

MEDIA RELEASE

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA

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ATTENTION: Chiefs of Staff, News Directors



Japanese Film Festival comes to Hobart

Hobart is in for a cultural treat this week with three contemporary Japanese movies being screened at Village Cinemas Hobart.

The Japanese Film Festival, which is organised by the Japan Foundation, has been taking place all over the world and in most capital cities in Australia for more than a decade.

This year the Australia Japan Society (AJS) of Tasmania has secured the right to hold the festival in Tasmania for the first time.

The films, which run over three days, will be kicked-off with a reception at 7.30pm at the Village Cinemas Hobart.

Hiroko Otsuka, of the Australia Japan Society Tasmania (AJS) said it was fantastic the event has come to Tasmania and hopes it will become a regular event here.

“The Consulate-General of Japan in Melbourne and the Japan Foundation Sydney are proud to present these acclaimed Japanese films to the Tasmanian public,” Ms Otsuka said.

“The Festival in Tasmania this year was made possible by the dedicated members of the AJS Tasmania committee who secured funding and resources from the Consulate-General of Japan in Melbourne and local sponsorship.”

The Consul-General of Japan, Mr. Susumu Hasegawa, will also fly from Melbourne to talk about his commitment to the promotion of such significant cultural events at the opening reception of the Festival.

Dr Barbara Hartley, from the UTAS School of Asian Languages and Studies and lecturer in Japanese film and literature, said the film festival was a wonderful opportunity for people in Hobart to see three very recent Japanese films.

“The Sunday night film, *Still Walking*, is by Hirokazu Koreeda, one of Japan’s most prominent directors and concerns the tensions that emerge at a family reunion held each year around the anniversary of the death of the eldest son.

“It is a very moving and beautifully filmed piece of cinema,” she said.

“There is something for everyone at the film festival- it should be one of the premier cinema events of the year.”

Film program:

Sunday 8 November

Still Walking

Fifteen years ago, Junpei, the youngest son of the Yokoyama family died while rescuing a boy from drowning. On the anniversary of his death, the remaining siblings visit the quaint home of their parents with their families in tow. exquisitely detailed family drama

Monday 9 November

Days with Coo

2008 Mainich Film Awards the Best Animation Film, Japan Media Arts Festival Grand Prize, Tokyo Anime Award Grand Prize, this film is based on two popular picture books. Director Keiichi Hara creates a heart-warming animation about a boy who picks up a baby kappa (a mythical Japanese water creature) sleeping for 300 years and decides to go on a trip together to find his peers.

Tuesday 10th November

Hula Girls

The future is bleak for the small coal-mining village of Joban and the town elders have decided that their only solution is to capitalise on the Polynesian sensation and introduce a Hawaiian centre to the city. The villagers are horrified at the idea, but a motley crew of naïve, determined girls decide to risk their all to save the dying town by learning the art of hula dancing.

Who: President of the Australia Japan Society (Tas) Inc., Mrs Yukiko Burns, Dr Barbara Hartley from the School of Asian Languages and Studies, Consul-General of Japan, Mr. Susumu Hasegawa

When: Opening reception begins at 7.30pm Sunday 8 November; all film screenings start at 8:30pm

Where: Village Cinemas, Hobart

What: Three films presented over three nights - all films in Japanese with English subtitles

<http://13th.japanesefilmfestival.net/>

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