



**Nippon
Connection**
Japanese Film Festival
April 15-19, 2009
Frankfurt am Main
www.nipponconnection.com

DETROIT METAL CITY rocking its way to the top

Frankfurt April 15-19, 2009

During the past five days, Japanese film festival NIPPON CONNECTION once more presented the variety of Japanese film making in Frankfurt. As a climax of the final day, the audience award NIPPON CINEMA was accorded for the fifth time. The prize of 2,000 Euros, donated by Metzler Banking House for the fourth time, went to DETROIT METAL CITY this year, directed by Toshio LEE, probably the first Death-Metal-Romantic-Musical-Comedy in the history of film. Comedies came in second and third as well. While OSAKA HAMLET by Fujiro MITSUISHI delighted the audience with a subtle kind of humour, reaching second place, Hideyuki HIRAYAMA's TALK, TALK, TALK presented an introduction to the secrets of traditional comedy story-telling (rakugo).

As usual, the festival Sunday was opened by a film breakfast, with Yoji YAMADA's drama THE TWILIGHT SAMURAI. At noon, LOVE EXPOSURE by much acclaimed director Sion SONO, already heaped with praises and awards, attracted the audience. This manic and complex pop-symphony extends over a screening time of almost four hours. Notwithstanding this impressive length, many visitors found their way to the festival centre. There, a very special kind of performance by pop-benshi Hirono YAMADA could also be enjoined. Taking up the classical art of Japanese film narrators from the era of silent films, YAMADA gives it new life with his own trashy short films and an innovative show.

The cultural program at NIPPON CONNECTION also presented various events, such as a sushi workshop, a taiko percussion workshop, photography installations, radio plays and a sound concert, thus illustrating the richness of Japanese culture. More than 16,000 visitors let themselves be taken into another world during these five days.

NIPPON CONNECTION has been under the patronage of Prof. Dr. Dr. Matthias Lutz-Bachmann, vice president of Goethe-University, Frankfurt, and the general consulate of Japan at Frankfurt. The festival is organized on a voluntary basis by Nippon Connection



registered association. As in the past, the festival has been made possible thanks to many co-workers and helping hands.

All those who couldn't make it to the festival will have the opportunity to see a selection of this year's Digital program at NIPPON CONNECTION FILM FESTIVAL ON TOUR in a number of cities around the world. So, until next year, when it will be: Youkoso! Welcome to the tenth edition of Nippon Connection film festival!

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