Kabei: Our Mother

2008, 133 minutes, 16mm

Director: Yoji Yamada

Set in Tokyo in 1940. The war with China continues and the times are bleak, but the Nogami family, a couple with two young daughters, lives an austere but happy existence, centering on the mother, Kayo (Yoshinaga Sayuri), who is affectionately called "Kabei". One day, her husband Shigeru (Bando Mitsugoro), a literary scholar, is suddenly arrested for violating the Peace Preservation Law. He is suspected of being a thought criminal because of his liberal views amidst the rising nationalism. With the help of one of Shigeru's students, Yamasaki (Asano Tadanobu), the family strives to live courageously and waits for Shigeru's return. However, their wish is not fulfilled, as one day in winter, a notice arrives, informing the family of Shigeru's death at prison. In an ironic twist, this notice is accompanied by Shigeru's last letter which was sent from within the prison.

The film was nominated for awards at Asian Film Awards, Japanese Academy Awards.



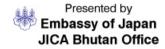


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The Place Promised In Our Early Days

2004, 91 minutes, Animation, DVD

Director: Makoto Shinkai

In an alternate timeline, post-World War II Japan has been divided and occupied by two rival powers. Hokkaido has been annexed by the "UNION" while Honshu and the other southern islands have come under U.S. occupation. Hiroki, Takuya and Sayuri are two young boys and a girl living in Aomori, the closest province in Honshu to Hokkaido. These three young classmates become fascinated by the gigantic yet mysterious tower that they see across the Tsugaru Strait, promising that one day they will build and fly an aircraft to the tower to unravel its mystery. However, their project is abandoned after Sayuri's sudden disappearance. Three years later, Hiroki finds out that Sayuri has been in a coma for the past three years, a state that is somehow linked to the secrets of the UNION tower.

The film won award at Mainichi Film Concours.



2006, 99 minutes, Animation, 16mm

Director: Mamoru Hosoda

Makoto Konno has two close friends who are both boys in her class. One of them is Kosuke Tsuda, her childhood friend and the other is Chiaki Mamiya.

It's far better for Makoto to play threesome ball game with them after school rather than to play with girls from her class. It isn't like they are dating each other or going steady. Their relationship is very casual and easy going. This is a time to spend a compassionate moment reserved for them. Because soon, they must decide their course of future before they become senior in their high school..

But change comes to their relationship.

Makoto gained the gift to slip back into time and retrace her steps because of certain turn of events. But once she learns the way to make use of the ability, she exerts it to satisfy her day-to-day desire and discontent of everyday life with no hesitation. You can gobble up plenty of your favorite meal or settle tiresome troubles right away! It all meant to be day of the roses for them...

The film won awards at Japanese Academy, Hochi Films, Mainichi Film Concours, Sitges—Catalonian International Film Festival.



2007, 63 minutes, Animation, DVD

Director: Makoto Shinkai

Takaki and Akari became best friends after transferring into the same elementary school. However, the two are separated following their elementary school graduation. As they placed their feelings for each other behind them, time simply passed by. Then one snowy day, Takaki is about to be reunited with Akari.

As he sits on the train from Tokyo, memories of the past rush through Takaki's head, his meeting time with Akari drawing ever closer. Join Takaki on a journey into three interconnected tales of love and lost innocence that span the minutes and months of their lives.

The film won award at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards.





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