

Overview of Virtual and Hybrid Film Programming
Spring/Summer 2021



Seven Weeks © PSC

ONLINE SERIES

Aim for the Best: Sports In Japanese Cinema (Redux)

May 7-28

Reconfigured for Japan Society's virtual cinema after the cancellation of last year's planned film series, this online version includes: ***The Chrysanthemum and the Guillotine*** (2018), Takahisa Zeze's historical drama about the intersection of an itinerant female sumo troupe and a group of radical anarchists in 1920s Japan; the International Premiere of ***Tokyo Paralympics: Festival of Love and Glory*** (1965), a newly discovered and restored Japanese documentary that offers a fascinating glimpse of the landmark 1964 Tokyo Paralympic Games; and the North American Premiere of ***Youth: The 50th National High School Baseball Tournament*** (1968), a largely unseen documentary by **Kon Ichikawa** about the popular Koshien tournament with brand-new English subtitles by Japan Society. Presented as part of Japan Society's [Passing the Torch](#) series, a celebration of the upcoming Tokyo Summer Games.

ONLINE SERIES

Cinema as Struggle: The Films of Kazuo Hara & Sachiko Kobayashi

June 4-July 2

This year marks the 50th anniversary of **Shisso Productions**, the independent film company founded by influential Japanese documentarian Kazuo Hara and his wife, producer and collaborator, Sachiko Kobayashi.

Widely-recognized for their compelling, complicated and deeply personal portraits of iconoclastic individuals—such as the ex-soldier hellbent on exposing unspoken war crimes in their best-known film, ***The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On*** (1987)—Hara and Kobayashi have dedicated their lives to documenting the struggle between people and the powers that be. In recognition of the pair's milestone with Shisso Productions, Japan Society presents a career-spanning online retrospective of Hara and Kobayashi's work—from the groundbreaking debut ***Goodbye CP*** (1972) to their latest epic documentary ***Minamata Mandala*** (2020)—including their rarely screened sole narrative feature, ***The Many Faces of Chika*** (2005). *Presented in partnership with Janus Films and Shisso Productions.*

ONLINE SERIES

Tragedies of Youth: Nobuhiko Obayashi's War Trilogy

July 9-August 6

In the last decade of his long and prolific career, Nobuhiko Obayashi (1938-2020)—best-known in the U.S. as the filmmaker behind the cult hit ***House*** (1977)—wrote and directed a trio of deeply personal and formally audacious films that confronted Japan's wartime past. Made in the wake of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of March 2011 and informed by Obayashi's firsthand experience as a child born on the eve of World War II in Hiroshima Prefecture, the staggering films in this trilogy—consisting of ***Casting Blossoms to the Sky*** (2012), ***Seven Weeks*** (2014) and ***Hanagatami*** (2017)—collectively consider the loss of innocence for an entire generation of Japanese youth raised in the shadow of war and national disaster. Scheduled as a lead-up to the 76th anniversary of the end of WWII, Japan Society is proud to present Obayashi's monumental trilogy together online for the first time. *Presented in partnership with KimStim.*

HYBRID FESTIVAL

JAPAN CUTS: Festival of New Japanese Film 2021

August 20-September 2

Japan Society's annual summer film festival JAPAN CUTS returns for its 15th edition as a hybrid online and in-person event. Following up on the precedent set by its first virtual edition last year, JAPAN CUTS 2021 will present an exciting and diverse slate of contemporary Japanese cinema—including blockbusters, independent gems, documentaries, short films, avant-garde works and more—online as video on demand rentals over two weeks through Japan Society's [virtual cinema](#). In addition, Japan Society plans to host a select number of festival screenings on-site at Japan Society pending the ongoing situation with regard to the current pandemic. Additional details will be announced as they are confirmed.

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About Japan Society

Founded in 1907, Japan Society in New York City presents sophisticated, topical and accessible experiences of Japanese art and culture, and facilitates the exchange of ideas, knowledge and innovation between the U.S. and Japan. More than 200 events annually encompass world-class exhibitions, dynamic classical and cutting-edge contemporary performing arts, film premieres and retrospectives, workshops and demonstrations, tastings, family activities, language classes, and a range of high-profile talks and expert panels that present open, critical dialogue on issues of vital importance to the U.S., Japan and East Asia. Japan Society is located at 333 East 47th Street between First and Second avenues (accessible by the 4/5/6 and 7 subway at Grand Central or the E and M subway at Lexington Avenue). japansociety.org

Japan Society Film offers a diverse selection of Japanese films, from classics to contemporary independent productions. Its aim is to entertain, educate and support activities in the Society's arts and culture programs. For more, visit japansociety.org/film.

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