

Japanese Film Series • Tuesdays, Fall 2019

All movies screened in Wells B-122 from 7 p.m.



Your Name
Sept 3



Yojimbo
Sept 10



Grave of the Fireflies
Oct 1



Twilight Samurai
Sept 17



Kano
Sept 24



Shoplifters
Oct 15



Flying Colors
Oct 22

How does a girl go from worst in her class to top student in just one year? Hard work, dedicated teachers, and a mother's love



Gojira (Godzilla)
Oct 8



Ringu
Oct 29



Kamikaze Girls
Nov 5



Akira
Nov 12



Spirited Away
Nov 19



A Silent Voice
Nov 26

9/3 Your Name (106 minutes)

Gorgeous, award-winning animated film that starts with two high school students - one a boy living in Tokyo, the other a girl living at a rural Shinto shrine - inexplicably waking up in each other's bodies. Animation is amazing; same director's current film (Weathering with You) is Japan's nomination for upcoming Academy Awards.

9/10 Yojimbo (110 minutes)

Classic 1960s black-and-white samurai film by Director Akira Kurosawa features Mifune Toshiro as a wandering samurai who cleverly plays off competing groups of bad guys against each other.

9/17 The Twilight Samurai (129 min)

Moving portrait of a samurai caught up in changing times as Japan moved from Tokugawa to Meiji. Stars Sanada Hiroyuki; directed by Yamada Yoji. Might be the best film in the whole series.

9/24 Kano (180 min)

Joint Taiwanese-Japanese production about a high school baseball team composed of Japanese, Taiwanese Chinese, and Taiwanese native kids beating the odds and overcoming discrimination to reach the national tournament.

10/1 Grave of the Fireflies (89 min)

Animated film of two orphaned children struggling to survive in the last days of World War II. Very sad but a classic.

10/8 Gojira (95 min)

The original 1954 Godzilla (not the one with Raymond Burr). A Godzilla movie with deeper meaning! Not what you might be used to from late-night cable t.v. Definitely worth checking out.

10/15 Shoplifters (121 min)

Amazing Kore-eda film that won last year's Academy Award for best foreign language film. Moving performances, especially by Sakura Ando and Kiki Kirin. This film will lead you to rethink your ideas about family and propriety.

10/22 Flying Colors (117 min)

Light but well-received film (based loosely on a real story) of a high school girl who, through hard work and with the help of a great teacher, turned things around and went from worst in her class to gaining entrance to a prestigious university in just one year. Stars Arimura Kasumi.

10/29 Ringu (95 min)

The original film that launched the Japanese horror film boom of the 2000s! Watch a certain spooky video and you will die in seven days... This is the film that Hollywood remade as The Ring!

11/5 Kamikaze Girls (102 min)

Frenetic "buddy" movie about two misfit girls - one who is into Lolita fashion, the other who wants to be in a biker gang - who become unlikely friends. Fun (and funny) film with interesting techniques used by the filmmaker.

11/12 Akira (124 min)

Classic animated film (probably the best known 20th-c. Japanese animated film aside from Studio Ghibli films) depicts a future, post-apocalyptic Neo-Tokyo with biker gangs, esper kids, corrupt politicians, and more. Music is amazing.

11/19 Spirited Away (125 min)

Academy-award winning animated film from Studio Ghibli (Miyazaki Hayao). A young girl suddenly finds herself trapped in the bathhouse of the gods. Can she rescue her parents and escape to the "normal" world again?

11/26 A Silent Voice (130 min)

Very well regarded 2016 animated film tells the story of a school bully who picked on a deaf girl in his class and later tries to make up for what he did.

12/3 Tampopo (102 min)

Very funny Itami Juzo comedy about food and everything related to food. A noodle Western with lots of amusing side stories, you'll definitely want to eat some ramen (and not the instant kind) after watching this.