

JAPANESE LANGUAGE FILMS



After the Storm 海よりもまだ深く

Kore-eda Hirokazu -Japan

Fri. Oct 7	3:30 pm	Playhouse
Thu. Oct 13	6:00 pm	Centre for Arts

Japanese master Kore-eda Hirokazu (*Like Father, Like Son*) returns with this bittersweet take on life's rewards and disappointments. A failed writer and full-fledged gambling addict (Abe Hiroshi) may lose partial custody of his beloved son due to unpaid child support. As this fractured family tries to find peace, the film proves smart, funny, beautiful and profoundly moving—nothing less than what we'd expect from Kore-eda. "[An] achingly beautiful ode to the quiet complexities of family life."—*Telegraph*



Lifeline 日夜流淌的寂寞

Shiota Akihiko - Japan

Fri. Sep 30	8:15 pm	Vancity
Sun. Oct 2	10:30 am	Vancity

The sparkiest trip to Heartbreak Hotel since *Chungking Express*, Shiota's wonderful film throws together a boy who reluctantly runs a gas station in the sticks and a seemingly flaky girl who just can't leave him alone. Very special! With Shiota's virtually unseen short *The Promise* (*Yakusoku*, 2011, 15 min), about a divorced father and his young daughter.

The Promise - 約束

Shiota Akihiko - Japan

A "lost" short by Shiota (director of *Lifeline*), about a divorced father and his young daughter.



A New Moon Over Tohoku 東北の新月

Linda Ohama - Canada/Japan

Wed. Oct 5	6:15 pm	Intl Village 9
Fri. Oct 7	1:30 pm	Intl Village 10

Linda Ohama (*Obaachan's Garden*) returns to VIFF after spending two and a half years on location in Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima, and brings with her this compassionate documentary concerning the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear accident which devastated the coastal Japanese region of Tohoku. In this thoughtful film, Ohama wisely opts to focus on the natural cycle of life, suggesting hope for Tohoku in the symbol of a new moon, an unseen but guiding presence of rejuvenation and new beginnings.



Harmonium 淵に立つ

Kôji Fukada -Japan/France

Sat. Oct 1	3:45 pm	Intl Village 9
Mon. Oct 10	9:30 pm	Intl Village 9

You've never seen a domestic drama like this. Toshio (Kanji Furutachi) and his family are living a dull, happy existence when a man from the past arrives at their doorstep. Yasaka (Tadanobu Asano) is an ex-con, but that doesn't stop the family from welcoming him into their lives. Big mistake. "[Kôji Fukada's] slow-burning, quietly told thriller commands attention from start to finish... The film's insights... don't merely hit their targets; they smash them with a sledgehammer."—*Screen*



Suffering of Ninko 仁光の受難

Niwatsukino Norihiro - Japan

Sat. Oct 1	6:30 pm	Cinematheque
Sun. Oct 2	12:45 pm	Intl Village 8

We're in ancient Japan and Ninko is a virtuous Buddhist monk who's embarrassed to discover that he's irresistible to many women (and some men). He goes on a journey to "purify" himself, but nothing turns out as he expects. Niwatsukino's wildly enjoyable debut is crammed with humour and visual surprises.

Heaven

Hirabayashi Isamu - Japan

Hirabayashi's disturbingly beautiful new film explores the splendours and terrors of decay.



While the Women Are Sleeping 女が眠る時

Wayne Wang - Japan

Sat. Oct 1	6:30 pm	Playhouse
Sat. Oct 8	10:45 am	Intl Village 9

Working in Japan and adapting a story by Javier Marías, Wayne Wang delivers his most accomplished and resonant movie in some time. On vacation in a luxury beachfront hotel, writer Kenji grows obsessed by an 'odd couple' – an old man (Beat Takeshi) and a much younger woman – and tries to discover their story. But is he really questioning himself? Secrets, lies and enigmas under the tropical sun.

OF INTEREST



The Red Turtle ある島の物語

Michael Dudok de Wit
Netherlands/France/Japan

Sat. Oct 1	2:30 pm	Centre for Arts
Thu. Oct 6	6:15 pm	Playhouse

A marvellous, dialogue-free slice of animated poetry, this collaboration between Dutch Oscar-winner (for the animated short *Father and Daughter*) Michael Dudok de Wit and Japan's Studio Ghibli gives us a Robinson Crusoe-like man, stranded on a desert isle, whose adventures delve deep into the allegorical and fantastic... "A fable so simple, so pure, it feels as if it has existed for hundreds of years, like a brilliant shard of sea glass rendered smooth and elegant through generations of retelling."—*Variety*



We Are X

Stephen Kijak -UK/USA/Japan

Sat. Oct 1	3:45 pm	Playhouse
Wed. Oct 5	6:30 pm	Rio
Sun. Oct 9	4:15 pm	Intl Village 10

Watch this documentary and be rocketed into the outer realms of rock 'n' roll extravagance as you meet X, the Japanese band that's captivated audiences worldwide with their operatic musical stylings, outlandish costumes and over-the-top theatrics. The backstage story explores some darker territory, but Stephen Kijak's film remains a riveting, often inspiring movie. "Bound to become a favorite among fans and to persuade others to join the ranks of those under the loud spell of X."—*Indie*

VENUES

The Centre for the Performing Arts
The Cinematheque
Cineplex Odeon International Village
Rio Theatre
SFU Goldcorp Centre for the Arts
Vancity Theatre
Vancouver Playhouse

PACKAGES

Student/Senior 5-Ticket Pack	\$60
6-Ticket Pack	\$84
10-Ticket Pack	\$135
20-Ticket Pack	\$260
30-Ticket Pack	\$375

TICKETS

Adult	\$15
Weekday Matinee	\$13
Student/Senior	\$13
Youth under 18 (valid for films rated for youth only)	\$10

PASSES

Weekday Matinee	\$160
Student/Senior	\$330
Festival	\$420
Platinum	\$900



The Long Excuse 永い言い訳

Nishikawa Miwa - Japan

Tue. Oct 11	1:15 pm	Intl Village 9
Thu. Oct 13	6:30 pm	Intl Village 9

On the day that his wife dies in a road accident, novelist Tsumura is with his secret lover—so his public display of grief is not exactly heartfelt. And when he's drawn into "solidarity" with the husband of another victim of the crash, he grows acutely conscious of his own hypocrisy. Nishikawa cements her reputation as one of Japan's leading directors with this searing film about self-discovery.

BOX OFFICE

ONLINE: at viff.org

IN-PERSON:

Vancity Theatre

1181 Seymour Street, at Davie

Mon-Sat: Noon-7pm, Sun: 2pm-9pm

INFORMATION

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