

LITERATURE → FILM

ADAPTATION IN RECENT JAPAN

10TH ANNUAL JAPAN FOUNDATION FILM SERIES | SCREENINGS AT REITZ UNION AUDITORIUM
SPONSORED BY THE JAPAN FOUNDATION, RUB/REITZ UNION BOARD--ENTERTAINMENT, DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURES AND CULTURES, AND THE CENTER FOR FILM AND MEDIA STUDIES



ABACUS AND SWORD

SEPTEMBER 25, 10:30 PM – In the twilight of samurai rule, low-ranking Naoyuki Isogai lacks finesse as a swordsman, but as an expert accountant he employs strategies to rescue the fortunes of his clan and keep his family afloat in this humorous historical drama that gestures to downturns in the current economy. Best supporting actress, Best Art Direction, 20th Japan Film Critic Award. Directed by Yoshimitsu Morita, *Abacus and Sword* is based on the book of the same title by Michifumi Isoda (1970--). 2010, 129 min.



SOMEDAY

OCTOBER 2, 10:30 PM – Zen, the owner of a restaurant in the Japan Alps in a town with a biannual tradition of staging a kabuki play, is a lead actor in the upcoming performance. Complications derail the rehearsals, including the sudden appearance of Zen's estranged wife whom he hasn't seen for eighteen years. She seems to have forgotten that part, but what remains of her memory proves to be useful in other ways. Best Film, Yokohama Film Festival, Soleil d'or Kinotayo Prize. Directed by Junji Sakamoto, *Someday* is based on a story by Hiroshi Nobue (1958--). 2011, 93 min.



REBIRTH

OCTOBER 9, 7:00 PM – Kiwako is the loser in an office affair and takes revenge by abducting her lover's infant daughter. Raising the girl on her own, she is caught after four years and the daughter, Erina, is returned to her father and his wife. As a young woman, Erina begins to recall suppressed memories of her early years in a journey through evocative landscapes and honest confrontation with her conflicting emotions. Winner of 11 awards at the 35th Japan Academy Prize, including Best Picture. Directed by Izuru Narushima, and based on a novel by Mitsuyo Kakuta (1967--). 2011, 147 min.



THE SUMMIT: A CHRONICLE OF STONES

OCTOBER 16, 7:00 PM – Mt. Tsurigidake, revered as a deity since ancient times and known as the "mountain of death" for its inaccessibility, is the final uncharted region of Japan at the turn of the last century. An official army team is dispatched to chart its territory, as well as the more western-equipped Japan Alpine Club. The two teams battle each other as well as the mountain and its weather. Best Director, 33rd Japan Academy Prize. Directed by Daisaku Kimura, *The Summit* is based on a novel by Jirō Nitta (1912-1980). 2009, 139 min.

