

# JAPAN FILM FESTIVAL OF SAN FRANCISCO 9.1-10.2017

**5TH JAPAN FILM FESTIVAL OF SAN FRANCISCO  
September 1-10, 2017 at NEW PEOPLE Cinema**

**SAN FRANCISCO, August 1, 2017** – The 5th Annual JAPAN FILM FESTIVAL OF SAN FRANCISCO will be held at the NEW PEOPLE Cinema in September 1-10, 2017. Premiere screenings of the latest Japanese live-action and animation films, special appearances and Q&A sessions with filmmakers are planned. Also, the film festival will present the JFFSF Honorary Award 2017 to Actor and Director Kaori Momoi (*Memoirs of a Geisha, Ghost In the Shell*). The award ceremony will take place at the J-POP SUMMIT 2017 main stage at the Fort Mason Center For Arts & Culture on the second weekend, Saturday, September 9th at 2pm.

Tickets are \$15. Festival Passport is \$150 (This passport allows full priority access to all films at the Japan Film Festival of San Francisco, but does not include admission to J-POP SUMMIT 2017, taking place in Fort Mason Center on Saturday, September 9th and Sunday 10th, 2017 for two days. [J-POP SUMMIT tickets available here](#)) Quantity is limited.

For additional ticket information, please visit the [www.jffsf.org](http://www.jffsf.org) or email [info@jffsf.org](mailto:info@jffsf.org). Please pick up your tickets at Will Call at the entrance of NEW PEOPLE during the festival week. Bring your confirmation e-ticket with barcode and a valid photo I.D.

The complete program for the festival can be found below.

## **FLOWER AND SWORD - Opening Film**

(North American Premiere)

September 1, 7:00PM

2017 | 127 min | with English Subtitles

Directed by Tetsuo Shinohara

Supported by Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco

How about a battle with flowers instead of swords? It's 16th Century Japan's 'Age of Civil War,' and one man works with flowers to bring peace to the land. He is Senko Ikenobo, one of the "flower monks" of Rokkakudo Temple. Featuring more than 200 floral *ikebana* arrangements, the film was created with cooperation of Ikenobo school, and three major schools of tea in Japan.

## **HER LOVE BOILS BATHWATER**

(San Francisco Premiere)

September 2, 1:00PM

2016 | 125 min | with English Subtitles

Directed by Ryota Nakano

Supported by Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco

*★Special appearance by Director Ryota Nakano! ★*

Director Nakano made his theatrical feature debut with a family drama about a single mother Futaba (Rie Miyazawa) whose husband suddenly left a year ago leaving her with their shy daughter, Azumi (Hana Sugisaki). When Futaba is suddenly diagnosed with a terminal illness, she decides to make use of her remaining time to revive the family's failing bathhouse business, and set Azumi on the path to independence.

## **Tokyo Short Shorts 2017**

September 2, 4:30PM

2017 | 100 min | with English Subtitles

Directed by Yukinori Makabe, Gori, Ben Suzuki, Adrien Lacoste, Hiroyuki Shintani

Co-presented by Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia

JFFSF and Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia collaborates again to exclusively premiere a collection of short films directed by a new generation of filmmakers from Japan! ★*Home Away From Home* (Directed by Yukinori Makabe) ★*born, bone, boon.* (Directed by Gori) ★*A Grain of Wheat* (Directed by Ben Suzuki) ★*The Future Looked Bright* (Directed by Adrien Lacoste) ★*Johnny's Day Off* (Directed by Hiroyuki Shintani)

## **BAKUMAN.**

(West Coast Premiere)

September 2, 7:00PM

2015 | 120 min | with English Subtitles

Directed by Hitoshi One

From the creators of world's best seller *DEATH NOTE* comes a live-action adaptation of a manga comic that graphically portrays two high school students' struggles to becoming top manga creators. High school student Moritaka (Takeru Satoh), whose manga artist uncle died from overwork, was invited by his classmate Akito (Ryunosuke Kamiki) to team up and become manga creators together.

## **LOVE AND GOODBYE AND HAWAII**

(West Coast Premiere)

September 3, 1:00PM

2017 | 94 min | with English Subtitles

Directed by Shingo Matsumura

Up-and-coming director Shingo Matsumura's second feature film is a surprisingly pleasant romantic comedy. Rinko (Ayu Ayano) has been living with her ex-boyfriend Isamu (Kentaro Tamura), a graduate student, for three years. They can't make up their minds, and their situation is too comfortable for Rinko to move out. One day, Rinko finds out that a young girl and Isamu are attracted to each other. Now, Rinko is faced with a tough decision.

### **THE PROJECTS**

(West Coast Premiere)

September 3, 3:00PM

2016 | 103 min | with English Subtitles

Directed by Junji Sakamoto

Supported by Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco

Directed by Junji Sakamoto with his diverse filmmaking styles, the offbeat dialogue-driven drama unfolds when a couple, Hinako (Naomi Fujiyama) and Seiji (Ittoku Kishibe), close their Chinese medicine shop on a shopping strip and relocate to a housing project. Their dejected vibe rouses the curiosity of their neighbors, and then suddenly Seiji vanishes. Speculation takes root that Hinako has murdered Seiji.

### **NAPPING PRINCESS**

(San Francisco Premiere)

September 3, 5:15PM

2017 | 115 min | with English Subtitles

Directed by Kenji Kamiyama

Masterful anime director Kenji Kamiyama's (*Ghost in the Shell: Stand Alone Complex*, *Jin Roh: The Wolf Brigade*) genre-bending adventure is set in the not-too-distant machine-driven future, in which a young woman Kokone is having strange dreams of warring machines, hinting at long-dormant family secrets. *Napping Princess* has all the features of the best anime films, expertly layering its narrative to fuse two worlds that appear separate on the surface.

### **YOUR NAME.**

September 4, 7:00PM

2016 | 107 min | with English Subtitles

Directed by Makoto Shinkai

Co-presented by Funimation

From Director Makoto Shinkai, the innovative mind behind *Voices of a Distant Star* and *5 Centimeters Per Second*, comes Japan's biggest hit from 2016, a beautiful masterpiece about time, thread of fate, and two young souls. The day the stars fell, two lives changed forever. Mitsuha and Taki are complete strangers that suddenly switch places. Mitsuha wakes up in Taki's body, and he in hers.

**Cinema Kabuki: *RENJISHI* and *RAKUDA* (Double Feature)  
(US Premiere)**

September 5, 7:00PM

2016 | 55min, 52min | with English Subtitles

Starring Nakamura Kanzaburo

***RENJISHI (The Father and Son Shishi Lions, 55min)***

The Kabuki Lion Dance usually features a father/son duo as two powerful lions that explore the challenging father/son relationship. The Triple Lion Dance is extraordinary not only because it stars the legendary actor Kanzaburo, but also his sons Kankuro and Shichinosuke who shine as the younger lions, showcasing three of Japan's most revered mythical beasts. The father lion is one of the most sought-after roles for Kabuki actors.

***RAKUDA (The Camel, 52min)***

When unpopular tenant Uma dies, his only friend Hanji schemes to make some money. He sends Kyuroku, the junk collector, to demand support for the funeral ceremony from Uma's miserly landlord – or the dead Uma will come to his house and dance. Kabuki's most powerful acting duo lights a fire under this black comedy, which turns to hilarious farce with the aid of copious amounts of sake.

**NEVER-ENDING MAN: HAYAO MIYAZAKI**

(Theatrical North American Premiere)

September 6, 7:00PM : **Free Admission**

2016 | 70 min | with English Subtitles

Directed by Kaku Arakawa (NHK)

Presented by NHK World

**★FREE ADMISSION★**

3 years ago, the Academy Award-winning animated film director Hayao Miyazaki shocked the world when he announced his retirement at age 72. His creative impulse never faded, however, and he tries a short film after meeting a group of young CGI animators. The documentary follows the tremendous struggle that unfolds as Miyazaki, inspired by a new medium, wrestles with CGI for the first time.

**THE TOKYO NIGHT SKY IS ALWAYS THE DENSEST SHADE OF BLUE**

(West Coast Premiere)

September 6, 7:00PM

2017 | 108 min | with English Subtitles

Directed by Yuya Ishii

Written and directed by Yuya Ishii (*Sawako Decides*, *The Great Passage*, *Our Family*, *The Vancouver Asahi*), the film that premiered at Berlin Film Festival this year was inspired by poetry written by Japan's rising poet Tahi Saihate. In a subtle accumulation of details, the film follows two young misfits in Tokyo, Mika (Shizuka

Ishibashi) and Shinji (Sosuke Ikematsu), from their first encounter through trust forming in one another.

### **MY DAD AND MR. ITO**

(West Coast Premiere)

September 7, 7:00PM

2016 | 119 min | with English Subtitles

Directed by Yuki Tanada

Based on a popular novel, this film by Director Yuki Tanada depicts a carefree woman living under the same roof with her father and her boyfriend twenty years her senior. Aya (Juri Ueno) spends her days as she pleases living in an elderly home with her older boyfriend Mr. Ito (Lily Franky). Her peaceful days are upended when her father (Tatsuya Fuji) shows up after getting kicked out of his son's home.

### **CLOSE-KNIT**

(San Francisco Premiere)

September 8, 7:00PM

2017 | 127 min | with English Subtitles

Directed by Naoko Oigami

The first film in five years from Director Naoko Oigami (*Kamome Diner*) depicts a man who became a woman, her partner and young niece. Tomo (Rinka Kakihara) is a girl who moves in with her uncle Makio (Kenta Kiritani) after her mom takes off. Makio's lover Rinko (Toma Ikuta) is a former man. Tomo feels confused, but gets her first taste of a loving household.

### **RAGE**

(San Francisco Premiere)

September 9, 1:00PM

2016 | 142 min | with English Subtitles

Directed by Sang-il Lee

*★Special appearance by Director Sang-il Lee! ★*

Acclaimed director Sang-il Lee (*Hula Girls, Villain, Unforgiven*) brings award-winning author Shuichi Yoshida's mystery novel to life with an all-star cast including Ken Watanabe. The suspect in a married couple's homicide from a year ago altered his appearance with plastic surgery and has been on the run ever since. Amid this circumstance, different men show up in different places that are suspected to be the fugitive.

### **Inside Lens: Documentary series**

September 9, 4:30PM **Free Admission**

2015-2017 | 85 min | with English Subtitles

Directed by Ivan Kovac, Jeffrey Jousan, Ophélie Giomataris, Marie Linton

Presented by NHK World

★FREE ADMISSION★

NHK World presents *Inside Lens* a special documentary series featuring works of international filmmakers in Japan and Asia. As a special edition of JFFSF, three documentaries from international journalists living in Japan share the curious perspective on people in Japan with passion to "revive" lost souls of robotic pets, plants, and retro games. ★*Man's Best Friend* (Director: Ivan Kovac, Jeffrey Jousan) ★*Deep Flowers* (Director: Ophélie Giomataris) ★*Game Preservation -The Quest-* (Director: Marie Linton)

**BLACK WIDOW BUSINESS**

(US Premiere)

September 9, 7:00PM

2016 | 128 min | with English Subtitles

Directed by Yasuo Tsuruhashi

A woman exploits elderly men in marriage scams in this humorous portrait of men and women overcome by greed. Aging and adorable Sayoko (Shinobu Otake) meets Kozo (Masahiko Tsugawa) at a matchmaking party and they get married. When he dies two years later, Sayoko presents his two daughters with an official will and asserts that she is the sole heir to the estate.

**NEVER-ENDING MAN: HAYAO MIYAZAKI** (Theatrical Version)

(North American Premiere)

September 10, 1:00PM: **Free Admission**

2017 | 70 min | with English Subtitles

Directed by Kaku Arakawa (NHK)

Presented by NHK World

★FREE ADMISSION★

3 years ago, the Academy Award-winning animated film director Hayao Miyazaki shocked the world when he announced his retirement at age 72. His creative impulse never faded, however, and he tries a short film after meeting a group of young CGI animators. The documentary follows the tremendous struggle that unfolds as Miyazaki, inspired by a new medium, wrestles with CGI for the first time.

**HEE - Closing Film**

(US Premiere)

September 10, 2:45PM

2015 | 72 min | with English Subtitles

Directed by Kaori Momoi

★*Special appearance by Director & Leading actress Kaori Momoi!*★

Actor Kaori Momoi (*Memoirs of a Geisha*, *Ghost in the Shell*) writes, directs and stars in this suspense thriller based on a novella by award-winning author, Fuminori Nakamura. A Japanese psychiatrist living in America is confronted by a woman

(Kaori Momoi) in an elevator one day. Her voice reverberating in his head, the woman starts telling him tragedies she faced throughout her life. The film world-premiered at the 66th Berlin International Film Festival.

**About the Japan Film Festival of San Francisco**

Hosted by SUPERFROG Project, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, [Japan Film Festival of San Francisco](#) is the first and only fully dedicated annual Japanese film event of the S.F. Bay Area. This festival will take place at NEW PEOPLE Cinema and is a prominent feature of the [J-POP SUMMIT](#) (J-POP.com).

Official website: [JFFSF.org](#)

Venue:

NEW PEOPLE Cinema (1746 Post St., San Francisco, CA 94115)

[Newpeopleworld.com](#)

Hours of Will Call:

Weekdays 9/1, 9/4-9/8 (6:00pm-8:00pm)

Weekends 9/2-3 & 9/9-10 (12:00pm-8:00pm)

ALL SALES ARE FINAL.

No refunds or exchange under any circumstances.

Lost or stolen tickets or passes will not be replaced.