



FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

19.00 Festival Introduction
 FUKUSHIMA 8: A Letter From Our Past
 Yukuharu - The Fading of Spring
 Beyond Anime: The Great Rabbit

19.45 Intermission

20.00 Somi - The Taekwon-do Woman

SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

13.00 Chat Noir Lucy

15.30 Lonely Swallows: Living as Children of Migrant Workers

17.30 To Sleep So As To Dream

19.30 Kinugasa, Crossways & the Cinematic Avant-Garde in 1920s Japan: A visual presentation on the history of this film by Festival Director Jasper Sharp
 Crossways + original live score by Minima

SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER

12.30 The Echo of Astro Boy's Footsteps

14.30 Beyond Anime: Midori-ko + Encounters
 Q&A with Takashi Iitsuka

16.30 Spirit Made Flesh: Works from 3 Experimental Filmmakers
 Panel discussion: Is There Still a Need for Film in a Digitising World?

18.30 Saudade
 Q&A with Katsuya Tomita & Toranosuke Aizawa

Please note that doors open half an hour before start time. Advance tickets can be purchased via WeGotTix. For ticket details & updates, visit our website at <http://zipangufest.com>.

GETTING THERE



This year's Zipangu Fest will be at The Cinema Museum in Kennington, London.

Set in historic surroundings close to the Elephant & Castle, The Cinema Museum houses a unique collection of artefacts, memorabilia and equipment that preserves the history and grandeur of cinema from the 1890s to the present day.

2 Dugard Way (off Renfrew Road)
 London, SE11 4TH

Tel: +44 (0) 20 7840 2200

Tube: Kennington, Elephant and Castle

British Rail: Elephant and Castle

Bus: 109, 133, 155, 159, 196, 333 & 415 (within 3 minutes' walk).

Parking: Limited parking is available at the Museum. Street parking is free Mon-Fri after 6.30pm and on weekends.

Full disabled access is available.



WELCOME TO
ZIPANGU FEST 2012

... and a third year of the UK-wide festival dedicated to the cutting-edge of Japanese cinema!

The Cinema Museum, known for its burgeoning collection of cinema memorabilia and extensive film archive, sets the scene for this year's Reel Zipangu strand, a tribute to the legacy of celluloid in a rapidly digitalising world. With the majority of our screenings from 16mm or 35mm film, including several screenings of as yet unseen rarities, Reel Zipangu aims to celebrate the very physical essence of celluloid film. And what way to begin festivities with the film YOU helped to fund? See you at our opening night, and thank you for continuing to support us!

REEL ZIPANGU



Somi - The Taekwon-do Woman
 Dir. Chang Yong Bok 1997 – 35mm 105min

Amidst peasant uprisings against the decadent Koryo dynasty (918-1392) in what is now Korea, the parents of a young girl, Somi, are ruthlessly slain by a brutal government vassal. The shock renders her mute, but she and another orphan from her village are rescued by martial arts master Dosa. The two grow up as brother and sister under Dosa's training, preparing for vengeance. A Japanese production shot in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with a North Korean cast and crew, this beautifully-crafted martial arts movie was intended for international release, but only screened a few times in Japan and North Korea. Almost 15 years after its making, Zipangu Fest is proud to present Somi - The Taekwon-do Woman from a 35mm print for the first time ever outside of Asia.



To Sleep So As To Dream
 Dir. Kaizo Hayashi 1986 – 16mm 81min

Two private detectives go in search of a silent screen actress trapped eternally within the frame of a scratchy old ninja film from 1915. Kaizo Hayashi's magical debut, a double-handed cinematic homage set in the movie worlds of the 1910s and 1950s, predates Michel Hazanavicius' recent faux-silent work The Artist by 25 years, and was both shot on and will be projected from film. Drifting between illusion and allusion, it is chockfull of references to Japan's rich cinematic heritage and features a host of veteran talent. One of the most intricately-crafted and self-contained Japanese films of the 1980s, and great fun to boot!



Crossways + original live score by Minima
 Dir. Teinosuke Kinugasa 1928 – 35mm 75min

Crossways was one of the first Japanese films ever seen in the West when its director himself brought a print of the film to Europe on the Trans-Siberian Express in the hope of selling it. Described by its director as a "chambara without swordfights" and influenced by German Expressionism, this is a powerful story of love and revenge set in Tokyo's pleasure quarters.

Minima is one of Europe's leading bands specialising in composing and performing accompaniment soundtracks to silent film. Using electric guitar, bass, cello and drums the band perform totally live with no pre-recorded music.



Spirit Made Flesh:
 Works from 3 Experimental Filmmakers – 60min

As cinema now looks set to go completely digital over the coming year, Zipangu Fest presents a series of works that interrogate and explore the very essence of celluloid and analogue technologies.

Dying Moon (Shinkan Tamaki 2006)

16mm 3min 30s

Uneven Image (Shinkan Tamaki, 2010)

16mm 10min 30s

Generator (Takashi Makino, 2011)

8mm, 16mm, 35mm, HD

Sailing Across Images (Shinkan Tamaki, 2012)

16mm (+ DVD sound), 14min 30s

Planet Z (Momoko Seto, 2011)

35mm 9min 30s

Climax (Shinkan Tamaki 2008)

16mm 2min 30s

Followed by a panel discussion:

Is There Still a Need for Film in a Digitising World?

BEYOND ANIME



The Great Rabbit
 Dir. Atsushi Wada 2012 – 7min 10s

A magical hand-drawn animation that is also a profound conundrum. "If you believe in the Rabbit, you'll believe in anything. If you don't believe in the Rabbit, it means that you wouldn't believe anything." Winner of the Silver Bear (Jury Prize) at the Berlinale 2012.

The Echo of Astro Boy's Footsteps
 Dir. Masanori Tominaga 2010 – DVCam 82min

A documentary about experimental sound designer Matsuo Ohno, famed for his revolutionary work on the original Astro Boy TV series, Lupin the 3rd and Space Battleship Yamato. "I'm not interested in sounds that already exist," said the man whose aural alchemy was later deployed in the works of experimental filmmakers like Hiroshi Teshigahara and Toshio Matsumoto. And then, in the 1980s, Ohno suddenly disappeared. But where? The hypnotic sounds of Astro Boy's footsteps leads us to a revelation that is as moving as it is unexpected.

Midori-ko
 Dir. Keita Kurosaka 2010 – HD 55min

In a world facing chronic food shortages, a motley crew of scientists strive to create the perfect super-food, a hybrid of meat and vegetable. When the results of this grisly experiment escapes, it falls into the hands of a student named Midori. This remarkable dark fantasy, part-Pinocchio, part-Soylent Green, is not able for its striking hand-drawn artwork, and took its director over 10 years to complete.

Encounters + Q&A with Takashi Iitsuka
 Dir. Takashi Iitsuka 2011 – HD 30min

John takes his pal Max to the countryside in order to cure his broken heart. A friendly stray dog looks set to initially cheer his flagging spirits, but what's that coming over the hill...? Using a technique labelled by its director as 'Super Organic Battle Action', this exuberant one-man labour-of-love defies all expectations!



MELTING POT JAPAN



Saudade + Q&A with Katsuya Tomita & Toranosuke Aizawa
 Dir. Katsuya Tomita 2011 – 35mm 167min

Takeru is a young man who works as construction worker. With the economic recession draining the lifeblood of the rural town of Kofu where he lives, he blames the sizeable immigrant community for his parents' bankruptcy and his own diminishing prospects, channelling his xenophobia against the local Japanese-Brazilian community through his lyrics for the local hip-hop group, Army Village. His older co-worker Seiji also sees no future in this austere backwater, and dreams of a better life in sunnier climes with the Thai bar hostess, Miyao, with whom he is having an affair. Blending the deadpan wit of Jim Jarmusch with the righteous anger of Ken Loach to create an unaffected depiction of a lived-in reality akin to Shane Meadows, Saudade is a vivid and often vivid portrait of small-town dreams and prejudices in the provincial multi-ethnic melting pot of Kofu, where director Tomita himself grew up.

Lonely Swallows: Living as Children of Migrant Workers
 Dir. Kimihiro Tsumura, Mayu Nakamura 2011 – DV 88min

From 1908, a large exodus of Japanese left for Brazil in search of a new life. Many settled, only to return some eighty years later to fill in the labour shortage, particularly in heavy manufacturing areas such as Hamamatsu, home to the largest community of Japanese-Brazilians. Considered foreign nationals, the young people in particular of these migrant communities have faced considerable discrimination, particularly following the global recession of 2008. This engaging documentary looks at the lives of number of such youngsters caught between two very different worlds, and the problems they face in both.

SQUID BITES

FUKUSHIMA 8:
 A Letter From Our Past
 Dir. Takashi Motoki 2012 – 8mm 15min

A compilation of 8mm home movie footage from Fukushima, before the Tohoku earthquake and the meltdown of the nuclear reactor.

Yukuharu – The Fading of Spring
 Dir. Jason Gray 2012 – HD 13min

A 10-year-old girl is faced with the prospect of her first kiss when tragedy strikes...

NEKOPHILIA



Chat Noir Lucy
 Dir. Toru Kamei 2012 – HD 107min

After losing his job and his wife leaving him, Kamoshida embarks on a new path as a fortune-teller. Business is slow, mainly due to the unreliability of his predictions, and even his five-year-old son has lit the time for him. One day, returning to his dilapidated apartment, a black cat crosses his path. Awakening the next morning to plaintive meowing, he discovers two new-born kittens, but no sign of their mother. Despite his fear of black cats, the deeply-superstitious Kamoshida takes them into his house, and finds his fortunes transformed.

WARM THANKS Andrew Youldell & Fleur Buckley - Junko Takakura - Johannes Schorrer & Masao Kobayashi - Hiroshi Aihara - Takashi Kamada - Harumi Nakayama - Takashi Makino - Shinkan Tamaki - Jim O'Rourke - Camille Condemi - Takechi Imae & Tamaki Okamoto - Terutaro Otsu - Minima - Takashi Iitsuka - Katsuya Tomita & Toranosuke Aizawa - Emma Reynolds - Sayaka Smith - Claire Murty - Srida Pinnis & Stefan Hollend - The staff at The Cinema Museum - Our audience - STAFF Jasper Sharp - Fel Phoon - Tun Shue - Aaron Raw - Aisha Ahmed - Fuku Kono - Garfman Leung - Bill Alton - Momoko Abe