



Motion Picture: Choke

Thriller | 2023 | B&W | Silent | 108 min.

Director: Gen NAGAO [2nd feature]

Cast: Misa WADA (和田光沙),

Daiki HIBA (飛葉大樹),

Takashi NISHINA (仁科貴)

Japanese title: 映画 (窒息)

Japanese release date: November 11th, 2023

★ Yubari International Fantastic Film Festival (2023)

The nature of human beings, whose joy, desire and weakness, is vividly depicted in a wordless - monochrome world.

A woman living in an abandoned building leads a primitive life, sustaining herself in a world devoid of speech. She barter with peddlers using game caught while hunting, and is attacked by a bandit who comes foraging for food and women, but despite these inconceivable circumstances, she remains resilient. One day, a young man is caught in a trap set by the woman. When she takes him home, the young man becomes attached to her, and she to him. As they live together, human desire eventually comes to the fore. Violence, sex and appetites compound as their world begins to collapse...





The Quiet Yakuza *-Part 1 & Part 2-*

Drama | 2023 | Color | 118 min.(Part1), 149min.(Part2)

Director: Kento YAMAGUCHI (*Dependence*)

Cast: Kentaro ITO (伊藤健太郎),
Mariko TSUTSUI (筒井真理子)

Japanese title: 静かなるドン 前編・後編

Japanese release date: May 12th (Part1), 19th (Part2), 2023

***Based on a long serial yakuza manga
"Shizukanaru Don – Yakuza Side Story" by Tatsuo Nitta,
which over 46 million accumulated copies of 108 volumes
are published in Japan!***

Shizuya is the only son of the largest yakuza group in Kanto, the Shinsen Group. However, Shizuya has zero interest in the yakuza - in fact he hates them. All he wants is to be a regular civilian. He works at a design company and lives a simple, puritan life. His ordinary everyday mostly consists of receiving criticism at work and his romantic feelings for his colleague Akino. All in all, Shizuya is perfectly happy.

However, as it happens, an incident occurs that turns Shizuya's life upside down. Shizuya's desire for an ordinary life is threatened by a crisis within the Shinsen Group.

What is this crisis? And what will become of Shinsen Group?





The Moon

Suspense Drama | 2023 | Color | 144 min.

Director: Yuya ISHII

(Tokyo Night Sky Is Always the Densest Shade of Blue)

Cast: Rie MIYAZAWA (宮沢りえ), Hayato ISOMURA (磯村勇斗),
Fumi NIKAIIDO (二階堂ふみ), Joe ODAGIRI (オダギリジョー)

Japanese title: 月

Japanese release date: October 13th, 2023

★ Busan International Film Festival (2023) "Jiseok Section"

***Based on a true story, which 19 people were killed at a nursing home in Japan.
A thought-provoking film that questions what it means to be human.***

Yoko had won a literary award as a writer but has been unable to write new stories for a long time.

She gets a job at "Crescent Garden," a nursing home for people with severe disabilities, where she meets Sato, her young co-worker, and Ki-chan, a resident of the same age as Yoko. Ki-chan is blind, bedridden, and rarely moves.

It was during this time that Yoko becomes pregnant. Yoko recalls the loss of her son and wonders if she should undergo prenatal diagnosis. Meanwhile, at "Crescent Garden," Sato's eccentric thoughts are fostered and accelerated by his co-workers who treat the residents as if they have no personalities. He asks, "Can you talk? Do you have a soul?" And this eventually leads to a shocking incident where more than dozen residents were killed...





Qualia

Drama | 2023 | Color | 96 min.

Director: Ryo USHIMARU [1st feature]

Cast: Kokone SASAKI (佐々木心音),
Ruka ISHIKAWA (石川瑠華),
Kenta KIGUCHI (木口健太),
Maya KUDAMATSU (久田松真耶),
Chikara THO (藤主税)

Japanese title: クオリア

Japanese release date: November 18th, 2023

A black comedy about strange relationships in a family who runs a chicken farm.

A new outstanding talent, Ryo USHIMARU's first feature.

Yuko is married into the Tanaka family who runs a chicken farm and lives a modest life despite being bullied by her husband's sister, Satomi. One day, Saki, a mistress of Yuko's husband, Ryosuke, visits their house by applying for a live-in employee position at a chicken farm. After the interview, in front of all the family members, Saki confesses that she is Ryosuke's mistress and that she is pregnant with Ryosuke's child. To avoid being the gossip fodder and to calm Saki, they decide to let her live and work with them. Thus begins a strange communal life...





Six Singing Women

Fantasy Drama | 2023 | Color | 113 min.

Director: Yoshimasa ISHIBASHI (*Milocrorze: A Love Story*)

Cast: Yutaka TAKENOUCHI (竹野内豊),

Takayuki YAMADA (山田孝之),

Naoto TAKENAKA (竹中直人)

Japanese title: 唄う六人の女

Japanese release date: October 27th, 2023

★ Festival of New Cinema (2023) "TEMPS 0 Section"

★ Kaohsiung Film Festival (2023)

***Starring Yutaka Takenouchi and Takayuki Yamada,
6 mysterious ladies take you to a weird and beautiful
world.***

Two men with opposite personalities, Kayashima and Uwajima, accidentally wander into a beautiful village after a car accident. When they wake up, they are imprisoned by six beautiful but strange girls who live in the village.

Kayashima is at the mercy of the girls' instinctive behavior, but is gradually drawn to the pure beauty of girls, who are at one with nature. Uwajima is attracted to one attractive girl and steps into forbidden territory.

The six girls were incarnations of catfish, pit vipers, owls, dormice, bees, plants, and other creatures of nature disguised as humans. What they wanted from the men...



Voice

Drama | 2023 | Color | 118 min.

Director: Yukiko MISHIMA

(A Stitch of Life, Dear Etranger, Shape of Red)

Cast: Atsuko MAEDA (前田敦子),

Maki CARROUSEL (カルーセル麻紀), Show AIKAWA (哀川翔)

Japanese title: 一月の声に歓びを刻め

Japanese release date: February 9th, 2024



Hokkaido, Japan: An old woman -- formerly a man -- lives by a lake in the northern reaches of Japan, gazing at Nakajima Island in its center where her daughter's body was found long ago. She hasn't been able to visit for almost 50 years.

Tokyo: A middle-aged man lives on an island where criminals were once exiled in the past, earning a sparse living as a cattle herder. He is descended from such exiled criminals. He raised his only daughter by himself after losing his wife in an accident. One day, the daughter comes home from the mainland, seemingly pregnant but unwilling to explain.

Osaka: A woman who was sexually assaulted as a child comes to Osaka for the first time in a while to attend the funeral of her ex-boyfriend.

As each of these women board ships and separate themselves from time and locations, the emotional scars and sins they carry become apparent. Their voices of grief and anger transcend space and resonate with each other. Eventually, they gain release and their voices begin to fill with joy.

TIFFCOM 2023 Lineup - New Titles



From the End of the World

SF Drama | 2023 | Color | 135 min.

Director: Kaz I KIRIYA (*Casshern, Last Knights*)

Cast: Aoi ITO (伊東蒼), Shunji IWAI (岩井俊二), Mari NATSUKI (夏木マリ)

Japanese title: 世界の終わりに

Japanese release date: April 7th, 2023

★ Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (2023)

“Asian Competition Section”

★ JAPAN CUTS (2023)

***A fantasy drama written and directed by Kaz I Kiriya.
Why do I need to fight to save this hopeless world...?***

Hana is a normal high school student, unsatisfied in her daily life. One day she had a dream and met a 10-year-old girl living in Sengoku Era. The girl lives hard with poverty and misfortune in that world and the two are going to have a sisterhood friendship. When Hana wakes up, she is taken away by the government special agency and subject to severe scrutiny about her dream. There is something called Akashic Record and the destinies of all humans follow that record. And the future record of all mankind is gone in a month. The key to solving the problem is the girl who appeared in Hana's dream.





Where Love Goes

Drama | 2022 | Color | 88 min.

Director: Fuka MIYAJIMA (*Oyashirazu*) **[1st feature]**

Cast: Itsuki NAGASAWA (長澤樹), Airu KUBOZUKA (窪塚愛流)

Japanese title: 愛のゆくえ

Japanese release date: 2024

★ **Osaka Asian Film Festival (2023) "Competition Section"**

The tale of a lonely 14-year-old boy and girl looking for their lost parents.

Ai and Sosuke are childhood friends who live in Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, in a town where love songs fill the air. They were raised together by Yumi, who protected everyone around her from the world with great love. However, their lives fall apart after Yumi dies suddenly. Ai leaves Sosuke to live with her father in Tokyo, where she meets young delinquents and old homeless people. Through her encounters with people on the fringe of society, Ai remembers Yumi's great love, and decides to return to Hokkaido alone. However, the Sosuke that awaits her now dresses and acts as Yumi once did. How will they face the loss of a loved one, and how will they live on?

【Documentaries】

Grandson of Yôkai

Documentary | 2023 | Color | 115 min.
Director: Taketo UCHIYAMA
Cast: Kanji FURUTACHI (Narrator)
Japanese title: 妖怪の孫
Japanese release date: March 17, 2023

The late Shinzo Abe was the longest-serving prime minister of all time, having held office for 2,822 consecutive days. Even after stepping down as prime minister, he was known as a kingmaker and maintained his exceptional influence until an assassin's bullet struck him. While his hawkish diplomatic policy and economic policies represented by so-called "Abenomics" made him highly popular, he was also a man of controversial words and actions and a constant source of scandals. Japan has become increasingly divided in recent years, and the disparity has widened. Also, the bad habit has taken root in politics: if you win an election, any problems and suspicions will disappear. Who was this former Prime Minister Abe, whose slogan was "A beautiful country, Japan"? What did he leave behind for this country?



Alone Together

Documentary | 2023 | Color | 95 min.
Director: Yukiko MISHIMA
(A Stitch of Life, Dear Etranger, Shape of Red)
Japanese title: 東京組曲2020
Japanese release date: May 13, 2023
★ Jeonju International Film Festival (2023)

COVID-19 shook the whole world. In Japan, a state of emergency was declared for the first time on April 7, 2020, and our lives changed forever. On her birthday, April 22nd, Director Yukiko Mishima came up with the idea for the film when she heard people crying from somewhere during the pandemic at dawn. She interviewed 20 actors online and the actors themselves or their family members to film this documentary. A man decides to keep a diary every day, a woman looks forward to the release of a film in which she plays a role... The daily lives of the actors who encountered the first wave of the COVID disaster are captured with laughter and loveliness.



Marumo

Documentary | 2022 | Color | 76 min.
Director: Masashi IJIMA
Japanese title: MARUMO
Japanese release date: After 2024(TBD)

The documentary follows Eiichi Morimae, a charcoal maker who continues making charcoal almost every day at Marumo Coal Mill in the mountains of Minamiise. His work takes so much time that nobody else does it in the same way, which is why his charcoal is so precious. We will explore the issues of energy by focusing on an artisan who lives in nature and how Ubame oak turns into Binchotan charcoal.



TIFFCOM 2023 Lineup - New Titles



Okiku and the World

Drama | 2022 | B&W | 90 min.

Director: Junji SAKAMOTO (*Face, KT*)

Cast: Haru KUROKI(黒木華), Kanichiro(寛一郎), Sosuke IKEMATSU (池松壮亮)

Japanese title: せかいのおきく

Japanese release date: April 28th, 2023

- ★ Rotterdam International Film Festival (2023) "Big Screen Competition Section"
- ★ Jeonju International Film Festival (2023)
- ★ Shanghai International Film Festival (2023)
- ★ New York Asian Film Festival (2023) 'Star Asia Lifetime Achievement Award'
- ★ Kaohsiung Film Festival (2023)

In the mid-19th century, Okiku, a young woman, lives in a tenement row house among ordinary people in Edo – known as Tokyo today. She lives with her father, Genbei, a former samurai, now reduced to a penniless ronin, whom she supports by teaching children to read and write in a temple school. Two Manure Men, Yasuke, and his newly recruited partner, Chuji, regularly visit Okiku's tenement to collect the human manure. Okiku, seems to take a special interest in Chuji.

One day, several samurai visit the tenement and take Okiku's father with them. Sensing trouble, Okiku quickly follows them, but she is too late, for they have already killed her father. Although Okiku's life is spared, her vocal cords are damaged and she can no longer speak. Surrendering to despair, Okiku refuses all visitors, but when her pupils from the temple school beg her to return, she finds the courage to leave her rooms.

Chuji, who became an independent manure man, worries about Okiku and...



TIFFCOM 2023 Lineup - New Titles



In Her Room

Drama - Romance | 2022 | Color | 136min.

Director: Chihiro ITO **[1st feature]**

Cast: Satoru IGUCHI (井口理) (King Gnu),
Fumika BABA (馬場ふみか), Yuumi KAWAI (河合優実)

Japanese title: ひとりぼっちじゃない

Japanese release date: March 23rd, 2023

Available worldwide except for Japan



★ Tokyo International Film Festival (2022)

★ Asian Film Festival (Italy / 2023)

★ Seoul International Women's Film Festival (2023) "Discovery Section"



Susume is a dentist who has had difficulty communicating with people since he was a child. He works at a dental clinic where he envies the other doctors who handle matters flawlessly. He also excessively worries about what the dental hygienists think about him.

One day, he meets and is drawn to a woman named Miyako. She invites him into her lush, forest-like apartment, and he gradually, though awkwardly, becomes closer to her. But Susume begins to feel irritated by the way Miyako suddenly stops contacting him and being intentionally vague about their relationship. As he finds himself catering to the whims of the enigmatic and elusive Miyako, her friend Yoko tells him that a man died at Miyako's apartment. Susume begins to see some of Miyako's secrets and is dragged deeper into the mysterious world she creates.