



JAPAN 2021

**PRESS
RELEASE**

BFI JAPAN COMES TO BIG SCREENS UK-WIDE THIS AUTUMN

- Programmed in partnership with the BFI Film Audience Network (FAN)
- Over 200 screenings at 50+ locations UK-wide, October – December 2021
- Includes BFI re-release of Akira Kurosawa's SEVEN SAMURAI in cinemas UK-wide from 29 October and a tour of Japanese classics from BFI Distribution
 - UK listings: <https://www.bfijapan.co.uk/>

Tuesday 5 October 2021, London.

The BFI today announces highlights of the UK-wide programme for **BFI JAPAN 2021: 100 YEARS OF JAPANESE CINEMA**, coming to cinemas from October – December 2021. Highlights of the celebration will include a BFI re-release of Akira Kurosawa's **SEVEN SAMURAI** (1954), a **BFI JAPAN TOUR**, featuring classics from **Yasujirō Ozu** and **Akira Kurosawa**, alongside cult titles from **Kon Ichikawa** and **Toshio Matsumoto**, which will feature many new 4K restorations and visit cinemas across the UK. For audiences who cannot attend a screening in their local cinema, there is a vast BFI JAPAN programme online on [BFI Player Subscription](#). The BFI is also working closely with the National Lottery funded **BFI Film Audience Network (FAN)** to enable cinemas across the UK to host special screenings and events as part of **BFI JAPAN**.

Seasons and events will include Day For Night's **Urban, Natural, Human – exploring Japan on screen** programme, showing at HOME, Manchester, Close-Up Cinema in London and more and a tour of highlights from **Queer East Film Festival** at Midlands Arts Centre in Birmingham, Showroom Cinema in Sheffield, HOME, Manchester and Edinburgh Filmhouse. **Belfast Film Festival** (4 – 13 November) will present a selection of surrealist Japanese films and **Cambridge Film Festival** will present a curated strand of films for its 40th edition (18 – 25 November). In Scotland, **Screen Argyll** is bringing *Japan: Family, Community and the Sea* to the islands in the Hebrides. Over the Halloween weekend (30 – 31 October), **Chapter in Cardiff** will celebrate the films of Nobuhiko Ōbayashi including his cult comedy horror HAUSU (1977).

Originally scheduled to run in venues across the UK from May – September 2020, the season was moved online due to the pandemic. An unprecedented number of Japanese films were programmed on **BFI Player** while cinemas across the country remained closed, resulting in films in the BFI JAPAN collection being streamed on BFI Player in excess of 400,000 times since then. After the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo come to a close this summer, the BFI picks up the torch to shine a light on 100 years of Japanese cinema this autumn.

BFI JAPAN will spotlight one of the world's greatest cinematic traditions, one that has long inspired admiration and fascination among audiences and creatives the world over. Classic films by **Akira Kurosawa**, **Yasujiro Ozu** and **Kenji Mizoguchi** regularly rank at the very top of critics' all-time lists; Studio Ghibli leads the animated world in visionary imagination; while waves of innovators from the cinematic rebels of the 60s to today's audio-visual live artists and video game auteurs take the moving image to thrilling new places. The influence of Japanese cinema cannot be overstated – Kurosawa in particular influenced Sergio Leone's *A FISTFUL OF DOLLARS* – an often shot-for-shot remake of **YOJIMBO** (1961) – and John Sturges' *THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN*, adapted from **SEVEN SAMURAI** (1954); George Lucas has long acknowledged Kurosawa's influence on *STAR WARS*, from the narrative and thematic elements to costumes and names. More recently, George Miller's *MAD MAX: FURY ROAD* and video game *GHOST OF TSUSHIMA*, in which players can adopt 'Kurosawa mode', have paid loving homage to the master filmmaker.

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS BY REGION:

UK-WIDE

A BFI UK-wide re-release of Akira Kurosawa's seminal masterpiece **SEVEN SAMURAI** (1954), back in cinemas UK-wide from 29 October. Genuinely epic in scale and tone, Kurosawa's hugely influential samurai movie is a towering achievement which has to be experienced on the big screen. Confirmed venues so far include HOME, Manchester, IFI Dublin and Bristol Watershed.

The BFI has also curated a **BFI JAPAN TOUR**, featuring classics from **Yasujiro Ozu** and **Akira Kurosawa**, alongside titles like **Kon Ichikawa's** breathtakingly stylised **AN ACTOR'S REVENGE** (1963) and **Toshio Matsumoto's** kaleidoscopic masterpiece **FUNERAL PARADE OF ROSES** (1969). The tour will visit cinemas across the UK and will feature many new 4K restorations. **Picturehouse cinemas** across the UK (with venues in Edinburgh, Cambridge, Southampton, Exeter, York, Liverpool and many more) will

present select titles from the tour in their ongoing reDiscover series, with key titles from Akira Kurosawa and Yasujiro Ozu screening at cinemas weekly from **17 October – 2 December**.

Day for Night is a UK-based independent film organisation working across the film exhibition, specialist distribution, access and screen translation sectors. *Urban, Natural, Human – exploring Japan on screen* is their curatorial project exploring representation of the built and natural environments framed within Japan's historical, current and future contexts. The project, incorporating archive material, documentaries, artists' moving image and contemporary films, will consist of seven in venue film screenings, including HOME in Manchester on 4 and 5 December, and Close-Up Cinema in London, 12 – 14 November. A programme of 10 features and 20 short films will also be made available online. Titles include **BOOK, PAPER, SCISSORS** (2019) by **Nanako Hirose**, **ASCENT** (2016) by **Fiona Tan**, **MEMENTO STELLA** (2018) by **Takashi Makino**, **TENZO** (2019) by **Katsuya Tomita**, **THE INLAND SEA** (1991) by **Lucille Carra**, **3.11 A SENSE OF HOME (2011)** (various directors) and shorts by **Kaori Oda**. More titles are to be announced.

Following its second edition, which took place **15 – 26 September** across eight venues in London, and showcased 37 films from 15 countries across East and Southeast Asia, **Queer East Film Festival** will be touring four highlights from its **Focus Japan** programme across four venues:

DAUGHTERS (2020) by **Hajime Tsuda** will be showing at the Midlands Arts Centre (MAC) in Birmingham on 28 October and at HOME, Manchester on 1 November. **MERRY CHRISTMAS, MR LAWRENCE** (1983) by **Nagisa Oshima** will be showing at the MAC on 30 October. **GOHATTO** (1999) by **Nagisa Oshima** will be showing on 35mm at the Edinburgh Filmhouse on 21 November. And for the 20th anniversary of its release, **HUSH!** (2001) by **Ryosuke Hashiguchi**, will be showing on 35mm at the Showroom Cinema, Sheffield on 3 December.

MIDLANDS

Phizzical Productions, a company specialising in film curation, exhibition and production, led by artistic director Samir Bhamra (UK Asian Film Festival) will be presenting a unique season exploring the connections and influences between Indian and Japanese cinema. The season will take place in November and December at Belgrade Theatre in Coventry. **LOVE IN TOKYO** (1966) by **Pramod Chakravorty**, **KONTORA** (2019) by **Anshul Chauhan** and **8 THOTTAKAL** (2017) by **Sri Ganesh**, will be

among the films presented, alongside Akira Kurosawa's **SEVEN SAMURAI** (1954) and **STRAY DOG** (1949).

NORTH

At the *Yorkshire Silent Film Festival* (12 – 17 October), **A PAGE OF MADNESS** (Teinosuke Kinugasa, 1926) will be presented at Abbeydale Picture House in Sheffield (17 October) with a live score by Sheffield duo In The Nursery. **DRAGNET GIRL** (Yasujirō Ozu, 1933) will be presented at The Leeds Library in Leeds (30 October) with an improvised live musical accompaniment by Irine Røsnes (violin) and Jonny Best (piano).

From 19 – 21 November, the Showroom Cinema (Sheffield) will run its first Anime festival – **Sheffield Loves Anime**, celebrating the genre in all its breadth, from cult classics to contemporary works, and with a unique focus on women writers. The programme, co-curated with Anime LTD and the Scotland Loves Anime film festival, will see **A SILENT VOICE** (2016) by Naoko Yamada, **LOOKING FOR MAGICAL DOREMI** (2020) by Yu Kamatani and Jun'ichi Satō and **CYBER CITY OEDO 808** (1990) by Yoshiaki Kawajiri screened alongside introductions, Q&As and other activities including a Japanese board game afternoon by Treehouse Board Game Café.

NORTHERN IRELAND

As part of its 21st edition, **Belfast Film Festival** at the Beanbag Cinema (4 – 13 November) will present a selection of surrealist Japanese films including: **WIFE! BE LIKE A ROSE!** (Mikio Naruse, 1935) **THE MAN WITHOUT A MAP** (1968) by Hiroshi Teshigahara and **EXTREME PRIVATE EROS LOVE SONG 1974** (1974) directed by Kazuo Hara and produced by Sachiko Kobayashi. The project is developed and curated in collaboration with three young programmers: Ruairi McCann, James Hall and Meicheng Zhou who are taking part in the Belfast Film Festival intern programmers initiative.

SCOTLAND

Screen Argyll is bringing *Japan: Family, Community and the Sea* to the islands in the Hebrides. **STILL THE WATER** (Naomi Kawase, 2014), **GIOVANNI'S ISLAND** (Mizuho Nishikubo, 2014) and **PONYO** (Hayao Miyazaki, 2008) will be among the titles presented. Lecturer and writer Roy Stafford will produce film notes and an illustrated talk on Japanese island communities and their representation on screen, as well as facilitate post screening discussions. Whalley Range All Stars's show, **GODZILLA v the FATBERG**, a 20-minute action-packed story told in the kamishibai style, will be recorded and

presented to audiences, and followed by a kamishibai workshop. The screenings and events will take place mid-November to December.

SOUTH EAST AND LONDON

The 40th **Cambridge Film Festival** (18 – 25 November) will present a curated strand of five Japanese films at the Arts Picturehouse, Cambridge:

POUPELLE OF CHIMNEY TOWN (2020) by Yusuke Hirota (GB Premiere)

DRIVE MY CAR (2021) by Ryūsuke Hamaguchi

WHEEL OF FORTUNE AND FANTASY (2021) by Ryūsuke Hamaguchi

JUST THE TWO OF US (2020) by Keita Fujimoto (UK Premiere)

SALARYMAN (2021) by Allegra Pacheco (European Premiere)

WHEEL OF FORTUNE AND FANTASY, JUST THE TWO OF US and SALARY MAN will also be available online UK-wide (21 November – 5 December) as part of the festival's supporting online programme.

Reading Biscuit Factory is a brand new, three-screen independent cinema located in the town centre. For BFI JAPAN, the venue is celebrating the breadth and variety of Japanese filmmaking, from Kurosawa to Koreeda, from J-Horror to eroticism, and from samurai to cyberpunk, tracing the evolution of Japanese cinema over the past 75 years. Featuring newly-remastered classics such as **SEVEN SAMURAI** (1954) and **GHOST IN THE SHELL** (1995) by Mamoru Oshii and the very latest releases including **DRIVE MY CAR** (2021) by **Ryūsuke Hamaguchi**, it will also include special events in partnership with academic staff from the University of Reading, director Q&As, and presentations of **FUNERAL PARADE OF ROSES** (1969) by **Toshio Matsumoto** and the documentary **QUEER JAPAN** (2019) by **Graham Kolbeins** as part of a special LGBTQIA+ strand in association with Queer East Film Festival. The programme will run from the end of October and throughout November and will also feature displays and demonstrations of Japanese arts and crafts.

As previously announced, there will be a major two-part season at BFI Southbank from 18 October – 30 December, featuring screenings, contextual introductions and events. Part one of the season (18 October – 30 November) surveys the great Japanese studio era from the 1930s to the early 1960s and part two (1 – 30 December) features 20th century Japanese films made after 1964, including the New Wave and genre classics of the 1990s. Full details can be found in the **BFI JAPAN** press release:

<https://www.bfi.org.uk/press-releases-media-enquiries/press-releases>

SOUTH WEST

In celebration of the BFI's Japan season, expanded cinema practitioners Compass Presents are programming a day-long celebration of Japanese cinema and celebration on Saturday 9 October with events taking place in Millennium Square and a special ticketed screening and food pairing taking place at Watershed in Bristol. The day-long celebration will feature live cooking demonstrations, Taiko Drumming, cultural workshops and games, as well as full length feature screenings of acclaimed Japanese films including **OUR LITTLE SISTER** (2016) by **Hirokazu Koreeda** and **YOUR NAME** (2016) by **Makoto Shinkai**.

Ahead of a restored screening of **SEVEN SAMURAI** (1954) at Bristol Watershed, The Bristol Bad Film Club, renamed The Bristol Bushido Film Club for the occasion, will present a one-off screening of **SHOGUN ASSASSIN** (1980) by **Robert Houston** on Wednesday 3 November, complete with a live DJ set by DJ Cheeba and an introduction by Juice Aleem of AfroFlux.

WALES

Over the Halloween weekend (30 – 31 October), international centre for contemporary arts and culture **Chapter, in Cardiff**, will celebrate the films of director **Nobuhiko Ōbayashi**. His cult film **HAUSU** (1977), drawing on ideas furnished by his young daughter, will be presented alongside a selection of Ōbayashi's short films, and followed by a discussion on the power of young women on screen, led by a group of young programmers. The weekend will also include conversations on women and folklore in Japanese culture, as well as zine-making and craft workshops.

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

PRESS CONTACTS:

Liz Parkinson – PR Manager, BFI Cultural Programme

liz.parkinson@bfi.org.uk / 020 7957 8918 / 07810 378203

Judy Wells – Director, Press and PR, BFI

judy.wells@bfi.org.uk / 020 7957 8919 / 07984 180501

BFI Southbank season listings are available to download [here](#)

BFI Player listings for the season are available to download [here](#)

ABOUT THE BFI

We are a cultural charity, a National Lottery distributor, and the UK's lead organisation for film and the moving image.

Our mission is:

- To support creativity and actively seek out the next generation of UK storytellers
- To grow and care for the BFI National Archive, the world's largest film and television archive
- To offer the widest range of UK and international moving image culture through our programmes and festivals - delivered online and in venue
- To use our knowledge to educate and deepen public appreciation and understanding of film and the moving image
- To work with Government and industry to ensure the continued growth of the UK's screen industries

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter. The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Tim Richards.

About the BFI Film Audience Network

Supported by National Lottery funding, the BFI Film Audience Network (FAN), is central to the BFI's aim to ensure the greatest choice of film is available for everyone. Established in 2012 to build wider and more diverse UK cinema audiences for British and international film, FAN is a unique, UK-wide collaboration made up of eight Hubs managed by leading film organisations and venues strategically placed around the country.

FAN also supports talent development with BFI NETWORK Talent Executives in each of the English Hubs, with a mission to discover and support talented writers, directors and producers at the start of their careers.

BFI JAPAN is a celebration of more than a century of Japanese cinema, led by BFI and Film Hub Midlands on behalf of the BFI Film Audience network, supported by funds from the National Lottery, and presented in partnership with the Japan Foundation, Japan's principal agency of the promotion of Japanese culture.

About Grand Seiko

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***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI JAPAN can be found via the link below:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/9v4w9ekjoz61y2j/AABvDVGZEUvFCEspIc4YdAa?dl=0>

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