



NEWS

FROM
Wilfrid Laurier University

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NOTE: Coverage of all events
is invited

Festival Japan at Laurier
has something for everybody

The far East moves west this year as Festival Laurier at Wilfrid Laurier University focuses on the land of the rising sun, with Festival Japan. The dates are Feb. 2-8, and all events are offered without charge, and open to all.

Among the special guests are Tadashi Ikeda, minister of the Embassy of Japan at Ottawa, Susumu Yanagisawa, president of Toyota of Canada Inc., Asian specialist David Waterhouse of the University of Toronto, and koto performer Yoshimi Oyama, a graduate of the Tokyo Arts University.

Setting the mood for the week will be a family program, Feb. 2 at 2 p.m. in the university's Torque Room, with something for everyone. The Japanese-Canadian Cultural Centre of Don Mills will present music, dance, origami (ornamental paper folding), puppets, and an exhibit of dolls.

When Japan is mentioned, many people think of the famous tea ceremony, or perhaps of the distinctive Japanese approach to art, or flower arranging. Others may think of judo or karate.

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All of these varied examples of the life of Japan will be showcased during the festival.

The tea ceremony and flower arranging will be shown Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. in the university's Paul Martin Centre. Judo, kendo, and karate will be demonstrated by two local and a Hamilton martial arts group, Feb. 5 at 7 p.m. in the Theatre Auditorium.

A rare display of delicate Japanese porcelain, a special contribution by the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, will be on display throughout festival week in the Paul Martin Centre.

Among the treasures lent by the British Columbia gallery are a 15th century arita ware bottle with a blue underglaze, an 18th century kakiemon ware plate with an unusual petaliform rim, and a number of ivory, wood, and bone sculptures.

Also on display in the Paul Martin Centre will be rare antiquities, including ceremonial swords from the private collections of local residents.

A second art display, in the Concourse Gallery, will open Feb. 27 and continue for three weeks. Featured will be works by Deirdre Chisholm, who is now studying printmaking in Japan. The work of a number of other artists, including Kinako Koyanagi, Kazuo Nakamura, and Naoko Matsubara will be on display.

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There will be three lectures on the religions of Japan, at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday in Room 4-209 of the Central Teaching Building. Speaking on Wednesday will be Dr. David Waterhouse of the Centre for South Asian Studies at the University of Toronto. He will discuss Art and Religious Experience in Japan. He is a graduate of King's College, Cambridge, and lists his interests as judo, horsemanship, and playing the bagpipes.

The music of Japan, both classical and modern, will not be neglected.

On Feb. 4, as part of the regular Music at Noon series, excerpts from operas and operettas set in Japan-- Madama Butterfly, the Mikado, Iris, and the Geisha-- will be performed at 12 noon, ending at 1 p.m. Singers taking part are Deborah Millar, Kathleen Brett, Reid Spencer, Rebecca Haas, Keith Boldt, Ann Bisch, and Krystie Tait.

A major event will be a recital of music played on the koto, a stringed instrument, by Yoshimi Oyama on Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. in the university's Theatre Auditorium. She will be assisted by young Kitchener violinist Miya Belair. The program will include Haru No Yo (Evening of Spring) by Michio Miyagi. Mrs. Oyama, who now makes her home in Waterloo, is a graduate of the Tokyo Arts University, graduating last year as a "distinguished" koto performer. The program will also include art songs with Japanese lyrics, sung by Kathleen Brett, accompanied at the piano by Leslie De'Ath.

Dr. Waterhouse will give a second lecture, on Western and Traditional Music of Japan, Feb. 5 at 1:30 p.m. in Portable Building 2, behind Macdonald House.

For those interested in business and international trade, there will be a lecture on doing business with Japan. It will be given by Susumu Yanagisawa, president of Toyota Canada Inc., whose parent company will soon erect an automobile assembly plant at Cambridge, Ontario.

He will speak Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. in the main auditorium of the Frank C. Peters Building, with a reception following.

On Feb. 5, winners of the festival's poetry contest will be announced in the Concourse. Japanese cuisine will be available there that day, as well.

A number of major films by Japanese and non-Japanese filmmakers will be another festival feature. Professor Gerald Pratley of York University, a specialist in the films of Japan, will speak Feb. 4 at 2:30 p.m. in Room 2E7 of the Arts and Science Building.

The films will be shown in Room 2E7 of the Arts and Science Building at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, and at 3 p.m. on other festival days. In addition, there will be screenings Friday night at 7 p.m. and 9:10 p.m. The films in brief:

Yojimbo, shown Monday, is by one of the best-known and influential of the Japanese directors, Akira Kurosawa, and depicts gang warfare in a Japanese town.

Hiroshima, Mon Amour (Tuesday) is the well-known and cinematically innovative film by the French director Alain Resnais, which explores the love affair of a French woman and a Japanese man.

Yakuza (Wednesday) stars Robert Mitchum and is directed by Sydney Pollack. The title refers to a gangster. Gaijin (Thursday), known locally for its impact during the Third Cinema Festival, deals with the struggles of Japanese immigrants in Brazil.

Early Spring (Friday) is by Yasujiro Ozu, and is a sensitive treatment of marital problems in the life of a white collar worker and his wife.

The Friday night showings are Demon Pond, based on an ancient legend about a haunted pond, and Kagemusha, another film by the great Kurosawa.

A gala closing will take place Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. in the Theatre Auditorium, when the Japanese-Canadian Cultural Centre returns with a program of dance and a performance by their famous drummers, on what is said to be the largest display of drums in North America.

Featured speaker at the closing will be Tadashi Ikeda of the Japanese embassy, who will speak on the festival's week-long theme: Understanding Japan Today. The minister graduated from Tokyo University with a law degree in 1962 and joined the foreign service of his country that same year.

He has done graduate work at Taiwan University and Columbia University, and has served Japan in China, France, and the United States.

Chairman for the week-long celebration is Dr. Martin Dolbeer, of the religion and culture department. The festival is presented under the auspices of the university's cultural affairs committee, chaired by Dr. Leslie O'Dell of the English department.