

FREE
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JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL 日本映画祭 2023



©2019「いのちスケッチ」製作委員会



©2019 "A Long Goodbye" Film Partners



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©2021 Cinematic Liars of Asahi-za



©2021 The Lone Ume Tree Film Project

Venue: 3rd Floor, Room 311 / Hawaii Convention Center

会場: ハワイコンベンションセンター3階 #311

3/11 SAT

The Sketch of Life
(いのちスケッチ)

A LONG GOODBYE
(長いお別れ)

Sumikkogurashi:
Good to be in the corner
(すみっこぐらし とびだす絵本とひみつのコ)

3/12 SUN

Cinematic Liars of Asahi-za
(浜の朝日の嘘つきどもと)

The Lone Ume Tree
(梅切らぬバカ)

*Language: Japanese w/English Subtitles



The Sketch of Life (いのちスケッチ)

SCREENING

10:00am-11:40am
(100 min.)



"We gotta be proud. This is gonna be the best animal welfare zoo in all Japan."

Ryota Tanaka is an ambitious young man who comes to Tokyo to become a manga artist. But he gives up on his dream and returns to his hometown in Fukuoka. There, he is introduced to a job at the local zoo, Enmei ('life-prolonging') Zoo. Ryota knows nothing about the work and is often confused. Aya Ishii, who is a veterinarian at the same zoo, explains to Ryota that this animal welfare zoo is unique in the world for its efforts toward making the health and happiness of the animals' priority number one, and Ryota begins to understand better. But the city's budget is shrinking, and continued operation of the zoo is up in the air. Aya asks Ryota for help promoting the zoo by drawing pictures. Ryota is hesitant at first, but he decides to draw again...

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SCREENING

1:00pm-3:07pm
(127 min.)



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SCREENING

4:00pm-5:05pm
(65 min.)

A LONG GOODBYE (長いお別れ)

A party was held for the 70th birthday of their father, Shohei. What was told to his daughters, who haven't all gathered together for a long time, is the fact that their strict father had contracted dementia. While being confused about the situation of their father losing his memory day after day, the family members reconsider their own situation by facing that reality. One day, the family members learn that a "lovely memory" that everyone in their family had forgotten, is still living in Shohei.

Sumikkogurashi: Good to be in the corner (すみっぐらし とびだす絵本とひみつのコ)

The 2019 Japan Character Award Grand-prix winner, "Sumikkogurashi", will make its screen debut. Seats in corners or at the end of train cars, cafés or elsewhere are always taken first. Do you feel more relaxed when you are in a sumikko, or corner? The popular characters will pop out from the book and move around the corners of the screen. One day, the Sumikko friends find an old pop-up book in the basement of their favorite Sumikko Café. When they are looking at the book, the mechanism suddenly starts moving and the Sumikko friends are sucked into the book. In the world of the book, they meet a lonely Hiyoko, who doesn't where it is from or who it is. "Let's help Hiyoko find its home!" The Sumikko friends decide to help their new friend. The journey in the world of the book begins.



© 2021 Cinematic Liars of Asahi-za

SCREENING

10:00am-11:54am
(114 min.)

Cinematic Liars of Asahi-za (浜の朝日の嘘つきどもと)

This story is about a woman who struggle for saving an actual movie theater. 10 years after the 3.11 earthquake, and now we are facing the COVID-19 problem. It is the time for us to watch this heartwarming movie about our love of movie, movie theater, Also, is an ale to the entertainment culture. A movie theater "Asahi-za" in Minamisoma, Fukushima has the history of nearly 100 years. One day, a woman appeared in front of the manager of "Asahi-za". She visited there for keeping the promise of saving "Asahi-za" which is going to be closed down, made with her high school teacher. But the manager had thought there is no way to save the cinema and was going to give up...



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SCREENING

1:00pm-2:17pm
(77 min.)

The Lone Ume Tree (梅切らぬバカ)

Tamako Yamada lives with his 50-year-old son, Tadao with autism. Every morning, they wake up, eat breakfast, and leave the house at same time. They have a big ume tree in their small garden, but the branch sticking out onto the sidewalk have caused complaints from their neighbors. One day, Tamako finds out that a room is available in a group home for people with intellectual disabilities. After much thought, Tamako puts Tadao in the group home, but confused by the sudden change in the environment, he runs away after a few days. Meanwhile, Tamako decides to cut the ume tree that's in the way of others.



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