



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, December 19, 2007

Japanese Film Festival Coming to Omaha

Five acclaimed films presented in collaboration by Creighton University and Film Streams

Omaha, Nebraska—Omaha will soon become the region's center for Japanese culture. Beginning in February, Creighton University will partner with Omaha's nonprofit cinema Film Streams to present the 2008 Japan Foundation Midwest Film Festival. The series will feature five contemporary Japanese films, each showing on a Monday evening from February 18 to March 17. All screenings will be at Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater, 1340 Webster St., and will be free and open to the public.

The festival is supported by the Japan Foundation New York, Creighton University, Film Streams, and the Omaha Sister Cities Association.

The films featured in the 2008 Japan Foundation Midwest Film Festival explore a variety of themes: adolescent and young adult life, marriage and family life, ethnic relations between Japanese and ethnic Koreans born in Japan, and the status of women in contemporary Japan.

The five films featured in the festival are: WATER BOYS (February 18), WE SHALL OVERCOME SOMEDAY (February 25), HANGING GARDEN (March 3), ALL UNDER THE MOON (March 10), and LINDA LINDA LINDA (March 17).

Each screening will be followed by a post-show discussion hosted by Creighton University's Japan Studies faculty. Prior to the screening of ALL UNDER THE MOON on March 10, Professor Norboru Tomonari, director of East Asian Studies at Carleton College, will speak at 4 p.m. on the Creighton University campus (Skutt Student Center, Room 104) about the representation of Koreans in Japanese cinema.

Professor Tomonari, a specialist in Japanese film and literature, will also lead a discussion following the showing of the movie at Film Streams.

As part of the festival, a special reception (date and time TBD) will also be held in honor of the Consul General of Japan.

Tickets for all five screenings are free and available the day-of-the-show at Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater box office. More information available at filmstreams.org.

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February 18 – March 17, 2008

2008 Japan Foundation Midwest Film Festival

The 2008 Japan Foundation Film Festival is supported by: Japan Foundation New York, Creighton University, Film Streams, and the Omaha Sister Cities Association.

All screenings at Film Streams' Ruth Sokolof Theater, 1340 Webster Street, Omaha. Admission is free.

Monday, February 18, 2008, 7 p.m.

Water Boys 2001

ウォーターボーイズ

Written and Directed by YAGUCHI Shinobu

Synopsis:

It's springtime in Japan and the Tadano High School swim team is barely keeping afloat. When a pretty new coach turns up with the nutty idea of creating a top synchronized swimming team of her own, she has just a few problems to overcome. She's teaching at an all-boys school and her team are all hopelessly bad swimmers. Will the Waterboys hard work be wasted, or can they paddle their way to the success and recognition they've worked so hard to win?

Running Time: 91 minutes. *Post-show discussion with Emiko Unno, Creighton University.*

Monday, February 25, 2008, 7 p.m.

We Shall Overcome Someday 2004

パッチギ

Directed by IZUTSU Kazuyuki. Based on the story by Matsuyama Takeshi, Lee Bong-Ou.

Synopsis:

The background of the film is the turmoil of the 1960s and the relationship between Japanese and Koreans in Japan. Members of the karate group of a Kyoto high school insult two girls from a Korean high school. A gang war breaks out when the Korean girls get the boys from their school to seek revenge. Yet, somehow one boy, inspired by a Korean folk song, steps over the ethnic divide.

Running Time: 119 minutes. *Post-show discussion with Christopher Gerteis, Creighton University.*

Monday, March 3, 2008, 7 p.m.

Hanging Garden 2005

空中庭園

Directed by TOYODA Toshiaki. Based on the best-selling novel of the same name by Kakuta Mitsuyo.

Synopsis:

Eriko lives with her family in what used to be a thriving, modern suburban residential area, but which has now degenerated into something like a slum. She has only one rule in her house: "no secrets in the family." Yet, every single member of the family harbors some kind of secret and the person with the biggest secret of all turns out to be Eriko herself. When everyone's secrets finally come out, the family faces its greatest danger, but this crisis will become the catalyst to renew their deepest bonds.

Running Time: 113 minutes. *Post-show discussion with Christopher Gerteis, Creighton University.*

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Monday, March 10, 2008, 4 p.m.

Guest Lecture by Noboru Tomonari, Carleton College: "Koreans in Japanese Cinema"
Creighton University Campus, Skutt Student Center, Room 104.

Monday, March 10, 2008, 7 p.m.

All Under the Moon 1993

月はどっちに出ている

Directed by SAI Yoichi. Based on the novel by: Yan Sogil

Synopsis:

Kang Chung Nam, a North Korean born in Japan, works as a taxi driver at a Tokyo company owned by his old classmate, Kim Seil. He is surrounded by an odd-collection of fellow employees, including a new driver with no sense of direction, an ex-boxer Hoso who claims he hates Koreans except for Chung Nam, and an illegal immigrant from Iran.

Running Time: 109 minutes. *Post-show discussion with Special Guest Noboru Tomonari, Carleton College.*

Monday, March 17, 2008, 7 p.m.

Linda Linda Linda 2005

リンダ リンダ リンダ

Directed by YAMASHITA Nobuhiro.

Synopsis:

In the days before a Tokyo high school's culture festival, a girl's music group is facing a dilemma. They planned on playing an original piece of music but...three days before the festival, the guitarist appears to have broken her finger. The band needs to find a new guitarist and a new vocalist. Her Japanese is imperfect, but they take a chance and ask a Korean exchange student named Song to join the band.

Running Time: 114 minutes. *Post-show discussion with Bruce Aronson, Creighton University, and Daphne Hyun-Jin Aronson, Kutak Rock, LLP.*

Showtimes subject to change.

Up-to-date information available at filmstreams.org.