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East Side Stories

Japanese Cinema Depicting the Lives of Youth



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The Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme 2013

31 January to 6 February 2014 at ICA

31 January to 27 March 2014 Nationwide

Following on from last year's successful *Once Upon a Time in Japan: Reinventing the Past Through the Eyes of Japanese Contemporary Filmmakers* season, the ICA is pleased to welcome the return of the Japan Foundation UK annual touring film programme from 31 January to 6 February 2014. The programme offers another enlightening and expansive introduction to Japanese cinema through the framework of 'youth'.

Cinema across the world has had an enduring love affair with the lives and dramas of young people. In Japan, the sheer number of films with the word 'youth' in the title is a

testimony to the centrality of such narratives within its cinema. Throughout the history of Japanese cinema, the subject matter has been approached by directors including the legendary Yasujiro Ozu, who made a number of early films known as 'college dramas' about the woes of growing up, and New Wave directors such as Nagisa Oshima to contemporary filmmakers of today. Presenting a wonderful sphere in which to interpret and question the past, the genre of 'youth movies' (known in Japan as 'Seishun Eiga') was established, with the taiyozoku ('Sun Tribe') films of Nikkatsu in the 1960s, films which took their cues from Hollywood films like *Rebel without a Cause* (1955). As proven by the recent Nikkatsu retrospective at BFI Southbank, the genre of 'Seishun Eiga' has widely been recognised as a popular genre from the early ages of Japanese cinema.

Even today, the trend continues to exist and attract filmmakers as well as audiences, reflecting the lives, society and culture surrounding younger generations in Japan, who have a major role in the growth of the Japanese cinema industry. As with the ever-popular genre of 'coming of age' stories, many contemporary Japanese films have continued to look at how the experiences of our formative years are shaped by the environment and historical context in which our memories and identities are forged.

Reflecting on this trend in Japanese cinema, this year's programme will provide a colourful and exciting picture of Japanese youth, bringing together a variety of genres and approaches, including *Sorry* (2002), a charming film about the turmoil of a young boy going through puberty and falling in love for the first, to cult comedies such as *Otakus in Love* (2004) and *Love Strikes!* (2011); two films providing hilarious portrayals of Japanese youth subcultures such as music, anime, otaku and cosplay. Depicting drama in seemingly directionless youthful lives is Shuichi Okita's 1980s-set *The Story of Yonosuke* (2013), which uses its nostalgic setting to make its story timeless.

This year's programme also includes Keiichi Hara's beautiful and moving anime film *Colorful* (2010), a meditative portrayal of the tribulations of Japanese youth today, and also a rare opportunity to see Japanese New Wave director Yoshishige Yoshida's classic account of temporary workers employed in the shipbuilding industry, *18 Who Caused a Storm* (1963), allowing audiences to compare the contemporary films with a more classical approach.

Showcasing a vast variety of styles and tones, this programme will take a broad look at how the adults of tomorrow have been portrayed in Japanese cinema over the years by a number of established and up-and coming directors, through stories of individuals struggling to find a sense of meaning and identity within the world, with an overall message that is universal.

Line-up

**Parade* (Paredo) Isao Yukisada (2009), 118min

**Colorful* (Karafuru) Keiichi Hara (2010), 126min

*18 Who Cause a Storm (Arashi o yobu juhachi-nin) Yoshishige Yoshida (1963), 108min
*Shindo (Shindo) Koji Hagiuda (2007), 120min
Your Friends (Kimi no tomodachi) Ryuichi Hiroki (2008), 125min
*Love Strikes! (Moteki) Hitoshi Ohne (2011), 118min
The Story of Yonosuke (Yokomichi Yonosuke) Shuichi Okita (2013), 160min
*The Drudgery Train (Kueki ressha) Nobuhiro Yamashita (2012), 105min
*Capturing Dad (Chichi o tori ni) Ryota Nakano (2012), 74min
*Sorry (Gomen) Shin Togashi (2002), 103min
Otakus in Love (Koi no mon) Suzuki Matsuo (2004), 114min

* UK Premiere

The Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme is produced and organised by the Japan Foundation with kind support from the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation and Japan Airlines.

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Listings information:

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Ticket prices:

Regular film screenings: £10 / £8 / £7

Booking fees for non ICA Members: £1 per ticket or maximum charge per transaction
£2.80

Book online at www.ica.org.uk Call Box Office 020 7930 3647 Textphone 020 7839 0737

The Institute of Contemporary Arts is supported by Arts Council England

www.ica.org.uk | www.twitter.com/icalondon | www.facebook.com/icalondon

*****Please note tickets for all ICA screenings will be on sale from 8 January 2013*****

*****For touring information, please see a full list of participating venues below*****

Editor's Notes

About the Japan Foundation

The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, and became an Independent Administrative Institution in 2003. The organisation promotes international cultural exchange between Japan and the rest of the world by organising projects as well as providing financial support through grant programmes in the fields of Arts and Culture, Japanese language and Japanese studies. The Japan Foundation currently has its Head Office in Tokyo, with offices and centres in over 20 countries outside of Japan. The Japan Foundation London is the Foundation's only office in the UK, and one of the first overseas offices to be established, opening in 1972.

www.jpff.go.jp (Head Office), www.jpff.org.uk (London)

About the Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme

The Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme is one of only a few Japanese film programmes which tours to London and venues across the UK, presenting the best selection of Japanese cinema to regional audiences. Since 2004, the Japan Foundation has put together films under a carefully chosen theme to highlight trends in Japanese cinema, and showcased, in close partnership with distinguished film venues such as the ICA, some of the finest Japanese films in order to introduce their versatility and uniqueness. Most of films selected for the Japan Foundation Touring Programme have slipped under the radar of other film festivals or programmes despite their quality, or have previously only received one-off screenings in the UK. Now in its 11th year, the Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme has gone from strength to strength, consistently delivering a stimulating and inspiring programme. For details please visit: www.jpff-film.org.uk

About the ICA

The ICA supports radical art and culture. Through a vibrant programme of exhibitions, films, events, talks and debates, the ICA challenges perceived notions and stimulates debate, experimentation, creativity and exchange with visitors. Founded in 1946 by a group of artists and critics including Roland Penrose, Peter Watson and Herbert Read, the ICA continues to support artists in showing and exploring their work, often as it emerges and before others. The ICA has been at the forefront of cultural experimentation since its formation and has presented important debut solo shows by artists including Damien Hirst, Steve McQueen, Richard Prince and Luc Tuymans. More recently Pablo Bronstein, Lis Rhodes, Bjarne Melgaard, Lutz Bacher and Juergen Teller have all staged key solo exhibitions, whilst a new generation of artists, including Luke Fowler, Lucky PDF, Hannah Sawtell and Factory Floor have taken part in exhibitions and residencies. The ICA was one of the first venues to present The Clash and The Smiths, as well as bands such as Throbbing Gristle. The inaugural ICA / LUX Biennial of Moving Images was launched in 2012, and the ICA Cinema continues to screen rare artists' film, support independent releases and partner with leading film festivals. The ICA has recently developed an ambitious Off-Site programme starting with a display of BMW Art Cars in a multi-storey car park as part of the London 2012 Festival. Thereafter, the ICA supported presentations

at Glastonbury Festival and Latitude, as well as an outdoor film season 'Cinema on The Steps: Contemporary Middle Eastern Film'. 'A Journey Through London Subculture: 1980s to Now' at The Old Selfridges Hotel was followed by a collaboration with Art on the Underground and its Canary Wharf Screen. The ICA welcomes over 400,000 visitors a year to its home on The Mall in the heart of London. The Director of the ICA is writer and curator Gregor Muir, author of Lucky Kunst. www.ica.org.uk

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Venues and Dates

ICA, London (31 January - 6 February)

Box office: 020 7930 3647

www.ica.org.uk

Watershed, Bristol (1 – 18 February*)

Box office: 0117 927 5100

www.watershed.co.uk

Queen's Film Theatre, Belfast (9 February – 9 March*)

Box office: 028 9097 1097

www.queensfilmtheatre.com

Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle upon Tyne (9 February – 23 March*)

Box Office: 0845 217 9909

www.tynesidecinema.co.uk

Filmhouse, Edinburgh (28 February – 7 March)

Box office: 0131 228 2688

www.filmhousecinema.com

Showroom Workstation, Sheffield (7 – 13 March)

Box office: 0114 275 7727

www.showroomworkstation.org.uk

Dundee Contemporary Arts (15 – 18 March)

Box office: 01382 909 900

www.dca.org.uk

Broadway, Nottingham (21 – 27 March)

Box office: 0115 952 6611

www.broadway.org.uk

The Institute of Contemporary Arts is supported by Arts Council England

Image credit: Film still from Sorry (Gomen) by Shin Togashi

