

Japanese films featured at Portland's Northwest Film Center

The Northwest Film Center is featuring its 10th annual Japanese Currents film series, which showcases a collection of Japanese cinema through December 11. Teaming up with the Japan Foundation, Biwa Izakaya/Noranecko Ramen, Lane Powell PC, and the Consular Office of Japan in Portland, the film center is screening recent Nipponese films, which range from anime to *jidaigeki* and documentary to comedy. Remaining featured works include:

Love & Peace

December 7, 7:00pm

Love & Peace, a film directed by Sion Sono, tells the story of Kyo, an endearingly meek pencil-pusher who works at a faceless corporate job and is constantly bullied by numbskull co-workers while hopelessly pining for the equally demure Yuko, and whose dream is to be Japan's biggest rock star. (2016, 117 mins.)

The Actor

December 8, 7:00pm

The Actor, a film by Satoko Yokohama, takes a hilarious, spirited, yet down-to-earth look into the reality of film production in Japan with the story of a bit player who seems to prefer drinking anonymously to working his (underwhelming) roles. (2016, 123 mins.)

Creepy

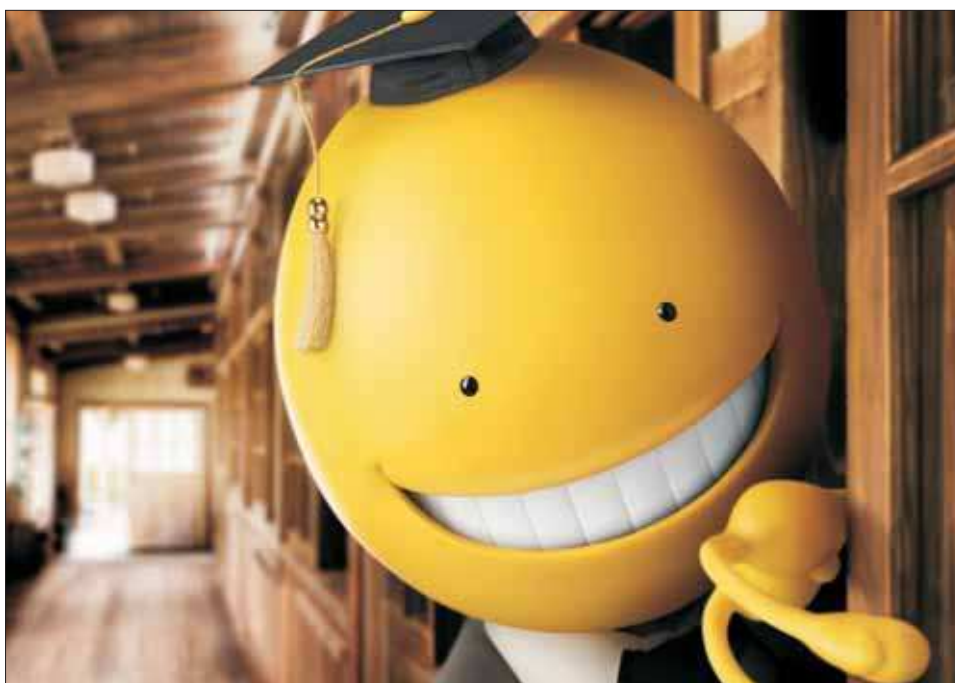
December 9, 8:00pm

Creepy, directed by Kiyoshi Kurosawa, features a broken ex-detective who seeks to unlock the mystery of a missing family while navigating his own relationship with the oddly disconcerting man who lives next door. (2016, 130 mins.)

Happy Hour

December 10, 1:00pm

Ryusuke Hamaguchi's *Happy Hour* focuses on the daily lives and labors of four 30-something women living in Kobe after Jun, the center of the group, decides to leave her husband, shocking her three close friends, whose marriages are also in various states of upheaval. (2015, 317 mins.)



Lowlife Love

December 10, 7:00pm

Eiji Uchida's *Lowlife Love* — an unflinching, raw, yet sympathetic look into the independent film production scene in Japan — follows Tetsuo, a lowlife film director with one minor hit under his belt — 10 years ago. Now splitting his time between heavy drinking, sexual

escapades, directing low-budget adult films, and running a ramshackle acting workshop in which he terrorizes his regular company, Tetsuo still longs to make the follow-up magnum opus he feels is inside him, but has trouble finding the motivation and inspiration. (2015, 110 mins.)

Wet Woman in the Wind

December 10, 9:15pm

Wet Woman in the Wind, director Akihiko Shiota's homage to the original

World Forestry Center update allows large-scale enrichment for the Oregon Zoo's elephant family

Two of Washington Park's best-known residents — Peggy the Train and Lily the Elephant — have received big home make-overs.

In November, Stimson Lumber Co. workers forklifted five enormous Douglas fir logs off the World Forestry Center's iconic Peggy the Train locomotive display and transferred them a few hundred feet downhill for use at the Oregon Zoo's Elephant Lands habitat.

The World Forestry Center, which is currently updating and renovating several of its outdoor areas, said it was time to replace the logs, which had weathered after nearly 15 years on display.

"The World Forestry Center staff is thrilled to see our big logs go to a happy home," said Eric Vines, the center's executive director. "The Oregon Zoo is famous for providing great animal welfare, and this will also demonstrate the connection to forests and trees all creatures share."

According to zoo experts, the logs — each around 30 feet long and about three feet in diameter — will promote exercise and encourage natural behaviors among Portland's Asian elephant family, an extension of the zoo's renowned environmental enrichment efforts.

"They'll give the elephants new surfaces to scratch on, push against, and climb over," said Shawn Finnell, the zoo's senior elephant keeper. "Lily especially is an

NIPPONESE FILMFEST. The Northwest Film Center is featuring its 10th annual Japanese Currents film series, which showcases a collection of recent Nipponese films through December 11. Films scheduled include *The Case of Hana & Alice* (top photo) and *Assassination Classroom* (bottom photo) — which are both screening on Sunday, December 11 — and many others. (Photos courtesy of the Northwest Film Center)

wave of Roman Pornos, is the tale of back-to-the-land writer Kosuke who's fed up with life and the people in Tokyo, when a mysterious woman enters his life under the most absurdly arbitrary of circumstances. (2016, 77 mins.)

The Case of Hana & Alice

December 11, 2:00pm

Shunji Iwai's *The Case of Hana & Alice* utilizes a distinctive rotoscope animation style to follow the nascence of the two eponymous characters' friendship. The film — a prequel to Iwai's 2004 live action film — subtly probes the psychology of the turbulence that occurs when a child is uprooted and placed in an unfamiliar situation. (2015, 100 mins.)

Assassination Classroom

December 11, 4:30pm

Assassination Classroom, directed by Eiichiro Hasumi, tells the story of a tentacled, smiley-faced creature who is responsible for destroying three-quarters of the moon and also mentors a class of junior-high schoolers in the art of assassination. Their homework: eliminate their teacher before the year is up or his next target is earth. (2015, 117 mins.)

After the Storm

December 11, 7:00pm

Hirokazu Kore-Eda's domestic drama *After the Storm* tells the story of a novelist who struck it big with his first tome and struggles to come to terms with being estranged from his wife and child, a gambling addiction, and the fact that he's not finishing his second book. (2016, 117 mins.)

All films are screened at the Northwest Film Center's Whitsell Auditorium, located at 1219 S.W. Park Avenue in Portland. To learn more, call (503) 221-1156 or visit <www.nwfilm.org>.

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ELEPHANT ENJOYMENT. Asian elephant Lily interacts with a recently delivered 30-foot-long log at the Oregon Zoo. In November, five enormous Douglas fir logs were forklifted off the World Forestry Center's iconic Peggy the Train locomotive display and transferred a few hundred feet to the Oregon Zoo's Elephant Lands habitat. (Photo/Kathy Street, courtesy of the Oregon Zoo)

active climber ... [she's] all over them."

To watch a video of the logs being moved and the elephants interacting with them, visit <bit.ly/ElephantLogs>. To learn more, visit <www.oregonzoo.org>.