



Kanasando

Drama | 2024 | Color | 87 min.

Director: Toshiyuki TERUYA (*Born Bone Born*) [3rd feature]

Cast: Ruka MATSUDA (松田るか),
Keiko HORIUCHI (堀内敬子),
Tadanobu ASANO (浅野忠信)

Japanese title: かなさんどー

Japanese release date: Spring, 2025

A latest film by Toshiyuki TERUYA, whose previous film “Born Bone Born” is acclaimed in several festivals around the world. It reminds you of your beloved family.

This is a story of a family living on an island in Okinawa. Traumatized by her father's infidelity and her mother's death, Mika leaves the island alone. She has never been back to the home island since, but one day she is informed of her father's critical condition and decides to go back to her home. The reunion with her father on his sickbed brings back happy memories of her mother. Interweaving Okinawan scenery and traditional island songs, the film climaxes with the moment of the father's death, highlighting his love and view of life and death. It is a heartwarming human comedy that will make you laugh and cry, depicting the connections between people that are fading away today.



Sisam

History Drama | 2024 | Color | approx. 115 min.

Director: Hiroyuki Nakao [2nd feature]

Cast: Kanichiro (寛一郎), Masato WADA (和田正人), Rosa SAHEL (サヘル・ローズ)

Japanese title: シサム

Japanese release date: Autumn, 2024



A history drama portraying the confrontation between the indigenous Ainu people living on Japan's northernmost main island—then called “Ezo” and now known as “Hokkaido”—and the “sisam”, the Ainu word for ethnic Japanese.

In the 17th century, early in the Edo Period of Japanese history, trade with the indigenous Ainu is the main source of income for the Matsumae clan. Kojiro, the son of a Matsumae clan retainer, and his older brother, Einosuke, are sent to Ezo for the trade with the Ainu.

They travel to an Ezo trading post, but Einosuke is killed by one of their escorting merchants, Zensuke. Kojiro pursues Zensuke, but falls over a cliff and ends up badly injured and rescued by the Ainu and starts living in an Ainu village.

Sharing food, clothing, and shelter with the Ainu, Kojiro comes to sympathize with their culture, customs, and ideals. He begins to learn their language. There are, however, those in the village unhappy with his presence there. Meanwhile there is conflict among the Japanese clans to monopolize trade and thus disadvantage the Ainu, and this contributes to an uprising by the Ainu themselves.



【Documentary】

Market Premiere

Dearest Viet

Documentary | 2024 | Color | 73 min.
Director: Kohei KAWABATA [1st theatrical documentary]
Japanese title: ドクちゃん -フジとサクラにつなぐ愛-
Japanese release date: May 3rd, 2024

★ Ho Chi Minh City International Film Festival (2024)

A Documentary about Duc Nguyen, who was born a conjoined twin due to the effects of Agent Orange used during the Vietnam War. His life has been full of challenges, but he is living strong.

Duc Nguyen was born conjoined to his twin brother Viet in 1981 as a result of the use of Agent Orange during the Vietnam War. The separation surgery in 1988 was a monumental achievement for humankind that was broadcast across Vietnam and Japan. Despite this success, he struggles with the daily discomfort caused by his naturally curved spine and nephrostomy tube leading to his only kidney. Now 42 years old, Duc is a husband and a father of 14-year-old twin siblings, and is the breadwinner of his family. His personal life has been fraught with challenges - being unable to connect meaningfully with his biological parents, family's disapproval of his marriage to his wife in the past, losing his only brother and now worries about how Agent Orange may affect his children's health in future. While he continues to serve as an ambassador for peace, he seeks the truth about his past and contemplates the future.



【*Documentary*】

Market Premiere



Gifts from the kitchen

Documentary | 2024 | Color | 90 min.
Director: Hisashi KIKUCHI
Japanese title: キッチンから花束を
Japanese release date: May 31st, 2024

A documentary of a legendary Chinese-style home cooking restaurant in Tokyo, called Fumin, where everyone does not only fall in love with the food of Sai, but also with her character.

Both parents of Fumi Sai are Taiwanese but she grew up in Japan. In 1971, she started a Chinese-style home cooking restaurant "Fumin". With her excellent sense of taste and full of love that she got from her parents, she had run her restaurant for 45 years. The restaurant was loved by many people in Tokyo including some famous artists. She retired at the age of 70 and now she welcomes only one group per day at her house to serve her food. Why do people love her and love her food? Each her dish has a story.



Promised Land

Human Drama | 2023 | Color | 89 min.

Director: Masashi IJIMA [1st feature]

Cast: Rairu SUGITA (杉田雷麟), Kanichiro (寛一郎)

Japanese title: プロミスト・ランド

Japanese release date: June 29th, 2024

Matagi is a group of hunters who lives in the mountains and targets wild animals including bears, but now more and more bear hunting is forbidden by the government.

This is a story of two young matagi who struggle in their dying culture.

The year is 1983 in the village of Hibara, located deep within the mountains of Yamagata Prefecture in northern Japan. In this place, the traditions of the matagi, bear hunters since ancient times, remain strong. When the snow begins to thaw, the men follow custom and put their occupations aside to head into the mountains. 20-year-old Nobuyuki loathes his hometown's culture, traditions, and its adults, but finds himself aimlessly working on his family's poultry farm. One day, he learns from the boss of the bear hunters that the environmental agency has banned bear hunting for this year. Only Reijiro, who is also a young hunter, rebels. He decides to go hunting, not caring whether it turns him into a poacher, and asks Nobuyuki to join him. Despite Nobuyuki's disgust, he decides to go along with Reijiro. The sound of an avalanche reaches the village, signaling that snow is melting in the mountains. In the dark of early morning, the two set out on their own to hunt.



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

★ Fantaspoa (2024)

★ Udine Far East Film Festival (2024) "Competition"

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...



Cannes 2024 Lineup - New Titles



Voice

Drama | 2023 | Color & B&W | 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

★ Udine Far East Film Festival (2024) "Competition"

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.



Where Love Goes

Drama | 2023 | 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: March 1st, 2024

★ Osaka Asian Film Festival (2023) “Competition Section”

★ Split Film Festival (2023) “Competition”

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?



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 NIKAIDO (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"

★ KINOTAYO festival de films japonais contemporains (2023)
"Competition"

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

★ Nippon Connection (2024)

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 TAKENOUCI (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...



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: 世界の終わりから

Japanese release date: April 7th, 2023

- ★ Neuchâtel International Fantastic Film Festival (2023) "Asian Competition Section"
- ★ Japan Cuts (2023)
- ★ Imagine Fantastic Film Festival (2023)
- ★ Trieste Science+Fiction Festival (2023)
- ★ International Film Festival India (Goa) (2023)
- ★ Fajr International Film Festival (2023) "Eastern Vista International Competition"
- ★ Porto International Film Festival - FANTASPORTO (2024) - Grand Prix



***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.



Thank You, Gateway To The World

Short, Drama | 2024 | Color | 25 min.

Director: Yuki SAITO

Cast: Misa SHIMIZU, Rin KATAOKA, Akito MATSUNO, Toshihiro YASHIBA

Japanese title: 空の港のありがとう

Japanese release date: May 17th, 2024

"I want to thank you, too. You helped me remember something important."

This is a story about a woman who works for the Narita Airport Ground Handling Services. She's always complaining and is unable to find any sense of purpose in her job – until a commotion her family causes at the airport helps her recall the importance of gratitude.

When Narita Airport gets hit by a devastating typhoon, ground handling staff member Ayako Takaoka has to cope with the situation. Even as people from around the world vent their frustrations and fears to her, she always responds with a smile. On the third day of the ordeal, after two nights without sleep, she finally arrives home and proceeds to take it out on her husband Hiroshi. Her daughter Misora retorts, "Stop complaining so much. You're filling the house with bad vibes." When Ayako tells Misora to try getting a job before telling her what to do, the two are primed for a fight. Misora ends up taking her little brother Wataru to the airport to take photos of the planes. She happens to see her mother working, earnestly helping foreign travellers and being thanked in return. Misora starts to appreciate the pride associated with working at "The Gateway to Japan," and realizes Narita can help her pursue a future like no other. As a plane passes overhead, Misora shyly tells her mother, "Thank you for everything."