

**“School of Nature ~The Children of the Satoyama~”** Screening on Mar 12

Dir. Masaki Haramura , 2008, 110minutes

The Kisarazu Community Nursery School is a child care facility located in a cultivated woodland in an urban area in Chiba Prefecture, Japan. The film looks at how the children who go to the school grow up in a dialogue with nature over a period of one and a half years.

In an age when many people believe that children should be raised in a safe, secure and clean environment, Eijyu Miyazaki, the director of the nursery school has said that “Children will not grow unless they are put in a risky environment. They will not grow healthily unless they get injured, covered in mud and play rough and physical games.” He carries out his own unique way of child caring, and calls into question many of the contemporary ways of thinking about bringing up children.

The preschoolers get covered in mud, eat wild nuts, and interact with animals. Sometimes the children get hurt and cry at the top of their lungs. Fights break out frequently, and they display unrestrained emotions. Through all that, they learn to help one another and to think about others, and acquire communication skills, and grow up to be strong...