

# JAPAN FILM FESTIVAL OF SAN FRANCISCO

9.28 - 10.7 2018

**JFFSF.ORG**

NEW PEOPLE CINEMA

## GUESTS

Director, *Sekigahara* (Sept 29 Sat 12:00pm)

**MASATO HARADA**

Actor, *Magic Kimono* (Sept 30 Sun 1:40pm)

**KAORI MOMOI**

Director, *Our House* (Oct 6 Sat 1:45pm)

**YUI KIYOHARA**



# Guest Appearances

Premiere Screenings + Q&A Sessions

9.29 Sat

12:00pm



San Francisco Premiere

## 👑 Sekigahara

Guest : Masato Harada (Director)

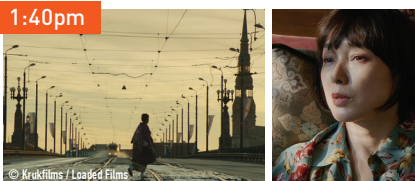
2017 | 149 min | English Subtitles | Directed by Masato Harada  
Supported by Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco

A film adaptation of Ryotaro Shiba's best-selling novel which depicts a new interpretation of "The Battle of Sekigahara," the greatest conflict of the Warring States Period in Japanese history.

Daimyo Ishida Mitsunari (Junichi Okada) has doubts about the Shogun's self-interest-based rule. Shima Sakon (Takehiro Hira) is a brave general and Hatsume (Kasumi Arimura) is an Iga ninja who serves Mitsunari. Meanwhile, the ambitious Tokugawa Ieyasu (Koji Yakusho) wins over military commanders to his side. On the 21<sup>st</sup> of October in 1600, Mitsunari will somehow go to battle with Ieyasu at Sekigahara.

9.30 Sun

1:40pm



North American Premiere

## 👑 Magic Kimono

Guest : Kaori Momoi (Actor)

2017 | 99 min | English Subtitles | Directed by Maris Martinsons  
Supported by Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco

Co-produced in Japan and the Republic of Latvia, the unusual reunion between a woman who has withdrawn into herself and her husband is depicted in this drama helmed by Latvian up-and-coming director Maris Martinsons.

Keiko (Kaori Momoi), who lost everything in the Great Hanshin Earthquake, has lived a lonely life alone for the past 20 years. She reluctantly takes part in a kimono show in the Latvian capital of Riga. Backstage during the show, she is confronted by a man who appears to be her husband (Issey Ogata) who had been reported missing after the earthquake.

10.6 Sat

1:45pm



San Francisco Premiere

## 👑 Our House

Guest : Yui Kiyohara (Director)

2017 | 80 min | English Subtitles | Directed by Yui Kiyohara  
Supported by Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco

Director Yui Kiyohara makes a memorable debut with this poetic, slow-moving chiller about an otherworldly collision of parallel lives — a girl who has lost her father and a woman who loses her memory intersect in the same house.

Seri (Nodoka Kawanishi) has been living with her mother Kiriko (Yuriko Yasuno) since her father vanished and has conflicting feelings about Kiriko's new boyfriend. Meanwhile, Toko (Mei Fujiwara) meets amnesiac Sana (Mariwo Osawa), who suddenly lost her memory, and allows her to stay in her house. At a certain time, the two different worlds weirdly dissolve into each other in the same old house.

## Tickets

### JFFSF Festival Passport\*

All You Can Watch! **\$170**  
(\$270 Value!)

JFFSF passport allows full priority access to all shows during the festival, plus, it comes with a gift bag filled with sponsored goodies! Quantity is limited, so please get it before it's gone! See more details at JFFSF.org

- How to pick up your passes:  
Please come to Will Call at NEW PEOPLE 1F during the festival and present your confirmation e-ticket and a valid photo I.D.

This passport guarantees you will never have to pay for additional ticket fees, but it does not guarantee a spot unless you appear on site on-time, before all seats are taken. Be sure to come early!

General Admission : \$15\*\*

- Advance Tickets\*  
Available at **JFFSF.ORG**  
Pick up only at Will Call.

- Will Call  
Pick up your tickets at Will Call at the entrance of NEW PEOPLE. Bring your confirmation e-ticket and a valid I.D.

- Day-of Tickets\*  
Available on a first-come first-serve basis at the Box Office at NEW PEOPLE.

- Rush Line Tickets\*  
Last-minute tickets maybe released before showtime when there are some openings.

- Will Call & Box Office Hours  
Sept 28 - Oct 7, 2018  
Mon-Fri 6:00pm-8:00pm  
Sat & Sun 11:00am-8:00pm

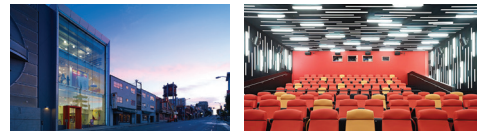
\*ALL SALE ARE FINAL for all types of tickets including passports. No refunds or exchanges under any circumstances. Lost or stolen tickets or passes will not be replaced. \*\* Unless otherwise noted.

## About

Japan Film Festival of San Francisco  
Sept 28<sup>th</sup> - Oct 7<sup>th</sup>, 2018 | JFFSF.org

The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Japan Film Festival of San Francisco is hosted by SUPERFROG Project, a San Francisco based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The mission of the organization is to educate American public about the uniqueness and diversity of Japanese popular culture.

## Location



**NEW PEOPLE CINEMA**

SF Japantown, 1746 Post Street,  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
NEWPEOPLEWORLD.com

## Top Sponsors



9.28 Fri

7:15pm



© Ayano Takeda, TAKARAJIMASHA/Hibike Partners  
2018 | 90 min | Eng Subtitles  
Directed by Naoko Yamada

## Liz and the Blue Bird

"Liz and the Blue Bird" is the latest film by director Naoko Yamada with the staff of her acclaimed film "A Silent Voice". As a spin-off film of the 'Sound! Euphonium' series based on Ayano Takeda's bestselling novel, this film revolves around Mizore and Nozomi, two best friends in their final year of high school. With Mizore on the oboe and Nozomi on the flute, as members of the school's brass band club, they spend their time happily together - until the club begins to practice songs inspired by the fairy tale "Liz und ein Blauer Vogel" ("Liz and the Blue Bird").

**OPENING FILM**  
**San Francisco Premiere**

9.29 Sat



12:00pm **"Sekigahara" Premiere + Q&A by Director Masato Harada**

[\[See back for details\]](#)

3:30pm



© NHK  
2017 | 49 min | Eng Subtitles  
Presented by NHK WORLD-Japan

## A Tale of Love and Honor: Life in Gion

**FREE ADMISSION!** Within Japan, there's a place that transports visitors to another world: Gion, in Kyoto. When night falls, nearly 100 geiko, or traditional entertainers, make their way to teahouses to perform classical arts only for selected guests. Kimi Ota, 77, is the proprietress of a 200-year-old teahouse. Throughout its history, it has always been run by a woman. The proprietress cannot marry, and must have a daughter who can someday take over. Peer behind the curtain into the unique and alluring world of Kyoto's teahouses.

4:50pm



© SHONKILL, LLC  
2008 | 87 min | Eng Subtitles  
Presented by Yoji Yamada

## Cinema Kabuki:

### The Tale of Bunshichi (Ninjobanashi Bunshichi Mottoi)

Kanzaburo Nakamura XVIII, Japan's Kabuki legend, teams up again with director Yoji Yamada to bring one of the most difficult Kabuki plays to the big screen. Chobei, a skillful plasterer, blithely gambles his family into poverty. To feed the family, his daughter Ohisa turns to prostitution. Touched by Ohisa's selfless love, a Madame arranges a loan for Chobei; however, he gives his money to save a man who is about to commit suicide. Surely Chobei has gambled away the family's last chance.

**San Francisco Premiere**

**North American Premiere**

7:00pm



© 2018 stella 88 inc.  
2018 | 163 min  
Japanese language only  
**\*This is a screening of the live concert, not a live performance**

## namie amuro Final Tour 2018 - Finally - at Tokyo Dome (Final Performance)

J-POP living legend, Namie Amuro's final live tour "Finally" will be revealed on the big screen exclusively at JFFSF! Since she shocked the world by announcing her retirement from the industry last year, her much anticipated final tour became one of the biggest events ever in Japan. Giving her fans the pleasure of picking her set list, this two and a half hour long concert at Tokyo Dome proves that she is truly the "Queen of J-POP" and will be so forever. Don't miss the rare chance to witness her evergreen performance that will remain in our memory for a very long time! We will miss Amuro-chan greatly!

9.30 Sun

12:00pm



© "blank13" film production committee  
2017 | 70 min | Eng Subtitles  
Directed by Takumi Saito

## Blank 13

"Blank 13," actor Takumi Saito's film directorial debut, has won many awards including the Best Director in the Asian New Talent Awards at the 20th Shanghai Intl' Film Festival. Family members learn the whereabouts of their father (Lily Franky) who vanished 13 years ago. However, he dies of cancer three months later, leaving Koji (Issei Takahashi) and his family without closure. They can't reclaim the lost 13 years, but the stories told about their father by mourners at the funeral reveal the truth that was unknown to the family.

**San Francisco Premiere**



1:40pm **"Magic Kimono" Premiere + Q&A by Actor Kaori Momoi**

[\[See back for details\]](#)

4:30pm



© 2017 "Before We Vanish" Film Partners  
2017 | 129min | Eng Subtitles  
Directed by Kiyoshi Kurosawa

## Before We Vanish

J-horror master Kiyoshi Kurosawa brings the Japanese popular theatrical play "Before We Vanish" to life in this feature film adaptation. Narumi (Masami Nagasawa) is bewildered by her husband Shinji (Ryuhei Matsuda), who disappeared and has come back a changed person. Meanwhile, a family is brutally murdered in their neighborhood. Journalist Sakurai (Hiroki Hasegawa) meets a young man, Amano (Mahiro Takasugi), while investigating and goes on a search for a high school girl Akira (Yuri Tsunematsu), who holds the key to explaining the murders.

# 10.1 Mon

7:15pm



© Tomihiko Morimi  
KADOKAWA/NAKAME COMMITTEE  
2017 | 93 min | Eng Subtitles  
Directed by Masaaki Yuasa

## The Night is Short, Walk On Girl

Award-winning anime director Masaaki Yuasa paints a mesmerizing adaptation of Morimi Tomihiko's romantic comedy novel. Set in Kyoto, Senpai (senior), a university student is secretly in love with Otome (girl). He searches for her everywhere: into the night alley of Pontocho, at the used book market at Shimogamo Shrine, and at the annual university fair... But she never realizes how he feels, and each time he "happens" to run into her, she simply says "What a coincidence!" Will Senpai ever get her to realize his love?

# 10.2 Tue

7:15pm



© 2017 Netzen  
2017 | 93 min | Eng Subtitles  
Directed by Koki Shigeno

## Ramen Heads

This documentary gives an intimate look at enthusiastic fans of ramen and its chefs. Chukasoba Tomita proprietor, Tomita Osamu and his customers are interviewed revealing the history of ramen's evolution while also painting a portrait of Japan's distinct ramen culture. The camera captures Tomita's apprentice monk-like daily life: the obsessive caution exercised towards what he creates; the care and precision towards the ingredients; the extraordinary care of his customers; and his exploration of ramen shops on his days off.

# 10.3 Wed

7:15pm



© YK/SVM  
2016 | 129 min | Eng Subtitles  
Directed by Naoko Yamada

## A Silent Voice: The Movie

The animated adaptation of Yoshitoki Oima's award-winning comic about the association between a hearing-impaired girl and the toughest boy at school. It is directed by Naoko Yamada, whose "TAMAKO Love Story" won the New Face Award at the 2014 Japan Media Arts Festival's Animation Division. Shoya, the leader of a group of mischievous schoolboys, is ostracized by those around him on account of an incident involving transfer student Shoko. Five years later, Shoya, now an emotionally hardened high schooler, once again pays Shoko a visit.

# 10.4 Thurs

7:15pm



© 2017 SKMTOC, LLC  
2017 | 102 min | Eng Subtitles  
Directed by Stephen Nomura Schible

## Ryuichi Sakamoto : CODA

One of the most important artists of our era, Ryuichi Sakamoto has had a prolific career over four decades. From techno-pop stardom to Oscar-winning film composer, the evolution of his music has coincided with his life's journeys. Following Fukushima, Sakamoto became an iconic figure in Japan's social movement against nuclear power. As he returns to music after a cancer diagnosis, his haunting awareness of the ephemerality of life gives birth to a resounding new masterpiece. This film is an intimate portrait of both the artist and the man.

# 10.5 Fri

7:15pm



"Way back to the Sea"  
Directed by Kaori Iwase

© 1995-2018, Tokyo Broadcasting  
System Holdings, INC.  
All Rights Reserved.

## DigiCon6 ASIA Awards: The Wonders of Animation Shorts 83 min | Eng Subtitles

Directors: Kaori Iwase, Shinya Hashizume, Takahiro Miyauchi, Takuya Okada, Tomoki Misato, Honami Yano, Woohyun Kim, Sayaka Kihata, Yantong Zhu, Yoko Yuki, Q-rai, Manabu Himeda

DigiCon6 ASIA Awards is an annual competition that seeks talented creators throughout Asia for their outstanding works. JFFSF and DigiCon6 collaborate to showcase 11 award-winning animations to share the wonders of imagination colorfully expressed in a variety of forms and styles of animation. DigiCon6 also provides creators with opportunities to expand their creative ground by supporting their innovative minds and activities year-round internationally.



"CHROMOSOME SWEETHEART"  
Directed by Honami Yano



"I Can't Breathe"  
Directed by Sayaka Kihata



"I like ducks"  
Directed by Q-rai



"KAJUJI BATH"  
Directed by Shinya Hashizume



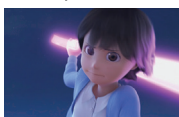
"Look at Me Only"  
Directed by Tomoki Misato



"My Milk Cup Cow"  
Directed by Yantong Zhu



"S -The Birth of Psycho-"  
Directed by Woohyun Kim



"TOKYO COSMO"  
Directed by Takahiro Miyauchi  
Takuya Okada



"Yukosobokudesu4"  
-What is 'Yukosobokudesu?'  
Directed by Manabu Himeda



"Zdravstvuiet!"  
Directed by Yoko Yuki



# 10.6 Sat

North American Premiere

12:00pm



2017 | 73 min | Eng Subtitles  
Presented by NHK WORLD-Japan

## Kurara: The Dazzling life of Hokusai's Daughter

**FREE ADMISSION!** LIFE Magazine calls Japan's Edo era master painter Katsushika Hokusai one of 100 people who left the most important achievements of the past millennium. Assisting him behind the scenes was his daughter, O-Ei. After her divorce, she began assisting her father to complete his iconic "Thirty-six Views of Mount Fuji" series. When Hokusai grew too old, O-Ei became his "brush" and painted on his behalf. She started cultivating a strong fascination with colors as she finally developed her own painting style.



1:45pm

## "Our House" Premiere + Q&A by Director Yui Kiyohara

[See back for details]

4:15pm



2018 | 49 min | Eng Subtitles  
Presented by NHK WORLD-Japan

## Entertainment Nippon 2018 PERFUME

**FREE ADMISSION!** Take an up-close and personal behind-the-scenes look at Japan's leading electro-pop trio Perfume's live concert, "Reframe." As part of the "This is NIPPON Premium Theater" project aimed towards spreading Japanese culture around the world during the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics, this show was formed by breaking down past Perfume shows and rebuilding them into a brand-new, unforgettable stage performance. Get ready to be blown away by performances that use cutting-edge technology in Japan.

5:45pm



2017 | 96 min | Eng Subtitles  
Directed by Shinichiro Ueda

## One Cut of the Dead

San Francisco Premiere

Director Shinichiro Ueda's inventive indie flick has been lighting the box office on fire in Japan. The film opens in an abandoned warehouse where a crew is making a zombie film... It's been said that it's the site of military experiments... Out of nowhere, real zombies arrive and terrorize the crew! It sounds like the plot of a clichéd zombie film, but this is something different! Starting off with a non-stop one-take 37-minute shot, the film then switches direction and turns the zombie genre completely upside down into a charming, audience-friendly comedy!

# 10.7 Sun

12:00pm



2017 | 70 min | Eng Subtitles  
Co-presented by Short Shorts Film Festival & ASIA

## Tokyo Short Shorts 2018

San Francisco Premiere

Our popular collaboration with Short Shorts Film Festival & Asia is back to exclusively premiere a collection of award-winning short films directed by a new generation of filmmakers!

- ★ "SHAKESPEARE IN TOKYO" directed by Genevieve Clay-Smith
- ★ "Our Man in Tokyo" directed by Akira Boch
- ★ "Michi's Suburban Commute" directed by Tsuguhisa Tanaka
- ★ "TOKYO COMET" directed by Hiroki Horanai

1:45pm



2018 | 35 min | Eng Subtitles  
Directed by Brad Kremer & Christopher Frey  
Presented by Cross Media International

## THM: Illustration of an Icon

North American Premiere

**FREE ADMISSION!** This documentary follows Hiroyuki-Mitsume Takahashi as he strives to bring his vividly futuristic artwork from Tokyo to an international audience at the J-POP SUMMIT in San Francisco. With the help of an American "otaku" writer (Patrick Macias), a pioneering anime executive (Vince Shortino), and a new Japanese talent manager (Yuichi Kawakami), can Takahashi's unbound and undefined form of creative and personal expression resonate with a global audience, or will it simply be lost in translation?

2:45pm



2018 | 74 min | Eng Subtitles

## Flavors of Youth

Directors: Xiaoxing Yi, Yoshitake Takeuchi, Haoling Li

From CoMix Wave Films, the creative visionaries behind the international phenomenon Makoto Shinkai's "Your Name" comes Netflix's new anime film "Flavors of Youth." Memories in a bowl of noodles, a fading beauty finding her way and a bittersweet first love -- all in these stories of city life in China. This triptych anthology film explores the simple joys of life through sensual memories and how the beating heart of love cannot be defeated by the flow of time.

4:30pm



2017 | 127 min | Eng Subtitles  
Directed by Yukiko Mishima

## Dear Etranger

CLOSING FILM

San Francisco Premiere

Directed by up-and-coming female director Yukiko Mishima, the film has won the 2017 Montreal World Film Festival, World Competition, Special Grand Prix of the Jury. Makoto (Tadanobu Asano) is unable to get along with the daughter of his second wife, Nanae (Rena Tanaka). Expecting their first child, Makoto can no longer say he looks forward to meeting with his daughter from his previous marriage. As Makoto begins to feel suffocated by his current family, he decides to have his step-daughter meet with her father, Sawada (Kankuro Kudo).