JPN 199: Miike Takashi Film Series

Spring 2009



Thursdays, 7 p.m. @ 129 McKenzie
CRN: 35625

Film Series Description
As the third part of the year-long film series sponsored by the Japanese Studies Sector at the University of Oregon, the Miike Takashi Film Series shifts focus to one of the most innovative contemporary Japanese directors. The incredibly prolific Miike Takashi, director of over 75 films since 1991, including such genre-bending classics as *Audition, Ichi the Killer,* and *Happiness of the Katakuris*, is one of the quintessential experimentalists of contemporary Japanese cinema. Other directors might also be added to this list, including veterans such as Suzuki Seijun and Ishii Sôgo, as well as relative newcomers Kitamura Ryûhei and Toyoda Toshiaki, but few can match the energy, inventiveness, and sheer audacity of Miike's fiercely independent filmmaking. Miike's work pushes the boundaries of contemporary Japanese cinema, not only transgressing the conventions of genre and investigating the limits of cinematic form, but also offering biting social commentary on some of the most pressing issues confronting Japan after the collapse of the bubble economy, including the breakdown of the family system, the alienation of Japanese youth, and the increasing disillusionment with urban life and the mechanisms of advanced capitalism.