

Movie Night by Japan Club

Every Wednesday (or every other Wednesday), Japan Club presents a movie from our collection of well-known, highly acclaimed Japanese movies. Anyone interested in Japanese cultures or Japanese movies is welcome – just stop by E-251 at 2:15pm for our club meeting or 3:15pm for the movie night.

For more information on the movie night, visit our website at <http://faculty.lagcc.cuny.edu/tnagano/japanclub/>



Nausicaa (1984) / Hayao Miyazaki

Date TBD (Wednesday)
3:15pm-5:15pm @ E251

From one of the most celebrated filmmakers in the history of animation and the creator of the Academy Award-winning *Spirited Away* comes Hayao Miyazaki's epic masterpiece *Nausicaä Of The Valley Of The Wind*. A thousand years after a global war, a seaside kingdom known as the Valley Of The Wind remains one of only a few areas still populated. Led by the courageous Princess Nausicaä, the people of the Valley are engaged in a constant struggle with powerful insects called *Ohmu*, who guard a poisonous jungle that is spreading across the Earth. Nausicaä and her brave companions, together with the people of the Valley, strive to restore the bond between humanity and the Earth.

"Miyazaki's epic masterpiece" (2005 Disney release)



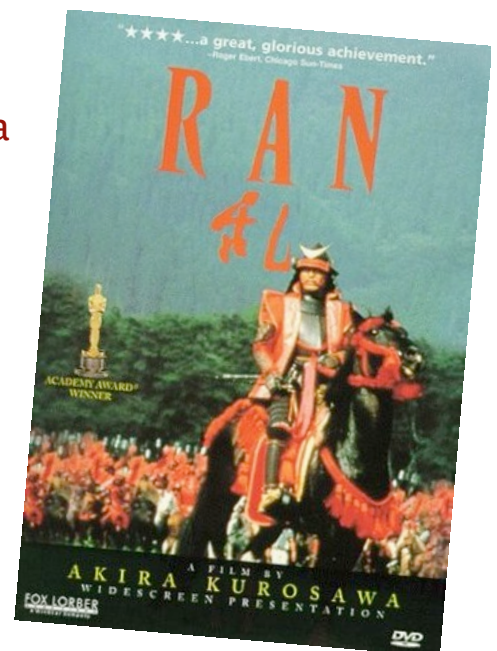
Ran (1985) / Akira Kurosawa

Date TBD (Wednesday)
3:15pm-5:15pm @ E251

Akira Kurosawa's brilliantly conceived re-telling of Shakespeare's *King Lear* magically mixes Japanese history, Shakespeare's plot and Kurosawa's own feelings about loyalty in the epic masterpiece, *Ran*. Set in 16th century Japan, an aging ruler, Lord Hidetora, announces his intention to divide his land equally among his three sons. This decision to step down unleashes a power struggle between the three, when Hidetora falls prey to the false flattery bestowed upon him by the two older sons and banishes the youngest when he speaks the truth. The ruthless betrayal ultimately drives Hidetora insane, destroying his entire family and kingdom. Deep human emotion and outstanding acting combine to create one of the most acclaimed foreign films of all time.

Academy Award Winner

"... a great, glorious achievement." - Roger Ebert, *Chicago Sun-Times*





Rashomon (1950) Akira Kurosawa

Date TBD (Wednesday) 3:15pm-5:15pm @ E251

The murder of a man and the rape of his wife in a forest grove -- seen from four different perspectives. Toshiro Mifune explodes as the feral bandit who may or may not be guilty of these crimes in Akira Kurosawa's classic meditation on the nature of "truth," *Rashomon*, a humane allegory that transformed narrative cinema as we know it and turned its director into an international sensation.

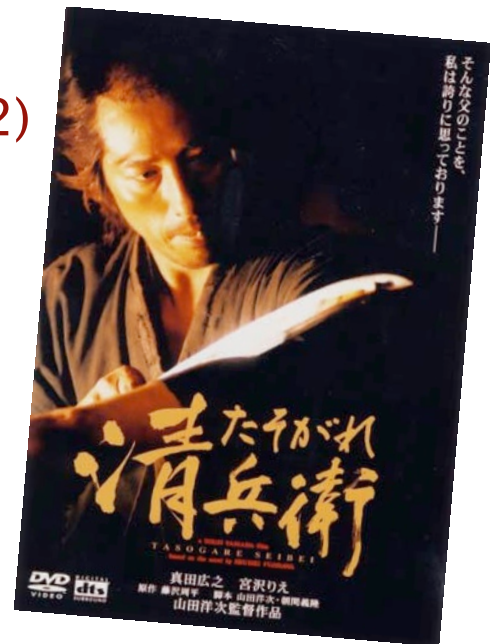
Nominated for Oscar. Another 7 wins & 2 nominations
"The husband, the wife...or the bandit?"

Twilight Samurai (2002) Yoji Yamada

Date TBD (Wednesday)
3:15pm-5:15pm @ E251

The Twilight Samurai or *Tasogare Seibei* is a 2002 Japanese film directed by Yoji Yamada. Set in mid-19th century Japan, a few years before the Meiji Restoration, it follows the life of Seibei Iguchi, a low-ranking samurai employed as a bureaucrat. Poor, but not destitute, he still manages to lead a content and happy life with his daughters and senile mother. Sadly, through an unfortunate turn of events, the turbulent times conspire against him.

Nominated for Oscar. Another 37 wins & 6 nominations



Totoro (1998) / Hayao Miyazaki

Date TBD (Wednesday)
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My Neighbor Totoro, is a 1988 Japanese anime film written and directed by Hayao Miyazaki and produced by Studio Ghibli. The film follows the two young daughters of a professor and their interactions with friendly wood spirits in postwar rural Japan. The film won the Animage Anime Grand Prix prize in 1988. The film was originally released in the U.S. on VHS and Laserdisc with the title, *My Friend Totoro*.





Tokyo Zombie (2005) Sakichi Sato

Date TBD (Wednesday) 3:15pm-5:15pm @ E251

Tadanobu Asano and Sho Ikawa star as full time slackers and wannabe ju-jitsu champions who bring the body of their murdered boxer to Tokyo's towering toxic waste dump known as "Black Fuji". But when an army of the undead rises from the massic trash peak, these bonehead buddies must survive a non-stop onslaught of hasty decapitations, pervert teachers, tasty snack foods, stormy romance and zombie professional wrestling. Can even the most devoted of friendships survive an apocalypse of the undead?

Starring Tadanobu Asano and Syo Aikawa

Azumi (2003) Ryuhei Kitamura

Date TBD (Wednesday)
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Gorgeous action packed drama based on some true history. In 19th century war-torn feudal Japan, a master samurai takes on the task of raising ten orphans and training them to be assassins. Their ruthless purpose: to do the bloody work of the state by silencing rebellious warlords. After a decade of inconceivably harsh training and discipline, Azumi and her comrades are ordered to assassinate the powerful warlords Nagamasa Asano and Kiyomasa Kato. But burdened with a cruel assignment that means killing friends and enemies alike, Azumi begins to question herself, her master's, and her country's objectives. Still, Azumi remains determined to see her mission through to the bloody end.



Ponyo (2008) Hayao Miyazaki

Date TBD (Wednesday) 3:15pm-5:15pm @ E251

Welcome to a world where anything is possible! Academy Award-winning director Hayao Miyazaki (1992, Best Animated Feature, *Spirited Away*) and legendary filmmaker John Lasseter together with Disney bring to life a heartwarming and imaginative telling of Hans Christian Andersen's classic fairy tale *The Little Mermaid*.

"There is a word to describe 'Ponyo,' and that word is magical. This poetic, visually breathtaking work by the greatest of all animators has such deep charm that adults and children will both be touched. It's wonderful and never even seems to try; it unfolds fantastically." Roger Ebert, *Chicago Sun Times*

