

JAPAN FOUNDATION



The 14th Japan Foundation Film Series

October 1 (Mon) 7-9pm, SHERM 151

The Oyster Factory (2016)

Director: Kazuhiro SODA

Documentary about an oyster factory that touches on globalization, the falling birthrate and aging population, depopulation, the difficulties facing the agriculture and manufacturing sectors, labor issues, immigration, and the impact of natural disaster. Director Soda Kazuhiro is known for films including **Campaign** and **Mental**.

Ushimado in Okayama Prefecture faces the Seto Inland Sea. A family that relocates from the disaster zone after the Great East Japan earthquake takes over an oyster factory in Ushimado. They decide to employ workers from China, but a slew of problems crop up.

October 19 (Fri) 2:30-4:30pm, PUP106 Lecture 9

The Projects (2016)

Director: Junji SAKAMOTO

Offbeat dialogue-driven drama about the ruckus between a couple with a checkered past and residents at the housing project where they move.

Director Sakamoto Junji is known for **A Chorus of Angels**.

Hinako (Fujiyama Naomi) and Seiji (Kishibe Ittoku) shutter their Chinese medicine shop on a shopping strip and relocate to a housing project.

Their dejected vibe rouses the curiosity of their neighbors, and then suddenly Seiji vanishes. Speculation builds and a rumor takes root that Hinako has murdered Seiji.

November 5 (Mon) 7-9pm, PHYS101 Lecture 6

Close-Knit (2017)

Director: Naoko OGIGAMI

First film in five years from director Oigigami Naoko, whose many fans adore the uniquely soothing atmosphere in films like **Kamome Diner**.

The protagonist has undergone a sex change to become a woman and lives with her partner and his young niece. Ikuta Toma takes on his first transgender role.

Tomo (Kakihara Rinka) is a girl who moves in with her uncle Makio (Kiritani Kenta) after her mom takes off. Makio's lover Rinko (Ikuta) is a former man who has undergone a sex change operation. Tomo feels confused by Rinko's presence, but gets her first taste of a warm and loving household.

Hosted by Modern Languages, Linguistics and Intercultural Communication: Japanese Area

