

The Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme

# JAPANESE FILM AND ITS INDUSTRY

PANEL DISCUSSION

Part of:

**EAST  
SIDE  
STORIES**



Date: 3 February 2014, from 6.30pm  
Venue: The Japan Foundation, London  
Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, London WC1B 5EH

Japanese cinema continues to attract its domestic audience and has also been a source of inspiration to the world, but what is actually happening in Japanese cinema and its industry today?

Complementary to the Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme **East Side Stories – Japanese Cinema Depicting the Lives of Youth**, this panel discussion will bring together animation film director **Keiichi Hara**, television and film director **Hitoshi Ohne** and actor **Mirai Moriyama**, to provide you with informative guide to Japanese cinema today, through the perceptions of those working in it.

Briefly introducing their own careers, they will delve further into the current state of the industry, looking into issues including the relationship between directors and actors, the difference between independent and large scale productions, as well as crossovers between film and television, theatre and animation.

This discussion chaired by **Dr Rayna Denison** (University of East Anglia) will offer an opportunity to hear the views of professionals with different career paths but all working in Japanese cinema, and will be a perfect complement to the film screenings taking place as part of the Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme.

Panellists include:

### **Keiichi Hara**

Keiichi Hara began his career working on a number of television anime productions, including *Doraemon*, *Esper Mami*, and *Crayon Shin-chan*. He has also directed anime feature films for the *Doraemon* and *Crayon Shin-chan* franchises, including the critically-acclaimed *Crayon Shin-chan: The Adult Empire Strikes Back* (2000), and since has directed the films *Summer Days with Coo* (2007), *Colorful* (2010), and his first live-action film, *Dawn of a Filmmaker: The Keisuke Kinoshita Story* (2013).

### **Mirai Moriyama**

Mirai Moriyama is an actor working in film, theatre and television. Moriyama played the lead character in the Japanese version of the musical *RENT* (2008) and starred in a number of films including the *20<sup>th</sup> Century Boys* trilogy (2008-2009), *Love Strikes!* (2011) and *The Drudgery Train* (2012). He has also starred in television dramas including *Waterboys* (2003), and the drama-version of *Love Strikes!*, *Moteki* (2010).

### **Hitoshi Ohne**

Hitoshi Ohne has worked on various music videos and popular TV dramas, including *Moteki* (2010), which he wrote and directed, adapting from the popular manga by Mitsuro Kubo, before adapting the story to the live-action film, *Love Strikes!* (2011). Ohne has since written the theatrical play *Hedwig and the Angry Itch* based on the popular Hollywood film, and made his second feature film *Be My Baby* (2013).

For information about the Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme **East Side Stories – Japanese Cinema Depicting the Lives of Youth**, please [click here](#)

*This event is free to attend but booking is essential. To reserve a place, please email your name and the title of the event you would like to attend to [event@jpf.org.uk](mailto:event@jpf.org.uk)*