sup> LIVE CONCERT IN JAPAN "PARTY A GOGO!"**

**Saturday, July 23, 3pm**

Presented by J-POP SUMMIT 2016, the latest Vocaloid sensation "IA" 's first solo concert film, "IA First Live Concert in JAPAN: PARTY A GO-GO," will have its San Francisco premiere at Japan Film Festival of SF! "IA" is a virtual artist brought to life as part of the VOCALOID™3 with its synthesizing technology, and IA-related videos have collectively garnered more than 100 million views online. Experience the hottest entertainment export from Japan!

### **TOKYO SHORT SHORTS 2016**

**Saturday, July 23, 4:15pm**

JFFSF's popular collaboration with Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia teams up to exclusively premiere a collection of special short films directed by a new generation of filmmakers from Japan! Films include: Plan B (Directed by Hatsuki Yokoo), Hana (Directed by Yusaku Okamoto) and Piece of the Future (Directed by Seiki Watanabe), Drifting cloud (Directed by Yuta Sukegawa) and Kerama Blue (Directed by Tsukasa Kishimoto).

### **RUROUNI KENSHIN: KYOTO INFERNO**

**Saturday, July 23 at 6:00pm; Sunday, July 24 at 6:30pm; Monday, July 25 at 8:00pm;**

**Tuesday, July 26 at 9:00pm**

*Rurouni Kenshin: Kyoto Inferno* and *Rurouni Kenshin: The Legend Ends* are both sequels to 2012's first Rurouni Kenshin live-action theatrical film. The live-action action movies were filmed back-to-back and cover the Kyoto Arc of Nobuhiro Watsuki's original historical action manga. Kenshin Himura is a legendary swordsman in the wars accompanying the turbulent fall of Japan's Shogunate in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Once feared as, 'Battosai the Killer,' he became a wanderer living peacefully with his companions with the arrival of the 'new age' in Japanese history. But now he learns that Makoto Shishio, his crazed successor, is about to overthrow the new government. Can Kenshin stop him without breaking his vow to kill no more and save Japan from destruction? (\*\*Note: This is not a double feature. Separate tickets must be bought for each screening.)

### **A BRIDE FOR RIP VAN WINKLE**

**Sunday July 24, 12:00pm**

Screening features a special personal appearance by Director Shunji Iwai (*Love Letter, All About Lily Chou-Chou, Hana and Alice*)! Director Iwai returns with a deceptively beautiful film about a struggling teacher obsessed with a new social-media site, where she meets people that lead her life to an unexpected place. With the wedding with a boyfriend she met online

approaching, and with no relatives except for her divorced parents, she makes a questionable decision encouraged by Amuro, a jack-of-all-trades whom she had also met online.

### **CINEMA KABUKI "NEZUMI KOZO: NODA VERSION"**

**Sunday July 24, 4:00pm**

Don't miss the rare opportunity to experience the authentic and unique beauty of contemporary kabuki performed by some of Japan's greatest kabuki actors and presented in vivid HD on the big screen! *Nezumi Kozo* is based on the story of a real-life bandit from the Edo period (19<sup>th</sup> Century). After his execution, a legend grew that he had been a kind of Robin Hood, sharing his ill-gotten gains with the poor. Written and directed by Hideki Noda and starring Nakamura Kanzaburo XVIII.

### **DOU KYU SEI - CLASSMATES –**

**Monday, July 25, 6:30pm**

Based on a popular yaoi (Boys' Love) manga by Asumiko Nakamura, the film portrays the tantalizingly pure romance between two male high school students, Hikaru Kusakabe, a popular student in a band, and Lichit Sajo, an honor student. These boys would have never crossed paths until they begin to talk through preparing for an upcoming chorus festival together. A sensitive yet refined romantic masterpiece is brought to life.

### **THE ANTHEM OF THE HEART**

**Tuesday, July 26, 6:30pm**

Creators behind the popular *Anohana Movie* return with the original anime feature film, *The Anthem of the Heart* an all-new ode to youth set in the beautiful city of Chichibu, located in Saitama Prefecture, Japan. The story unfolds around Jun Naruse, a girl who is unable to speak from trauma in the past. Through happening to join a musical act with an unexpected mix of students, Jun gradually starts to regain her lost voice.

### **SOLOMON'S PERJURY (PART 1: SUSPICION & PART 2: JUDGMENT)**

**Wednesday, July 27, 6:30pm**

A special double-feature presentation. Court commenced with the death of a 14 year-old, and concluded with perjury. On a Christmas morning, the body of a student is discovered on the snow-covered schoolyard below a high rooftop. His death stirred up the latent malice that existed within the school, leading to accusations by an anonymous source claiming to be an eyewitness. A scheme for a new murder, sensational coverage by the mass media, then another victim and yet another... When the teachers have forsaken the students, concerned only with protecting themselves, one female student takes a stand to expose the hidden truth by holding a court trial within the school! Several collaborators come forward who are not intimidated by the pressure exerted by the teachers. Then, a defense counselor from another school comes forward to offer support. And finally, the 5-day trial begins.

### **THE BOY AND THE BEAST**

**Thursday, July 28, 6:30pm**

The latest feature film from award-winning director Mamoru Hosoda (*Summer Wars*, *Wolf Children*)! When Kyuta, a young orphan living on the streets of Shibuya, stumbles into a fantastic world of beasts, he's taken in by Kumatetsu, a gruff, rough-around-the-edges warrior beast who's been searching for the perfect apprentice. Despite their constant bickering, Kyuta and Kumatetsu begin training together and slowly form a bond as surrogate father and son.

### **RUROUNI KENSHIN: THE LEGEND ENDS**

**Thursday, July 28 at 9:00pm; Friday, July 29, 9:00pm; Saturday, July 30 at 3:00pm;  
Sunday, July 31 at 6:30pm**

Don't miss the exciting finale in the action-packed Rurouni Kenshin live-action saga!

**BEING GOOD**

**Friday, July 29, 6:30pm**

Awarded NETPAC Jury Prize at the 37<sup>th</sup> Moscow International Film Festival, this film is a heart-wrenching portrayal of isolated people caught in downward spirals that also shows how simple acts of kindness can make a difference. Tasuku is a school teacher struggling to deal with his homeroom and his students' over-protective parents. When he discovers that one of his students is being abused by their parents, he decides to stand up to make a difference.

**DASHI & SHOYU: ESSENCE OF JAPAN**

**Saturday, July 30, 12:00pm**

This visually striking food documentary is focused on two crucial essence of Japanese cuisine: the delicate soup stock, 'Dashi,' and the golden soy sauce, 'Shoyu.' Dashi is the bedrock of Japanese cuisine and a distillation of the natural resources of Japan. 'Shoyu' is a pillar of Japanese cuisine, which is made of soy that is transformed by a type of mold that exists only in Japan. History and secrets of Umami will be revealed. Screening will feature a special Dashi stock tasting.

**HAPPY HOUR**

**Sunday, July 31, 12:00pm**

Screening to feature a special personal appearance by Director Ryusuke Hamaguchi! Japan's up-and-coming director Hamaguchi's award-winning epic *Happy Hour* returns to SF Bay Area with the filmmaker himself. This 5-hours-and-17-minutes-long film about the unstable lives of four girl friends in their thirties, played by real women with no acting experience in the past, should be surprisingly gratifying for any movie lover.

**About JAPAN FILM FESTIVAL OF SAN FRANCISCO**

Launched in 2013, Japan Film Festival of San Francisco is the first and only fully dedicated Japanese film event for the SF Bay Area. This year's edition will feature a colorful mix of narratives, anime and documentary film premieres and exclusive screenings with special guest appearance at the NEW PEOPLE Cinema in San Francisco's Japantown from July 23<sup>rd</sup> (Sat) through August 31<sup>st</sup> (Sun), 2016. More details and ticket information is available at [jffsf.org](http://jffsf.org).

**About NEW PEOPLE CINEMA**

NEW PEOPLE Cinema is a 143-seat cinema located in the underground floor of NEW PEOPLE in San Francisco. Equipped with a cutting-edge HD digital projection and THX<sup>®</sup>-certified sound system, NEW PEOPLE Cinema is home for local film festivals and creative events. [newpeoplecinema.com](http://newpeoplecinema.com)

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