



# 51

## CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Oct. 15-29, 2015  
**ChicagoFilmFestival.com**  
AMC River East 21 (322 E. Illinois St.)

### FIRST LOOK: Japan



#### SWEET BEAN

An

Japan • Director: Naomi Kawase

Red bean paste is the filling in this poignant tale of life, compassion, and sweet endings. An uninspired red bean pancake chef is re-energized when a plucky septuagenarian's irresistible homemade recipe makes his snacks a local hit. Both characters use their creations, photographed in mouthwatering close-up, to rebuild from traumatic pasts. The latest from poetic Japanese auteur Naomi Kawase is a delectable philosophical dish. *Japanese with subtitles. 113 min.*

**SAT 10/17**  
**3:45 PM**  
**EFSWEET1**

**SUN 10/18**  
**4:45 PM**  
**EFSWEET2**



#### THE EMPEROR IN AUGUST

*Nihon no ichiban nagai hi ketteiban*

Japan • Director: Masato Harada

An intimate war picture, **Masato Harada's** patient, understated period piece recreates the 24 hours leading up to Japan's official surrender in WWII and the emperor's resigned radio address to his people. Elegant shot framing captures the drawing rooms and negotiating tables where, 70 years ago, the most powerful men in Japan gathered to make a decision that would change the course of history. *Japanese with subtitles. 135 min.*

**SUN 10/18**  
**1:45 PM**  
**EFEMP**



#### KAKEKOMI

*Kakekomi onna to kakedashi otoko*

Japan • Director: Masato Harada

The latest from prolific writer-director **Masato Harada** (*Chronicle of My Mother*) is a beguiling character drama set during Japan's Edo period. Three women fleeing bad marriages find refuge at a monastery, one of their only outlets for obtaining a legal divorce. But just outside the gates, vengeful ex-husbands and the Yakuza lie waiting. With an impressive ensemble cast, Kakekomi tells its women's rights tale with humor and panache. *Japanese with subtitles. 143 min.*

**SAT 10/17**  
**3:00 PM**  
**EFKAKE1**

**SUN 10/18**  
**7:30 PM**  
**EFKAKE2**



#### TAG

Japan • Director: Sion Sono

**Sion Sono**, Japanese cinema's most entertaining shockmeister, delivers his craziest picture yet. A young schoolgirl (who's actually three different people) must fight killer winds, machine-guntoting teachers, pig-headed monsters, and fate itself to escape a strange, deadly reality. Buckets of blood, cheeky humor, and one of the wildest opening sequences in recent memory will leave you gasping for air. *Japanese with subtitles. 85 min.*

**THU 10/22**  
**9:45 PM**  
**EFTAG1**

**FRI 10/23**  
**10:00 PM**  
**EFTAG2**

All programs are subject to change. For the complete schedule and more information, visit [www.chicagofilmfestival.com](http://www.chicagofilmfestival.com) OR call 312-332-FILM



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### FIRST LOOK: Japan



#### THE BIRTH OF SAKÉ

*Kakekomi onna to kakedashi otoko*  
U.S., Japan • Director: Erik Shirai

To create the traditional Japanese drink of saké, passionate laborers channel time and the elements at a family-owned brewery in Japan. This contemplative documentary chronicles a year in the life of close-knit individuals who remain steadfast in the face of modernity. The film is as beautifully crafted as the artisanal drink it profiles. *Japanese with subtitles. 91 min. Taste of Cinema EFBIRTH*  
*Featuring Q&A with Director Erik Shirai at all screenings.*

MON 10/19  
5:45 PM  
EFBIRTH1

TUE 10/20  
3:30 PM  
EFBIRTH2

WED 10/21  
12:30 PM  
EFBIRTH3



#### GREATER THINGS

United Kingdom, Japan • Director: Vahid Hakimzadeh

In this stunningly composed meditation on space and human relationships, an adrift Iranian architect, a disengaged Japanese couple, and a Lithuanian mixed martial arts fighter search for connection in modern Japan. From the stylishly designed shops of Tokyo to a minimalist glass suburban home to a mysterious tree house in the woods, **Greater Things** reveals the strange places we inhabit, and how they can both unite and divide us. *Japanese, English with subtitles. 66 min.*

FRI 10/16  
5:45 PM  
EFGREAT1

SAT 10/17  
1:45 PM  
EFGREAT2

### SHORT FILM:

#### OH LUCY!

SAT 10/24 5:15 PM EFSHBEY



American culture baffles a chain-smoking, corporate Japanese woman in **Oh Lucy!**

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