

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
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JAPANESE ANIMATION AND TV ADS AT MoMA JANUARY 10-19;
FEATURE FILMS AT JAPAN SOCIETY JANUARY 9-FEBRUARY 7

The films of three master Japanese animators, as well as more recent animated works, will be screened at The Museum of Modern Art on weekends between Friday, January 10, and Sunday, January 19, 1986. Part of the ongoing series of cultural activities for CLOSE-UP OF JAPAN NEW YORK 1985-86, the program will also include a forty minute presentation of award-winning Japanese television commercials on Tuesday, January 14, and Thursday, January 16. Concurrently, the Japan Society will host the New York premiere of five feature films by young directors, accompanied by six recent short films and animated works, from Thursday, January 9, to Friday, February 7 (complete schedule attached).

The exhibition at the Museum pays tribute to the contemporary animation artists Kihachiro Kawamoto, Yoji Kuri, and Osamu Tezuka. Kawamoto creates tales with puppet animation; Kuri displays his concise, witty, surprising, and sometimes disturbing pieces; Tezuka, well known for his cartoons, television series, and theatrical animated features, is represented by his more experimental short animated works. The program of Japanese animation made since 1979 illustrates the vigor, craftsmanship, and innovative spirit of the younger artists. The presentation of television commercials, which range from highly stylized visual spectacles to more sedate images of traditional Japanese culture, includes ads for products ranging from rice noodles to instant coffee.

The feature films in the Japan Society program, all subtitled, have been selected for their freshness and vitality and for their consideration of contemporary social issues. Included in the exhibition are Warriors of the Wind, an animated fable of the future; The Nuclear Gypsies, a comedy-adventure with nuclear power plants as the backdrop; Something Like Yoshiwara, a comedy about an aspiring comedian and his two love affairs, by Yoshimitsu Morita, director of The Family Game; Comic Magazine, a drama about a television scandal reporter who tries to alter rather than report events; and Night on the Galactic Railway, an animated feature adapted from a modern fable.

CLOSE-UP OF JAPAN NEW YORK 1985-86 is sponsored by the Mitsui Group. The animation program for the Museum was organized by Adrienne Mancina, curator in the Department of Film. Katsue Tomiyama of Image Forum in Tokyo offered valuable advice on recent developments in Japanese animation.

The animated works at the Museum will be screened in The Roy and Niuta Titus 2 Theater. The Japan Society program will take place in The Lila Acheson Wallace Theater.

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The Japan Society will host a press reception on Thursday, January 9, at 4:45 p.m. Please RSVP to the Japan Society at 832-1155 by January 6. Two press screenings will be held: Warriors of the Wind, preceded by the short film London Calling, on Friday, January 3, at 2:00 p.m.; and The Nuclear Gypsies, preceded by the short films A Girl, She Is 100%, Jumping, and Broken Down Film, on Thursday, January 9, at 2:30 p.m.

The Japan Society is located at 333 East 47 Street.

The Museum of Modern Art film schedule (The Roy and Niuta Titus Theater 2):

Animation-

Friday, January 10 at 3:00 p.m.: KIHACHIRO KAWAMOTO (program 79 min.)
Friday, January 10 at 6:30 p.m.: OSAMU TEZUKA (program 89 min.)
Saturday, January 11 at 2:30 p.m.: OSAMU TEZUKA
Saturday, January 11 at 5:30 p.m.: YOJI KURI (program 85 min.)
Sunday, January 12 at 2:30 p.m.: YOJI KURI
Sunday, January 12 at 5:30 p.m.: KIHACHIRO KAWAMOTO
Friday, January 17 at 3:00 p.m.: YOJI KURI
Friday, January 17 at 6:30 p.m.: RECENT JAPANESE ANIMATION (program 70 min.)
Saturday, January 18 at 2:30 p.m.: KIHACHIRO KAWAMOTO
Saturday, January 18 at 5:30 p.m.: RECENT JAPANESE ANIMATION
Sunday, January 19 at 2:30 p.m.: OSAMU TEZUKA
Sunday, January 19 at 5:30 p.m.: RECENT JAPANESE ANIMATION

Television commercials-

Tuesday, January 14 at 12:30, 2:00, 4:30, and 6:30 p.m. (program 40 min.)
Thursday, January 16 at 12:00 noon

The Japan Society film schedule (The Lila Acheson Wallace Theater):

New films-

Thursday, January 9 at 6:00 and 8:30 p.m.: London Calling, dir. Shunichi Nagasaki. 13 min.; Warriors of the Wind, dir. Hayao Miyazaki. 95 min.
Thursday, January 16 at 6:00 and 8:30 p.m.: Attack on a Bakery, dir. Naoto Yamakawa. 17 min.; The Nuclear Gypsies, dir. Azuma Morisaki. 106 min.
Friday, January 24 at 6:00 and 8:30 p.m.: Four Seasons of Japan, dir. Tatsuo Shimamura. 9 min.; Something Like Yoshiwara, dir. Yoshimitsu Morita. 103 min.
Friday, January 31 at 6:00 and 8:30 p.m.: Jumping, dir. Osamu Tezuka. 6 min.; Broken Down Film, dir. Osamu Tezuka. 5 min.; Comic Magazine, dir. Yojiro Takita. 110 min.
Friday, February 7 at 6:00 and 8:30 p.m.: A Girl, She Is 100%, dir. Naoto Yamakawa. 11 min.; Night on the Galactic Railway, dir. Gisaburo Sugii. 105 min.

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For additional press information about programs at The Museum of Modern Art, contact Howard Feinstein, film press representative, 212/708-9752. For press information and photographic materials about the series at the Japan Society, contact David Owens or Peter Grilli, 212/832-1155.