



**Nippon
Connection**

Japanese Film Festival
April 15 – 19, 2009
Frankfurt am Main / Germany
www.nipponconnection.com

Nippon Connection – Pink Spring in Frankfurt!

9th Japanese Film Festival, April 15-19, 2009
This Year's Program

The highlight of springtime in Frankfurt is approaching! Through April 15-19, Nippon Connection Film Festival, going into its ninth year, will be showing new, creative cinema from Japan. The festival will present a wide range of films from avant-garde and anime to blockbusters and documentaries, with more than 150 films being scheduled, many of them as German, European or international premieres. Many filmmakers will personally present their works in Frankfurt. Also, the festival is once more topped off with an extraordinary cultural program, attracting visitors on a journey into the world of Japanese culture spanning tradition and cyber-space.

After months of reviewing the lot of them, the festival crew has arranged a very special film program, bringing together a number of highlights from the latest Japanese film productions. One great film event not to be missed is Sion SONO's monumental **LOVE EXPOSURE**, which has received the Caligari and FIPRESCI awards at this year's Berlinale. The drama presents the story of a youth with a lust for life, getting entangled in a web of passion and sin. Exceptionally talented, Kazuyoshi KUMAKIRI will contribute his new film **NON-KO** as a German premiere to Nippon Connection. Cult director Shinya TSUKAMOTO's **NIGHTMARE DETECTIVE 2** is also eagerly awaited. Kiyoshi KUROSAWA's **TOKYO SONATA**, already praised at Cannes Film Festival, is a film about the slow disintegration of a family. **STILL WALKING**, the latest film from "veteran" director Hirokazu KORE-EDA, subtly deals with the subject of death and has received many awards throughout the world. Enthusiasts of cheerful films will love Toshi LEE's manga adaptation **DETROIT METAL CITY**: a musician is tuned up against his will into a glam rock star, being forced to wear makeup reminiscent of the glam-metal group Kiss. In successful Yukihiro TSUTSUMI's elaborate comic adaptation **20TH CENTURY BOYS**, mankind is threatened with annihilation. Of course, Japanese anime are a must see. Amongst others, we will be showing the two compilations **GENIUS PARTY** and **GENIUS PARTY BEYOND**, both productions of creative wizards from Studio 4°C, having gained their fame for such works as "Tekkon Kinkreet" und "Mind Game". Another delicacy is the dark comedy horror anime **HELLS** by Yoshiki YAMAKAWA.

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For the fourth time, we will look for a winner of the **Nippon Cinema Award**, based on the votes of the audience and endowed with 2,000 Euros, a donation from the Metzler banking-house. After the festival, part of the Digital program will go around the world as **Nippon Connection Film Festival on Tour**. We have planned screenings in Munich, New York, Paris and Barcelona, amongst other cities.

This year's **Nippon Retro** "Sexploitation and Experimentation: The Many Shades of Pink Film" is dedicated to the genre of pink film, a branch of Japanese erotic cinema in which almost all of today's well-known directors from Japan have worked. Pink film gave to the directors a freedom of expression fluctuating between experimental aesthetics, political radicalism and pure sexploitation. The scope of this program ranges from the 1960s to today.

But Nippon Connection will not only present the latest movies from Japanese cinema. **Nippon Culture** invites you to experience Japanese culture with all your senses. Our main feature "Sounds" takes you to the acoustic world of Japan, giving you the chance to discover atmospheric **sound installations**, entertaining **radio plays** and energetic **taiko rhythms**. The special qualities of the interplay between moving images and acoustic space will be explored in a **concert** with a **silent movie** and in a **benshi** performance, a film narrator accompanying his "trash" short films.

With Nippon Connection, a spirited cultural exchange can be experienced in a variety of ways. Interactive live feeds from film makers and the nightlife of Tokyo will turn the festival center into a forum of virtual encounters. The revival of the cult TV-program **Late Lounge: Heimkino Reloaded** will bring back Roberto Cappelluti. Teaming up with splatter film director Jörg Buttgerreit, the duo will show no mercy when they anatomize a selected highlight from the history of Japanese trash cinema for the regalement of the audience. What's more, Nippon Culture will give visitors the opportunity to test themselves and participate in many creative ways: starting with a butoh workshop under the direction of Yuko KASEKI, the butoh dancer of international fame, continuing with a traditional incense ceremony and a sushi workshop. The **Department of Japanese Studies at Frankfurt University** will be open one afternoon to the exploration of mobile entertainment technology in Japan. Our cultural program will be completed by **body. space.,time.** an exhibit of Japanese video art, and by a **video-dance performance** presented at Galerie Station / Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, as well as by **lectures, interviews with film makers, karaoke, a tea lounge, a noodle bar** and much more.

The **festival parties** are already a legend. This year, Roberto Cappelluti (known from TV-programs such as "Strassenstars" and "Late Lounge") and Jörg Buttgerreit (writer and director) will spin the turntables and show their skills during the opening lounge on Wednesday, April 15. On Friday, April 17, Japanese Cheap Pop Queen KUMISOLO will enchant the audi-



ence with sugar-sweet sounds, and on Saturday, April 18, DJane Hito from Berlin will rock the dance floor.

Over the years, Nippon Connection has become the world's biggest festival for Japanese film. In 2008, more than 16,000 visitors attended our events. Nippon Connection gives you a unique overview of recent Japanese film making, and it enjoys popularity among a wide audience and experts. The festival continues to be organized by volunteers from the Nippon Connection Registered Association.

Locations:

Student House, Bockenheimer Campus (Festival Center), Jügelstrasse 1
Cinema Orfeos Erben, Hamburger Allee 45
Cinema at German Film Museum, Schaumainkai 41
Galerie Station / Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, Waldschmidtstrasse 4

Advance booking, starting April 1:

www.nipponconnection.com

Press Contact:

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This Year's Program:

NIPPON CINEMA

20th Century Boys (Niju seiki shonen) by Yukihiro TSUTSUMI, J 2008

www.20thboys.com

All Around Us (Gururi no koto) by Ryosuke HASHIGUCHI, J 2008

www.gururinokoto.jp

Detroit Metal City by Toshio LEE, J 2008

www.go-to-dmc.jp

Genius Party Beyond by Masahiro MAEDA, Koji MORIMOTO, Kazuto NAKAZAWA, Shinya OHIRA, Tatsuyuki TANAKA, J 2008

www.genius-party.jp/beyond

Genius Party by Atsuko FUKUSHIMA, Shoji KAWAMORI, Shinji KIMURA, Yoji FUKUYAMA, Hideki FUTAMURA, Masaaki YUASA, Shinichiro WATANABE, J 2007

www.genius-party.jp/genius01

GS Wonderland by Ryuichi HONDA, J 2008

www.gs-w.jp

Hells by Yoshinobu YAMAKAWA, J 2008, OmeU

www.mv.avex.jp/hellsangels

The Kiss (Seppun) by Kunitoshi MANDA, J 2008

www.seppun-movie.com

Love Exposure (Ai no mukidashi) by Sion SONO, J 2008

www.ai-muki.com

Parting Present (Omiyage / Mibojin no mofuku -hoshii no...) by Mamoru WATANABE, J 2008

Nightmare Detective 2 (Akumu tantei 2) by Shinya TSUKAMOTO, J 2008

www.akumu-tantei.com

Non-ko (Nonko 36 sai kaji tetsudai) by Kazuyoshi KUMAKIRI, J 2008

www.nonko36.jp

Osaka Hamlet (Osaka hamuretto) by Fujiro MITSUISHI, J 2008

www.osaka-hamlet.jp

Still Walking (Aruitemo aruitemo) by Hirokazu KORE-EDA, J 2008

www.aruitemo.com

Talk, Talk, Talk (Shaberedomo shaberedomo) by Hideyuki HIRAYAMA, J 2007

www.shaberedomo.com

Tokyo Sonata by Kiyoshi KUROSAWA, Japan/ Niederlande/ Hong Kong 2008

www.tokyosonatamovie.com

The Twilight Samurai (Tasogare seibei) by Yoji YAMADA, J 2002

www.shochiku.co.jp/movie/seibei/

The Two in Tracksuits (Jaji no futari) by Yoshihiro NAKAMURA, J 2008

www.ja-zi2.jp

Vacation (Kyuka) by Hajime KADOI, J 2008

<http://www.eigakyuka.com>

Yariman (Bara / Ya.ri.ma.n.) by Rei SAKAMOTO

NIPPON DIGITAL

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A Normal Life, Please (Jikken ningyo dami ozuma) by Tokachi TSUCHIYA, J 2008

<http://nomalabor.exblog.jp/>

ABC Short Films by Kazuyuki IZUTSU, Kazuki OMORI, Junji SAKAMOTO, Sang Il LEE, Yoichi SAI, J 2008

Ain't No Tomorrows (Oretachi ni asu wa naissu) by Yuki TANADA, J 2008

oreasu.com

Animation Soup Special & Live Performance

www.animationsoup.com

Benshi Brilliance! Hirono YAMADA's Benshi Heaven von und mit Hirono YAMADA

www.katsuben.net

Catman by Ryosuke AOIKE (Anime-Kurzfilme)

www.aoike.ca

digista vol. VII, J 2008 (Kurzfilme)

www.nhk.or.jp/digista

The First Seven Days (Saisho no nanokakan) by Hisashi SAITO, J 2008

Goodbye (Hebano) by Bunyo KIMURA, J 2008

teamjudas.lomo.jp

Kanna's Big Success! (Kanna-san daiseiko desu!) by Koichi INOUE, J 2008

www.kannasan.com

Koji MAEDA Special (Kurzfilme)

www.maeda-kouji.net

Koo-Ki Special (Werbeclips)

www.koo-ki.co.jp/

Locked Out by Yasunobu TAKAHASHI, J 2008

<http://ontheroadfilms.com>

Mononoke (Episode 10-12 „Bakeneko“) by Kenji NAKAMURA, J 2007

www.mononoke-anime.com

Naked of Defenses (Mubobi) by Masahide ICHII, J 2007

www.pia.co.jp/pff

Mental (Seishin) by Kazuhiro SODA, J/USA 2008

www.laboratoryx.us/mental

mime-mime by Yukiko SODE, J 2007

www.pia.co.jp/pff

Musabi Student Film Explosion (Kurzfilme)

Peaches! (Momo matsuri) (Kurzfilmprogramm)

Open Art Special: Hiroyuki NAKANO

www.open-art.tv

Punch the Blue Sky (Aozora ponchi) by Go SHIBATA, J 2008

aopon.jp

Pussy Soup (Neko ramen taisho) by Minoru KAWASAKI, J 2008

www.neko-rahmen.com/movie.html

Serial Dad (Komori seikatsu kojei club) by Ikki KATASHIMA, J 2008

www.komoriclub.com

Tokyo Zokei University Special (Kurzfilme)

Yubari Fantastic Film Festival Special

http://yubarifanta.com/index_pc.php

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NIPPON RETRO

Blue Film Woman (Buru firumu no onna, dir.) by Kan MUKAI, J 1969

Raigo by Takahisa ZEZE, J 1997

Gushing Prayer (Funshutsu kigan – 15sai no baishunfu) by Masao ADACHI, J 1971

Secret Hot Spring Resort: Starfish at Night (Maruhi yu no machi: yoru no hitode) by Mamoru WATANABE, J 1970

Abnormal Family: Older Brother's Bride by Masayuki SUO, J 1984

S&M Hunter (Jigoku no ropa 2: Kinbaku SM 18-sai) by Shuji KATAOKA, J 1989

No Love Juice: Rustling in the Bed (Fuwa-fuwa to beddo no ue de) by Kosuke TAKEDA, J 1999

Tears of Ecstasy by Hiroyuki OKI, J 1995