



15 FEBRUARY



18 FEBRUARY



5 MARCH



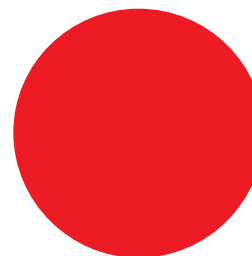
12 MARCH

**SCREENINGS AT
FILM ROW CINEMA**

Columbia College Chicago
8th Floor
1104 S. Wabash Ave.
Chicago, IL 60605

**JAPAN
NATURE & FILM**

co-presented by
The Consulate General
of Japan at Chicago &
The Japan Foundation



ABOUT THIS FILM SERIES

The Consulate General of Japan at Chicago aims to bring Japanese culture to the Midwest through diverse programming. We are proud to co-sponsor a series of Japanese cultural events with the Japan Foundation in February and March of 2010. The events will range from performances of several ancient "Kyogen" comic dramas, to a contemporary photography exhibit, and a look into the future with a lecture on Japan's bullet trains.

For our film series, we have selected four recent films that examine how Japanese people interact with nature. Japan's natural settings can be majestic and beautiful, but also overwhelming at times for humans. The Japanese have awe and respect for the ways that nature can be both beautiful and terrifying. We hope that you will enjoy this film series, and please visit our website to learn about our other free events.

PRESENTED BY



www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp



www.jpf.go.jp

eatrip • FEBRUARY 15



Shyloren

"eatrip" is a wonderful examination of the relationship between people and food. Try it! You'll like this delectable morsel, this jovial meal time, this lovely nibble at the link between people and food. To eat is indeed to live. Life is just an "eating trip" (eatrip).

People eat. That is how we survive. For humans, however, eating has become more than just sustenance and replenishment of nutrients. It has become an opportunity for bonding with others, for chatting about what we've been up to, and asking about our loved one's days. The act of eating is also the act of interacting

with nature. Meat, vegetables, fruit and grain are all living organisms that combine to sustain us. And if life is a journey, then surely eating is an excursion in itself. After all, is not life a series of meals? Are our lives not cycles of feeding, nurturing and growing?

"eatrip" culminates with a passionate meal cooked by the director herself, for actor Tadanobu Asano, singer UA and a handful of other eclectic guests.

Directed by: Yuri Nomura • 2009 • 78 min.

Miyori in the Sacred Forest • FEBRUARY 18



Hidetai Oda • Akira Shiomi / Fuji TV • Nippon Animation

Miyori and her parents go to the countryside to visit her grandparents, but her father and mother bicker the entire trip. Miyori's mother shows no interest in the countryside, while her father is preoccupied with his job in advertising. They don't notice when Miyori goes missing, but the grandparents' dog Kuro goes in search of her. She is found playing with a tiny bear in front of a giant cherry-blossom tree; the bear grows until it towers over Kuro, whose fur turns white in fear. A female spirit in the tree tells Miyori that the forest will be hers.

Ten years later, Miyori's parents have split and Miyori's father has brought her back to the countryside to live with her grandparents. Miyori is angry about being sent to the countryside when she would rather stay in Tokyo. That night, as she sleeps, a river spirit slips up

to the veranda of the house. Miyori follows it into the woods and meets a group of spirits who greet her as a long-lost friend. She is dismissive of them, and is amazed to learn that she is to be the guardian of the forest, succeeding her grandmother.

One day, Miyori goes down a forbidden path to a pond where a ghostly woman in white befriends her. Miyori learns that the entire region will be flooded by a dam project. When researchers arrive to determine the feasibility of the dam project, Miyori and her friends devise a plan: if they can find a golden eagle, an endangered species, the dam project can be stopped.

Miyori no mori

Directed by: Nizo Yamamoto • 2007 • 116 min.

The Summit: A Chronicle of Stones • MARCH 5



2009 The Tsurugidake Team

The year is 1907. Shibasaki (Tadanobu Asano), renowned for his skills as a surveyor, is suddenly called to General Staff Headquarters of the Imperial Army, where he receives orders to take measurements of Mt. Tsurugidake, the last uncharted region of Japan. At the time, the survey unit attached to General Staff Headquarters was in the process of charting Japan and had already created maps based on triangulations of numerous mountain peaks. Aside from the mountains which were prohibited to climb due to religious reasons, the survey group had already climbed all the mountains in the country with the exception of Tsurugidake. Moreover, shortly after its inauguration, the Japan Alpine Club was already planning to tackle Tsurugidake and the army survey unit could not be seen to lose out to a civilian organization.

After receiving his orders, Shibasaki tackled the challenge of reaching the peak of Tsurugidake together with Chojiro (Teruyuki Kagawa), a local guide of good

character familiar with the Tsurugidake area. Can they survive the daunting tasks of crossing the precipitous mountain range and planting the survey records?

Dir. Daisaku Kimura has been a legendary Japanese cinematographer for decades. He began his career at Toho film studios in 1958 and worked as a camera assistant Akira Kurosawa's films *The Hidden Fortress*, *The Bad Sleep Well*, *Yojimbo*, *Sanjuro* and *Dodeskaden*. *The Summit: A Chronicle of Stones* marks his debut as a director. It stands as the culmination of a lifetime of preparation. The film was in production for 2 years, requiring over 200 days of filming. Never resorting to a single frame of computer graphics, Kimura chose to film it in sequence on the actual mountain ranges depicted in the film in order to dramatize their austere beauty in each season.

Tsurugidake: Ten no ki

Directed by: Daisaku Kimura • 2009 • 140 min.

School of Nature: The Children of the Satoyama • MARCH 12



Sakura Motion Picture Co., Ltd.

The Kisarazu Community Nursery School is a child care facility located in a cultivated wooded area in urban Chiba Prefecture, Japan. The film examines how the children who attend this school grow up with 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, Eiju 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 has

his own unique philosophy regarding child care, 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 this, they learn to help one another and to think about others, acquire communication skills, and grow up to be strong...

Satoyamakkotachi

Directed by: Masaki Haramura • 2008 • 110 min.