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TIFF, Canadian Stage, Soundstreams, 
Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre and the Japan Foundation present:

SPOTLIGHT JAPAN

January–April 2013

Programming to include films by Mizoguchi, Nomura and Oguri, 
robot theatre actors, digital hip-hop, a marimba trio with sanukite stones, 
300+ ceramic design pieces, Kabuki cinema and a documentary on the 3.11 tsunami.

(Toronto)—This winter, five of Toronto’s leading cultural institutions come together for Spotlight Japan, a city-wide celebration of classic and contemporary Japanese culture. From January to April 2013, venues across Toronto will host a multidisciplinary array of Japan-focused programs, giving audiences the opportunity to fully experience some of the most exciting work ever seen on the international stage.

“We are thrilled to bring to Toronto this winter a diverse and exciting exploration of classic and contemporary Japanese culture,” said Toronto’s Consul-General of Japan, Eiji Yamamoto. “Spotlight Japan will showcase the best in Japanese theatre, music, dance, film, and visual arts, cross-pollinating themes and discussions, and showcasing a truly innovative collaboration between five important Toronto institutions.”

Kicking off in January, TIFF Cinematheque presents three film programmes celebrating classic and modern Japanese cinema. Tokyo Drifters: 100 Years of Nikkatsu (January 19–April 6) celebrates the centenary of the legendary Japanese studio with a wild selection of genre classics and hidden gems in new prints from the Nikkatsu vault. Japanese Divas: Great Actresses of Classic Japanese Cinema (January 24–March 31) pays tribute to such legendary leading ladies as Setsuko Hara, Kinuyo Tanaka, Machiko Kyo, Isuzu Yamada and Hideko Takamine, as well as to other great female stars such as Kiyoko Kishida. And The Catch: Masterworks of Eighties Japanese Cinema (March 5–April 6) spotlights modern masterworks of Japanese cinema of the 1970s and 1980s.

From February 26 to March 2, Canadian Stage offers a rare opportunity to see thrilling high-tech contemporary theatre and dance from some of Japan’s leading playwrights, choreographers and performers. Haptic and Holistic Strata are two pieces by digital choreographer and dancer Hiroaki Umeda/S20, a star of Japan’s avant-garde dance scene who combines hip hop, soundscape, and video/light effects to create two utterly hypnotic performances. Also featured are two short plays by Oriza Hirata Japan’s leading contemporary playwright, Android-Human Theatre Sayonara and Robot Theatre I, Worker, exploring the intersection between human and artificial intelligence, featuring both human and robot actors. These pieces are a Seinendan Theatre
Company and Osaka University Robot Theatre project. Canadian Stage’s Spotlight Japan programming will also feature staged readings of contemporary Japanese plays, as well as music, food tastings, robot demonstrations, visual art and more.

The spotlight continues in March, when Soundstreams presents Fujii Percussion and Voices (March 5) featuring Japan’s virtuoso Fujii Trio and special guests Ryan Scott (percussion), Gregory Oh (piano), and the Toronto Children’s Chorus. This concert includes classics and world premieres from Canada and Japan, as well as a performance of the ethereal sanukite stones, a percussion instrument rarely seen outside of Japan. This concert will tour to Montreal and Ottawa after the Toronto performance at Koerner Hall. In addition, Soundstreams Salon21: Japanese Music for Percussion (March 4) will explore the long-standing history between Japanese composition and percussion in a free discussion at the Gardiner Museum.

Also in March is the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre’s annual Haru Matsuri Spring Festival (March 2–3) featuring hina-ningyo doll displays, Japanese arts and crafts, odori dancing, musical performances, cha-no-yu (tea ceremony), martial arts demonstrations and home-made Japanese food, as well as a screening of Never Forget, Never Give Up (March 10), Canada-based Japanese filmmaker Yuki Nakamura’s devastating yet uplifting documentary exploring the 3.11 Tsunami Disaster and recovery efforts.

Throughout the four months of programming, the Japan Foundation offers Ceramics for Daily Comfort: Design Exhibition by Yasuki Sakamoto & Kazuhiro Tominaga (January 4–April 24), more than 300 pieces inspired by legendary Japanese industrial designer Masahiro Mori. And on February 9 and 10, the Japan Foundation will present the fifth edition of Cinema Kabuki, high-definition screenings of four Kabuki theatre plays at TIFF Bell Lightbox, including Bando Tamasaburo’s signature dance piece, Heron Maiden.

Spanning four months, multiple venues and genres, and with a mixture of both free and ticketed events, Spotlight Japan offers the opportunity for total Japanese cultural immersion this winter. For more information, please visit spotlightjapan.ca.

FULL SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Ceramics for Daily Comfort: Design Exhibition by Yasuki Sakamoto & Kazuhiro Tominaga
January 4–April 24, The Japan Foundation Gallery, 131 Bloor Street West
Free

Contemporary designers who specialize in designing cups, saucers, dishes and other items used in daily life, Sakamoto and Tominaga are known for an elegant, streamlined sensibility that enhances comfort and convenience at home or in the workplace. Their work synergizes form, function, and sensitivity to the user’s peace of mind. Over 300 pieces will be displayed.

Tokyo Drifters: 100 Years of Nikkatsu
January 19–April 6, TIFF Bell Lightbox, 350 King Street West. Regular adult tickets $12.

Programmed by Todd Brown, Tokyo Drifters: 100 Years of Nikkatsu (January 19–April 6) celebrates the centenary of the legendary Japanese studio with a wild selection of genre classics
and hidden gems in new prints from the Nikkatsu vault. The series includes highlights such as Takashi Nomura’s *A Colt Is My Passport* (1967), one of Japanese cinema’s supreme emulations of American noir, starring Joe Shishido as a hard-boiled hit man caught between rival gangs; and Koreyoshi Kurahara’s *Intimidation* (1960), an elegant and moody pocket-size noir that follows the intertwined fates of a desperate bank manager, blackmailed for book-cooking, and his resentful but timid underling, passed over for a promotion.

**Japanese Divas: Great Actresses of Classic Japanese Cinema**  
January 24–March 31, TIFF Bell Lightbox, 350 King Street West. Regular adult tickets $12.

Featuring masterpieces from Akira Kurosawa, Yasujiro Ozu, Mikio Naruse, Kenji Mizoguchi, Hiroshi Teshigahara, Yasuzo Masumura and Kon Ichikawa, *Japanese Divas: Great Actresses of Classic Japanese Cinema* (January 24–March 31) pays tribute to such legendary leading ladies as Setsuko Hara, Kinuyo Tanaka, Machiko Kyo, Isuzu Yamada, and Hideko Takamine, as well as to other great female stars such as Kiyoko Kishida. Curated by James Quandt, Senior Programmer, TIFF Cinematheque, highlights include Kenji Mizoguchi’s beautifully haunting *Ugetsu* (1953), a poetic ghost story of love and loss that exquisitely blends the otherworldly with the real, and one of the sixties’ great international art-house sensations, Hiroshi Teshigahara’s *Woman in the Dunes* (1964), a bizarre existential drama which earned Teshigahara an Academy Award® nomination for Best Director.

**Cinema Kabuki**  
February 9 & 10, TIFF Bell Lightbox, 350 King Street West

**Canadian Stage Presents**  
*Haptic* and *Holistic Strata; Sayonara* and *I, Worker*  
February 26–March 2, Berkeley Street Theatre, 26 Berkeley Street  
Performances run Tuesday to Saturday at 7:30 pm and 9:00 pm. Ticket packages from $54.

**Haru Matsuri Spring Festival**  
March 2–3, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Court

**Soundstreams Salon21: Japanese Music for Percussion**  
March 4, 7:00 pm, Gardiner Museum, 111 Queens Park

Join Artistic Director Lawrence Cherney, composer Michael Oesterle, and special guests in conversation on the history and aesthetic of Japanese percussion music. Free with advance registration.

**Soundstreams presents Fujii Percussion and Voices**  
March 5, 8:00 pm, Koerner Hall, 275 Bloor Street West  
Tickets from $20-$65.

**The Catch: Masterworks of Eighties Japanese Cinema**  
March 5–April 6, TIFF Bell Lightbox, 350 King Street West. Regular adult tickets $12.

Also curated by James Quandt, *The Catch: Masterworks of Eighties Japanese Cinema* spotlights modern masterworks of Japanese cinema of the 1970s and 1980s. Named after one of the key films in the series, this rich overview of the personal and daring cinema that emerged from Japan in the 1980s is organized by the Kawakita Memorial Film Institute in Tokyo and features a
dozen treasures of the period in new 35mm prints. Some of the highlights include such prize-winning classics as Kohei Oguri’s lovely, Ozu-influenced *Muddy River* (1981), and Takeshi Kitano’s impressive debut, *Violent Cop* (1989), a dark, gritty and violent police drama about a rogue homicide detective that helped make Kitano’s international reputation.

*Never Forget, Never Give Up*
Film Screening
March 10, 2:00 pm, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, 6 Garamond Court

*For full Spotlight Japan ticket pricing and purchase information, please visit [www.spotlightjapan.ca](http://www.spotlightjapan.ca).*

**ABOUT THE ORGANIZATIONS**

**Canadian Stage**
Support for Canadian Stage’s Spotlight Japan programming is generously provided by The Japan Foundation Toronto, The Consulate General of Japan, the Canada Council for the Arts and CIBC, Proud Sponsor of Canadian Stage’s Berkeley Season.

Founded in 1987, Canadian Stage is one of the country’s leading not-for-profit contemporary theatre companies, with the 2012.13 season marking the organization’s 25th anniversary season. Under the direction of Artistic & General Director Matthew Jocelyn, the company presents multidisciplinary theatre with a focus on emerging performance styles that integrate theatre with other artistic mediums such as dance, film, visual arts and more. Sharing innovative and vibrant theatre from Canada and around the world, the company stages an annual season of work at three major venues and runs a series of artist development and education initiatives, as well as youth and community outreach programs. For more information, visit [www.canadianstage.com](http://www.canadianstage.com).

**Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre**
The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre is a not-for-profit organization which offers programs, services and a gathering place to celebrate Japanese culture and Japanese Canadian history. Since 1963, the JCCC has shared traditional and contemporary Japanese culture, martial arts, performance, language education, music and film with Canadians of all backgrounds under the motto of: “Friendship through Culture.” For more information, visit [www.jccc.on.ca](http://www.jccc.on.ca).

**Japan Foundation**
Celebrating its 40th year in 2012, the Japan Foundation is Japan’s public institution dedicated to sharing Japanese culture and language with people throughout the world. By presenting diverse aspects of Japanese culture, we create platforms of communication and understanding between peoples of the world and Japan. Established in 1990, the Toronto office of the Japan Foundation houses a gallery space, seminar rooms, an event hall, and a public-lending library holding approximately 21,000 Japan-related materials. Events, such as art exhibitions, film screenings, and lectures, are presented year-round. The Japan Foundation, Toronto also administers grant programs in the areas of Arts and Cultural Exchange, Japanese-Language Education, and Japanese Studies and Intellectual Exchange. For more information, visit [www.jftor.org](http://www.jftor.org).

**Soundstreams**
Led by Artistic Director Lawrence Cherney and Executive Director Chris Lorway, Soundstreams is a Toronto-based music presenter that commissions, develops, and showcases the work of contemporary Canadian composers and their international counterparts. These innovative collaborations are performed by the finest artists from Canada and around the world, and are
presented in an annual concert series at Koerner Hall, in national and international tours, and through a variety of education and outreach activities. Soundstreams is generously supported by Canadian Heritage, Canada Council for the Arts, Ontario Arts Council, Toronto Arts Council, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Metcalf Foundation, BMO, TD, Classical 96.3 FM and The Grid. For more information on our 30th anniversary season, please visit www.soundstreams.ca.

TIFF
TIFF is a charitable cultural organization whose mission is to transform the way people see the world through film. An international leader in film culture, TIFF projects include the annual Toronto International Film Festival in September; TIFF Bell Lightbox, which features five cinemas, major exhibitions, and learning and entertainment facilities; and innovative national distribution program Film Circuit. The organization generates an annual economic impact of $170 million CAD. TIFF Bell Lightbox is generously supported by contributors including Founding Sponsor Bell, the Province of Ontario, the Government of Canada, the City of Toronto, the Reitman family (Ivan Reitman, Agi Mandel and Susan Michaels), The Daniels Corporation and RBC. For more information, visit tiff.net.

TIFF Cinematheque is generously supported by Lead Sponsor Bell, Major Sponsors RBC, L’Oréal Paris, Visa and Audi, and Major Supporters the Ontario Media Development Corporation and the Canada Council for the Arts.

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For more information please contact:

For more information about the TIFF Cinematheque programmes, contact the TIFF Communications Department at 416-934-3200 or email proffice@tiff.net

For more information about Canadian Stage Spotlight Japan programming, please contact Ashley Ballantyne at 416-656-0707 x111 or ashleyb@rockitpromo.com

For more information about Soundstreams events, please contact Sarah Baumann at 416-5041282 or sarahb@soundstreams.ca

For more information about Japan Foundation programs, please contact Kate Scullin at 416-966-1600 x223 or kscullin@jftor.org

For more information about the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre’s events, please contact James Heron at 416-441-2345 or jamesh@jccc.on.ca