



The Fusion Asian Cinema Program is sponsored by The Japan Foundation, Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC), and The National Center for the Preservation of Democracy.



# FUSION ASIAN CINEMA

## WHERE TO GO

### Retrospective: Nobuo Nakagawa, The Maestro of Japanese Horror Films

**Friday, March 24**

JACCC/Aratani Japan America Theatre, 244 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles (Little Tokyo), CA 90012

### Cult Fusion

**Saturday, March 25**

JACCC/Aratani Japan America Theatre, 244 South San Pedro Street, Los Angeles (Little Tokyo), CA 90012

### Documentaries & Special Projects

**Sunday, March 26**

The National Center for the Preservation of Democracy, 111 N. Central Avenue, Los Angeles (Little Tokyo), CA 90012



Fusion Asian isn't wasabi on your mahi-mahi. This year's Fusion Asian Cinema program at the Silver Lake Film Festival 2006 on March 24th – 26th includes nine features, eight documentaries, and five short films from nine countries. These superb Asian films are blurring the lines of national borders within the transcultural wave—films whose universality of themes and images make them readily accessible to an American audience. Stay tuned for events, art openings, and parties in Little Tokyo in downtown LA.

### March 24 Retrospective – Nobuo Nakagawa, The Maestro of Japanese Horror Films

Director Nobuo Nakagawa (1905 – 1984) is known as the maestro of horror films with his own unique creativity that transcends genres. Possessing unconventional techniques, striking visuals, and entertaining stories, Nakagawa's films will give audiences the opportunity to discover some fascinating cinematic art that still influences the contemporary Japanese horror genre. With generous support from the Japan Foundation and Aratani Japan America Theatre, we are screening four of Nakagawa's signature films on new prints with English subtitles: *A WICKED WOMAN*, *HELL, THE MANSION OF THE GHOST CAT*, and *GHOST STORY OF YOTSUYA*. Don't miss the first and only day these films are shown in the USA!

#### **A WICKED WOMAN/ DOKUFU TAKAHASHI ODEN**

**Friday, March 24th, 2:55 pm;**  
Japan America Theatre

(Japan, 1958, 74 mins)  
Director: Nobuo Nakagawa; Screenwriters:  
Katsuyoshi Nakatsu, Shin Nakazawa;  
Producer: Mitsugu Okura

The protagonist swears to wreak vengeance on all men for the death of her daughter and becomes a demon.

#### **HELL/JIGOKU**

**Friday, March 24th, 4:45 pm;**  
Japan America Theatre

(Japan, 1960, 101 mins)  
Director: Nobuo Nakagawa;  
Screenwriters: Ichirō Miyagawa, Nobuo  
Nakagawa; Producer: Mitsugu Okura

Tackling the theme of "hell" (as stated in the title), this astonishing artwork deals with human karma and salvation.

#### **BLACK CAT MANSION/ BOREI KAIBYO YASHIKI**

**Friday, March 24th; 6:30 pm;**  
Japan America Theatre

(Japan, 1958, 69 mins)  
Director: Nobuo Nakagawa; Screenwriter: Jiro  
Fujishima, Yoshihiro Ishikawa; Producer:  
Mitsugu Okura

The descendant of the servant of a cruel and vicious samurai returns to the town where she was born, only to find that a cat, possessed by the spirits of those murdered by the samurai, is trying to kill her.

#### *NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE*

#### **GHOST STORY OF YOTSUYA/ TOKAIDO YOTSUYA KAIDAN**

**Friday, March 24th, 8:40 pm;**  
Japan America Theatre

(Japan, 1959, 76 mins)  
Director: Nobuo Nakagawa; Screenwriters:  
Yoshihiro Ishikawa, Masayoshi Onuki; Producer:  
Mitsugu Okura

Based on an 18th-century masterpiece by Nanboku Tsuruya, a woman haunts her husband after she dies a miserable death.

### March 25 Cult Fusion

The transcultural wave is on full display as Cult Fusion presents a range of films from commercial blockbusters to the uniquely artistic.

#### *LOS ANGELES PREMIERE*

#### **EK AJNABEE/ONE STRANGER**

**Saturday, March 25th, 1:00 pm;**  
Japan America Theatre

(India, 2005, 142 mins)  
Director/Screenwriter: Apoorva Lakhia;  
Producers: Jaspreet Singh Walia, Bunty Walia

Ong Bak + Bollywood. India's all-time biggest movie star, Amitabh Bachchan (a/k/a Big B), returns to the big screen in this new action thriller. Based on the Hollywood flick *MAN ON FIRE*, a burnt-out Army Colonel, Suryaveer Singh, must hunt down the kidnappers of a young girl in Bangkok who have foiled his efforts to protect her. With the stunt team from Ong Bak.





U.S. PREMIERE

### ANTARCTIC JOURNAL

Saturday, March 25th, 4:00 pm;

Japan America Theatre

(South Korea, 2004, 114 mins)

Director: Yim Phil-sung; Screenwriter: Chang Kang-hee; Producer: Yim Hee-chul

Days into a bone-chilling expedition, strange phenomena occur and team members start to disappear one by one, as their captain tenaciously labors to reach the most remote spot on the Antarctic continent.

\*\*\*Shown with CUT\*\*\*

LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

### CUT

Saturday, March 25th, 4:00 pm;

Japan America Theatre

(Singapore, 2004, 13 min)

Director/Screenwriter/Producer: Royston Tan

Royston Tan's debut feature 15 was decimated by the Singapore censors with 27 cuts. So he fought back with this gleefully camp protest musical.

\*\*\*Shown with ANTARCTIC JOURNAL\*\*\*

WEST COAST PREMIERE

### MAGICAL WASH MACHINE

Saturday, March 25th, 6:40 pm;

Japan America Theatre

(Taiwan, 2004, 19 mins)

Director/Screenwriter: Robin Lee; Producer: Huang Chih Ming

A delightful fantasy about a girl who loves to watch washing machines and discovers a marvelous wash machine with magical properties. Best Short Film at the Golden Horse Film Awards (Taipei).

\*\*\*Shown with CLEAN\*\*\*

LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

### CLEAN

Saturday, March 25th, 6:40 pm;

Japan America Theatre

(France, 2004, 111 mins)

Director: Olivier Assayas; Screenwriters: Olivier Assayas, Malachy Martin, Sarah Perry; Producer: Edouard Weil, Niv Fichman, Xavier Marchand

Widowed rock star Emily has just been released from a six-month prison stint, stemming from her heroin addiction. So begins her quest to reclaim her young son, placed in the custody of her protective in-laws. Maggie Cheung imbues Emily's struggle to stay clean with a potent combination of rawness, compassion and truth.

\*\*\*Shown with MAGICAL WASH MACHINE\*\*\*

U.S. PREMIERE

### RED EYE

Saturday, March 25th, 9:40 pm;

Japan America Theatre

(South Korea, 2005, 97 mins)

Director: Kim Dong-Bin; Screenwriter: Lee Yong-jong; Producer: Kim Nam-hie, Kim Yong-guk

A train attendant, his first day on the job, becomes terrified when he suddenly discovers that the train is hurtling forward towards oblivion—and that the date has suddenly jumped back in time to 16 years earlier.

March 26

## Documentaries & Special Projects

Our series wraps up with some emotionally engaging documentaries and a series of digital shorts by three preeminent Asian filmmakers from South Korea's Jeonju International Film Festival.

U.S. PREMIERE

### THE LAST RICE FARMERS

Sunday, March 26th, 12:10 pm; National Center

For the Preservation of Democracy

(Taiwan, 2005, 108 mins)

Directors/Screenwriter/Producer: Yen Lan-chuan and Juang Yi-tseng

This film traces how the WTO affects the livelihood of rice farmers, who keep their humanity while toiling in back-breaking hardship. One of the brightest gems of Taiwan's vibrant documentary scene.

LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

### ANNYONG SAYONARA

Sunday, March 26th, 2:25 pm; National Center For

the Preservation of Democracy

(South Korea, 2005, 107 mins)

Directors: Kumiko Kato and Kim Tae-II; Screenwriter/Producer: Kim Il-kwon

Lee Hee-Ja, a Korean woman, has launched a lawsuit against the Yasukuni Shrine and the Japanese government to withdraw the enshrinement of her father. Furukawa is the Japanese man who supported the lawsuit regarding compensation for Korean War victims. This moving pacifist manifesto illustrates the painful history between Korea and Japan. A collaborative effort between Korean and Japanese civic groups.

### JEEVIKA

Sunday, March 26th, 4:35 pm; National Center For

the Preservation of Democracy

*Jeevika is the annual South Asian Livelihood Documentary Festival in New Delhi, India. Organized by The Centre for Civil Society, Jeevika includes entries from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh and Serbia. Jeevika focuses on bureaucracy, social/cultural norms and religious practices that prevent people from earning an honest living in the vocation of their choice. This series showcases four hand-picked from the 21 shown at Jeevika 2006. Jeevika is looking for worldwide film entries. The entry can be in any language with English subtitles, any format and any length. For more information, please visit: [www.ccsindia.org](http://www.ccsindia.org)*

### IN SEARCH OF A JOB

(India, 2005, 14 mins)

Director/Screenwriter/Producer: Mrinal Talukdar

Assam has long tradition of using domestic elephants for logging business for centuries. A 1997 Supreme Court order has made these elephants and their masters suddenly jobless. So these 1200 elephants are now desperately in search of an honest livelihood.

### TREACLING DOWN

(Sri Lanka, 2005, 14 mins)

Director/Screenwriter/Producer: Upali Gamlath  
In a highly commercialized remote village, "Meemure" bag their cherished products for a mere pittance, which

are then sold in luxury supermarkets at exorbitant prices.

### MANHOLE WORKERS UNION

(India, 2005, 20 mins)

Director/Screenwriter: Rappai Poothokaren; Producer: Indo-Global Social Service Society, New Delhi

Manhole workers, who are ill-treated, discriminated against, and work under subhuman conditions, are rescued by an organization that helps them form a union, through which they learn to dialogue and bargain at a political level.

NORTH AMERICA PREMIERE

### ONE SHOW LESS

(India, 2005, 19 mins)

Director/Screenwriter: Nayantara C. Kotian; Producer: National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad

Increasing numbers of single screen cinemas are shutting down all over India. This is a vivid portrait of a unique way of life that might soon become extinct.

LOS ANGELES PREMIERE

### NIGHT SCENE

Sunday, March 26th, 6:10 pm; National Center For

the Preservation of Democracy

(China, 2004, 75 mins)

Director/Screenwriter: Cui Zi'en; Producers: Liu Shu Jing, Peng Jia Yi

A proponent of homosexual rights, film scholar Cui Zi'en's predilection for boys often appears in his work. Night Scene is a film about one of the biggest taboos in contemporary China: male street prostitution. It is a unique portrait of a twilight world in parks and clubs that veers between documentary and action.

\*\*\*Accompanied with 15 minute Filmmaker Q&A right after the film\*\*\*

WEST COAST PREMIERE

### DIGITAL SHORT FILMS BY

### THREE FILMMAKERS

Sunday, March 26th, 8:05 pm; National Center For

the Preservation of Democracy

Under new era themes of "digital" and "radical," Jeonju International Film Festival in Korea has commissioned three filmmakers each year to make a short film illustrating these ideas. The project, which began in 2000, has since achieved an international reputation. In 2005, Tsukamoto Shinya, Song Il-gon and Apichatpong Weerasethakul explored the potential of the digital camera.

### HAZE

(Japan, 2005, 28 mins)

Director/Screenwriter/Producer: Shinya Tsukamoto

An allegorical tale of an injured, bleeding man with no clear memories, who wakes up in a room that seems to be growing steadily smaller as his own awareness clears.

### MAGICIANS

(South Korea, 2005, 40 mins)

Director/Screenwriter/Producer: Song Il-gong  
Three years after the suicide of their female guitarist, the surviving members of the band The Magicians get back together. The movie is a "one cut, one scene" film, whose story moves between the past and present.

### WORLDLY DESIRES

(Thailand, 2005, 42 mins)

Director/Screenwriter/Producer: Apichatpong Weerasethakul

The story of a couple who escape their family to look for a spiritual tree in the jungle.