

# Voices from the Past

## Shadows of War in Japanese Cinema

Date: 11 – 22 August 2015

Venue: Goethe-Institut London

50 Princes Gate, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2PH

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, a war which ended in Japan in August 1945. Since then traces of the war have been prevalent in the arts of Japan right through to today, and cinema is by no means an exception.

Reflecting on life back then, the Japan Foundation has put together a selection of rarely screened films set before, during and after the Second World War, produced by filmmakers, such as **Kazuo Kuroki** and **Yoji Yamada**, who strived to depict the experiences of those directly affected by the conflict in different ways.

Tuesday, 11 August 2015, 6:30pm



### **The Face of Jizo** (父と暮らせば)

Mitsue was once a young girl filled with hopes and dreams but her life was changed forever when her hometown of Hiroshima was destroyed by the atomic bomb. Following Mitsue's relationship with her father Takezo, the film explores Mitsue's struggle to overcome her feelings of guilt and fear brought on by the bombing. Based on a play by Hisashi Inoue, the film looks into the issues surrounding *hibakusha*, survivors of the atomic bomb.

*Directed by Kazuo Kuroki / 2004 / 99mins / Colour / English subtitles*

Thursday, 13 August 2015, 6:30pm



### **Eclair** (エクレール〜お菓子放浪記)

Set around the period of the Second World War, *Éclair* tells the story of Akio, a young orphaned boy with an obsession for all things sweet. After being caught for stealing a bag of sweets out of hunger, Akio is sent to a reformatory and experiences a tough time, but finds solace through the song 'Okashi to Musume' (Sweets and a Girl) sung by one of the teachers, Yoko.

*Directed by Akio Kondo / 2011 / 105min / English Subtitles*  
Image: © "eclair" Production Committee

Saturday, 15 August 2015, 11:00am



### **Song of the Spring Horse** (春駒のうた)

Keiji, who lives with his grandfather, Bunzo, was born on the day that a letter announcing his father's death was received. Losing the use of his right leg due to polio, Keiji refuses to return to school much to his grandfather's disappointment, but everything starts to change when a new teacher, Miss Sonoda arrives. Adapted from the famous children's novel of the same name.

*Directed by Seiji Koyama / 1987 / 110mins / Colour / English subtitles*

Saturday, 15 August 2015, 1:10pm

**FILM CLUB** - featuring introduction and discussion chaired by **Nick Walker** (Rochester Kino)



### **Barefoot Gen** (はだしのゲン)

A war drama anime depicting events surrounding the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, and six-year-old Gen Nakaoka's first-hand experience of the bomb. Based on the famous auto-biographical manga series by Keiji Nakazawa, who himself experienced the atomic bomb at the age of seven, Masaki's animated drama contains touching and heartfelt moments amidst the true realities of war.

*Directed by Mori Masaki / 1983 / 83mins / Colour / English subtitles*

Saturday, 15 August 2015, 3:20pm



### Kabei: Our Mother (母べえ)

When Professor Shigeru Nogami is imprisoned for speaking out against the government in 1940s Tokyo, his devoted wife, Kayo, affectionately called 'Kabei' by her family, is left to care for her children alone. Kayo is left to work from day to night to maintain the upkeep of the household and raise her daughters in the hope that her husband will one day return.

*Directed by Yoji Yamada / 2008 / 133mins / Colour / English subtitles*  
*Image: © "KABEI – Our Mother" Film Partners all rights reserved*

Tuesday, 18 August 2015, 6:30pm



### Ah, My Voiceless Friends (あゝ 声なき友)

Tamiji Nishiyama, the only survivor of a military group during the Second World War brings home the final letters of his comrades who have asked him to hand them to their families. Leaving his new life in Tokyo behind, Tamiji embarks on a journey to deliver the messages to each of his squadron's loved ones. Starring Kiyoshi Atsumi, a Japanese film actor famed for his appearances in the popular *Tora-san* film series.

*Directed by Tadashi Imai / 1972 / 106mins / Colour / English subtitles*

Thursday, 20 August 2015, 6:30pm



### Best Wishes for Tomorrow (明日への遺言)

This drama based on a true story follows the trial of Lieutenant General Tasuku Okada after he ordered the execution of 38 American POWs responsible for the bombing of Nagoya. Directed by Takashi Koizumi, a former assistant director to Akira Kurosawa and written by author and playwright Roger Pulvers, the film is based on a true story and written with the aid of official courtroom transcript, examining the reasoning behind the general's actions.

*Directed by Takashi Koizumi / 2008 / 110mins / Colour / English subtitles*  
*Image: © 2007 "Best Wishes for Tomorrow" Film Partners*

Saturday, 22 August 2015, 11:00am



### A Boy's Summer in 1945 (美しい夏キリシマ)

In the summer of 1945 just before the end of the Second World War, ninth-grader Yasuo is evacuated from his native Tokyo to the beautiful city of Kirishima in the Kagoshima prefecture. Leaving his parents behind and racked with the guilt of being unable to save his friend from a bomb attack, the film follows Yasuo's interactions with the city's residents, and his struggle to become accustomed to the militant attitude around him.

*Directed by Kazuo Kuroki / 2002 / 118mins / Colour / English subtitles*  
*Image: © 2003/ Rumble Fish*

Saturday, 22 August 2015, 1:30pm



### Children of Nagasaki (この子を残して)

Keisuke Kinoshita's drama tells the story of a young doctor of medicine, who has lost his wife in the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, and is receiving treatment for radiation sickness. As he begins to sense that death is approaching and that he will need to leave his two children behind, he begins to write down his memoirs of the horrors he had witnessed. The film is based on the non-fiction novel by Takashi Nagai.

*Directed by Keisuke Kinoshita / 1983 / 127mins / Colour / English subtitles*

Saturday, 22 August 2015, 4:00pm

**FILM CLUB** - featuring introduction and discussion chaired by Jasper Sharp



### Ashita (Tomorrow) (Tomorrow 明日)

Featuring a series of loosely-connected stories of people's ordinary lives in Nagasaki on 8 August 1945, this film follows the twenty hours leading up to the next morning, when at 11:20 the atomic bomb would be dropped on Nagasaki. The first instalment in legendary filmmaker Kazuo Kuroki's trilogy of war films, the film is based on the novel by Mitsuharu Inoue, a survivor of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki.

*Directed by Kazuo Kuroki / 1988 / 105mins / Colour / English subtitles*

#### Booking:

These screenings are free to attend but booking is essential.  
To book a place, please visit: [voices-from-the-past.eventbrite.co.uk](http://voices-from-the-past.eventbrite.co.uk)

On this occasion the Japan Foundation would like to encourage younger audience members to attend these screenings. If you, or a member of your party, are aged 25 or under, please tick the corresponding box when completing your booking. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

**Venue: Goethe-Institut London**  
**50 Princes Gate, Exhibition Road, London SW7 2PH**

**Public transport:**  
Tube: South Kensington (District, Circle and Piccadilly Line)  
Buses: 9, 10, 14, 49, 52, 70, 74, 345, 360, 452, C1