

Nippon  
Connection  
10th Japanese Film Festival  
April 14-18, 2010  
Frankfurt/Main  
[www.nipponconnection.com](http://www.nipponconnection.com)

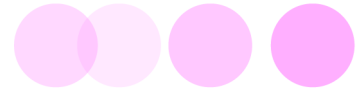
Press Announcement, March 4, 2010

10 Years of Nippon Connection!  
10th Japanese Film Festival in Frankfurt/Main, April 14-18, 2010  
Our Anniversary Program

The 10th anniversary of Japanese Film Festival Nippon Connection is waiting just around the corner, holding many surprises. From April 14 to 18, 2010, we will show more than 150 of the latest Japanese feature and short films, ranging from avant-garde to blockbuster, as well as a broad cultural program. For the tenth time, the biggest festival for Japanese cinema worldwide will offer exciting and innovative films, with many international premieres being presented by the film makers personally. In a special anniversary retrospective, Nippon Connection will take a look back at ten years of great Japanese cinema that has proved to be a magnet for the audience.

This year's opener will be Shuichi OKITA's THE CHEF OF SOUTH POLAR, a laconic work in which some scientists stationed in the Antarctic get over their existential lows with the help of their cook's unflagging culinary extravagances. The comedy DEAR DOCTOR by Miwa NISHIKAWA (WILD BERRIES, SWAY) is an unpretentious and intelligent portrait of an impostor, caring for the old as a doctor in the country, but suddenly disappearing. With Yuki TANADA (AIN'T NO TOMORROWS), who will present her film ONE MILLION YEN GIRL, NISHIKAWA will be one of three female directors participating in the Nippon Cinema section. Yuki TANADA is regarded as a great newcomer talent – along with Satoko YOKOHAMA, who tells the unusual love story of an odd couple in her film BARE ESSENCE OF LIFE.

Toshiaki TOYODA (HANGING GARDEN), another talented director celebrating his comeback with his latest work, THE BLOOD OF REBIRTH, is expected to be present personally. His debut film PORNOSTAR, screened at our first festival in the year 2000, will be part of this year's retrospective. Michael Arias, too, is no newcomer to Nippon Connection, having already presented his spectacular animation film TEKKON KINKREET, which will also be shown in our retrospective, in 2007. For our anniversary, he has brought with him his latest work, HEAVEN'S DOOR, a Japanese remake of the German Til Schweiger production KNOCKING ON HEAVEN'S DOOR.



In OH, MY BUDDHA, a coming of age-story set in the Japan of the seventies, star actor Tomorrow TAGUCHI (TETSUO, GOHATTO) not only acts in front of the camera, but has also taken the director's chair for the second time. TAGUCHI is also expected as one of our guests in Frankfurt. Like him, Koji YAKUSHO excels as both an actor and a director in his directing debut TOAD'S OIL, after having established himself as one of Japan's top actors with his roles in such prize-winning films as SHALL WE DANCE?, THE EEL or MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA. In his film, YAKUSHO skilfully combines tragedy and comedy, and delivers an unusual approach to the sensitive topics of death and dying.

With his two very personal films, 8000 MILES I SAITAMA'S RAPPER and 8000 MILES II GIRLS RAPPERS (the latter shown at Nippon Connection as an international premiere), YU IRIE gives proof of the great potential of Japanese independent productions. His moving portrait of Japanese youth caught between rap music dreams and small town boredom is built on poignant humour, detailed character studies and a sharp sense of observation. Tetsuaki MATSUE will have no less than three films in the race. He will attend the festival along with musician Kenta MAENO, whom he has accompanied in his film LIVE TAPE; ANNYONG YUMIKA is the extraordinary portrait of late pink film actress Yumika HAYASHI; MATSUE's film ANNYONG KIMCHI will be part of our retrospective.

In the manga adaptation CROWS ZERO II, cult director Takashi MIIKE (ICHI THE KILLER, SUKIYAKI WESTERN DJANGO) makes school gangs clash in wild brawls for the second time. Animation film fans will also be gratified at Nippon Connection. In CHOCOLATE UNDERGROUND by Takayuki HAMANA, a group of children rebels alongside underground fighters against the chocolate prohibition implemented by a tyrannical regime. In the breathtakingly animated film OBLIVION ISLAND: HARUKA AND THE MAGIC MIRROR by Shinsuke SATO (PRINCESS BLADE), the audience will be led to dive into the magic world of lost childhood.

For the sixth time, the NIPPON CINEMA AWARD will be given to one of the premiere films in the Nippon Cinema program according to the vote of the audience. This award is endowed with 2,000 Euros and is sponsored by Bankhaus Metzler. Moreover, a jury will decide on the winner of the NIPPON DIGITAL AWARD for the first time. This newcomer award is donated by the Japanese Visual Media Translation Academy (JVTA) from Tokyo. The winner will receive a free subtitling for his next film.

For our tenth anniversary, the broad cultural program of NIPPON CULTURE will be a forum of international cultural exchange. Numerous international guests such as John Berra (University of Sheffield) will explore the various aspects of Japanese media. Lectures by Professor Lisette Gebhart (Department of Japanese Studies at Frankfurt University) and Dr. Griseldis Kirsch (University of London) will further extend the range of our cultural program.

Pressekontakt: [presse@nipponconnection.com](mailto:presse@nipponconnection.com) • [www.nipponconnection.com](http://www.nipponconnection.com)

Phone: +49 (0)69 798 22 986 • Fax: +49 (0)69 798 22 987

Petra Palmer, Mobil: +49 (0)172 236 2886 • Dennis Vetter, Mobil: +49 (0)176 641 022 20

Nippon Connection e.V. • c/o AStA, Mertonstr. 26-28, D-60325 Frankfurt am Main



Renowned artists will come all the way from Japan, demonstrating the vitality of Japanese culture by their creative use of traditional art forms. Yukitsugu NISHIJIRI from Osaka presents a fascinating contemporary interpretation of the traditional woodcut art of mokuhanga. In a live performance, he will reproduce the movements of a dancer in skilful cuts and lines. Part of his multi-faceted work will be on display in the Kunstraum Westend gallery. Another traditional art form rarely to be found any longer in modern Japan is the art of narration, kodan. Kyoko KANDA and Takiya KUWAHARA will let the audience feel the rhythm of the Japanese language in their performance and in an additional workshop, breathing life into their humorous stories usually set at the Japanese emperor's court.

In cooperation with Japanese Visual Media Translation Academy (JVTA) from Tokyo, Nippon Connection offers a glimpse into the field of subtitling and dubbing Japanese films and series. In two lectures and one performance, internationally renowned voice actor Crispin Freeman (GHOST IN THE SHELL, HELLSING) will show his skills live to the audience. Two more workshops with JVTA will offer the opportunity for active participation.

In interviews with the film makers as well as in panel discussions, the audience can amend their impressions from the films. Classics such as a karaoke bar or a ramen stand, a tea and sake lounge, shiatsu massage and a video game hall will all be there again. Our "Nippon Home Cinema" with Jörg Buttgerit and Thilo Gosejohann will be a perfect entertainment after a long festival day. As a special treat for the audience, there will be a tombola with appealing prizes before every Nippon Cinema screening.

At Nippon Connection, nobody will want to miss the legendary parties and concerts. For the opening lounge on Wednesday, April 14, HOP! HOP! DJ team Weller & Pedo Knopp will be at the turntables, accompanied by VJs of eyetrapp.de and their rapid mix of clips from festival films. On Friday, April 16, ODD and VJ chuu from Berlin will get the crowd moving with their electro techno punk live set, and on Saturday, legendary Nippon Connection resident DJane Hito from Berlin and drag queen Masu will provide for a wild flashy festival anniversary party until dawn.

For ten years already, Nippon Connection has been organized on a voluntary basis by non-profit Nippon Connection registered association.

#### Festival locations

Students' House on Bockenheimer Campus (Festival centre), Orfeo's Erben cinema, Mal Seh'n cinema, Galerie Station at Künstlerhaus Mousonturm, Kunstraum Westend.

Advance booking, starting April 1

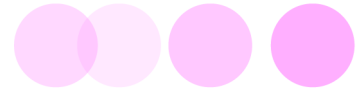
[www.nipponconnection.com](http://www.nipponconnection.com)

Pressekontakt: [presse@nipponconnection.com](mailto:presse@nipponconnection.com) • [www.nipponconnection.com](http://www.nipponconnection.com)

Phone: +49 (0)69 798 22 986 • Fax: +49 (0)69 798 22 987

Petra Palmer, Mobil: +49 (0)172 236 2886 • Dennis Vetter, Mobil: +49 (0)176 641 022 20

Nippon Connection e.V. • c/o AStA, Mertonstr. 26-28, D-60325 Frankfurt am Main



Landkarten Schwarz, Am Kornmarkt 12, Frankfurt  
Uni-Shop, Bockenheimer Landstraße 133 (Bockenheim Campus)

Press contact

Petra Palmer, mobile phone: +49 (0)172 236 2886  
Dennis Vetter, mobile phone: +49 (0)176 641 022 20  
presse@nipponconnection.com  
www.nipponconnection.com

Excerpt of film program (as of March 2, 2010)

NIPPON CINEMA & NIPPON DIGITAL

8000 Miles I Saitama`s Rapper, D: Yu IRIE, J 2008  
8000 MILES II Girls-Rappers, D: Yu IRIE, J 2009  
www.sr-movie.com  
Annyong Yumika, D: Tetsuaki MATSUE, J 2009  
www.spopro.net/annyong\_yumika/  
Autumn Adagio, D: Tsuki INOUE, J 2009  
www.autumn-adagio.com  
A Piece of Our Life – Kakeru, D: Momoko ANDO, J 2009  
www.love-kakera.jp  
Bare Essence of Life, D: Satoko YOKOHAMA, J 2009  
www.umls.jp  
The Blood of Rebirth (Yomigaeri no chi), D: Toshiaki TOYODA, J 2009  
yomigaeri-movie.com  
The Chef of South Polar (Omoshiro nankyoku ryurinin ) D: Shuichi OKITA, J 2009  
www.nankyoku-ryori.com  
Chocolate Underground, D: Takayuki HAMANA, J 2009  
www.choco-bar.jp  
Crime or Punishment?!? (Tsumi toka batsu toka), D: Keralino Sandorovich, J 2008  
www.tsumi-batsu.com  
Crows Zero II, D: Takashi MIIKE, J 2009  
www.cz2.jp  
Dear Doctor, D: Miwa NISHIKAWA, J 2009  
www.deardocor.jp  
Heaven`s Door, D: Michael Arias, J 2008  
www.h-door.jp  
Kaiji, D: Toya SATO, J 2009  
www.kaiji-movie.jp  
Live Tape, D: Tetsuaki MATSUE, J 2009  
www.spopro.net/livetape  
Lost Girl, D: Daisuke YAMAOKA, J 2009  
lost.girly.jp  
Glasses (Megane), D: Naoko OGIGAMI, J 2007

Pressekontakt: presse@nipponconnection.com • [www.nipponconnection.com](http://www.nipponconnection.com)

Phone: +49 (0)69 798 22 986 • Fax: +49 (0)69 798 22 987

Petra Palmer, Mobil: +49 (0)172 236 2886 • Dennis Vetter, Mobil: +49 (0)176 641 022 20

Nippon Connection e.V. • c/o AStA, Mertonstr. 26-28, D-60325 Frankfurt am Main



The Hiding, D: Shozin FUKUI, J 2008  
Island of Dreams (Yume no shima), D: Tetsuichiro TSUTA, J 2009  
Miyoko, D: Yoshifumi TSUBOTA, J 2009  
[www.miyoko-asagaya.com](http://www.miyoko-asagaya.com)  
No More Cry!!!, D: Nobuo MIZUTA, J 2009  
[www.nakumonka.jp](http://www.nakumonka.jp)  
Oblivion Island: Haruka and the Magic Mirror (Hottarake no shima: haruka to maho no kagami), D: Shinsuke SATO, J 2009  
[www.hottarake.jp](http://www.hottarake.jp)  
Oh, my Buddha! (Shikisoku zenereishon), D: Tomorrow TAGUCHI, J 2008  
[shikisoku.jp/indexp.html](http://shikisoku.jp/indexp.html)  
One Million Yen Girl, D: Yuki TANADA, J 2008  
[nigamushi.com](http://nigamushi.com)  
Oppai Volleyball, D: Eiichiro HASUMI, J 2009  
[www.opv.jp](http://www.opv.jp)  
Pyuupiru 2001-2008, D: Daishi MATSUNAGA, J 2009  
Sawako Decides (Kawa no soko kara konnichi wa), D: Yuya ISHII, J 2009  
[www.kawasoko.com](http://www.kawasoko.com)  
S-94, D: Shozin FUKUI, J 2009  
[www.honekoubou.jp/en/s94.html](http://www.honekoubou.jp/en/s94.html)  
So Dark Night (Konna kurai yoru ni), D: Yutaka KOIDE, J 2009  
Toad's Oil, D: Koji YAKUSHO, J 2008  
[gama-movie.com](http://gama-movie.com)  
Zero Focus, D: Isshin INUDOU, J 2009  
[www.zero-focus.jp](http://www.zero-focus.jp)

## NIPPON RETRO

Pornostar, D: Toshiaki TOYODA, J 1998 (NC 2000)  
The New God (Atarashii Kamisama), D: Yutaka TSUCHIYA, J 199 (NC 2002)  
Annyong Kimchi, D: Tetsuaki MATSUE, J 1999 (NC 2003)  
Dolls, D: Takeshi KITANO, J/ F 2002 (NC 2003)  
Tokyo Godfathers, D: Satoshi KON J 2003 (NC 2004)  
Vital, D: Shinja TSUKAMOTO, J 2004 (NC 2005)  
Moon & Cherry (Tsuki to Cherry), D: Yuki TANADA, J 2004 (NC 2006)  
Tekkon Kinkreet, D: Michael Arias, J 2006 (NC 2007)  
The Tender Throbbing Twilight (Tasogare / Ikutsu ni natte mo yaritai otoko to onna), D: Shinji IMAOKA , J 2007 (NC 2008)  
Love Exposure (Ai no mukidashi), D: Sion SONO, J 2008 (NC 2009)