

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART PRESENTS MAJOR SURVEY OF JAPANESE ANIMATION

33-Film Series Which Spans 1966 to the Present Includes Key Works Such as Akira and Ghost in the Shell as Well as Many Television Works Rarely Screened in the U.S.

ANIMÉ!!

July 10–September 10, 2005
The Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters

NEW YORK, 23 June, 2005— The Museum of Modern Art presents Animé!!, an extensive survey of Japanese animation from July 10–September 10, 2005. This exhibition, screened in the Roy and Niuta Titus Theaters, charts the history of the form from the 1960s to the present, and is organized in four categories: manga; man and machine; heroes and heroines; and new work from new directors. The exhibition features many of the leading titles in this form such as Akira (1988) and Ghost in the Shell (1995), as well as a wide range of TV productions, many of which have not been screened before in the U.S. The exhibition is organized by Barbara London, Associate Curator, Department of Film and Media, with Fabienne Stephan, Andrew Maerkle, and Anri Yasuda.

Animé—the latest of America's many imports from Japan—is a genre of animated film that developed out of manga (printed comic books) and retains the raw energy of that popular format. Animé began by attracting younger viewers, but developed diversified content and spread steadily to wider audiences. At the same time, it has progressed from the jerky, rough action and economical drawing of its early productions to the aesthetic sophistication and stylization of more recent projects. It is as if the panels of a comic had been directly translated onto the big screen. Animé characters are often entangled in extreme situations, and the stories delve into up-to-the-minute subjects like the Save the Earth movement, the overlap between humans and robots, and those staples of popular film everywhere, growing up and the mayhem that comes with transition. Animé emerged shortly after World War II, and took off with the advent of Japanese television in the late 1950s. Early works reflect the tensions in a Japanese society urgently reinventing itself. The films presented here follow the development of anime chronologically: the classics of the '50s are closer to their manga sources, while the recent productions are hybrid assemblages demonstrating everything high tech has to offer. The program includes short works, often episodes from television series, and full-length theatrical features.

“Animé!! brings classic series back to the forefront of visual culture with a wide selection of films that pays homage to the greats that began this cultural phenomenon,” says Ms. London. “Animé continues to be a dynamic field, with talented teams of artists producing new work. Animé is a major area, with avid followers outside of Japan. ‘Creatives’ around the world follow Japan’s ‘national cool.’ ”

All works are subtitled in English except where noted.

This exhibition is supported by Walt Disney Studios, The Japan Foundation, and The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art.

Hinotori (The Phoenix: Chapter of Dawn) [4 episodes]. 1966/2004. Japan. Manga by Osamu Tezuka. HD version directed by Ryouzuke Takahashi. Hinotori is the tale of a mythical bird and man's unending quest for immortality, from the distant past to the far-off future. In English. 100 min.

Sunday, July 10, 2:00 (T1); Friday, July 15, 6:00 (T2)

Akira. 1988. Japan. Directed/manga by Katsuhiro Otomo. When Neo Tokyo, motorcycle gang-member Tetsuo Shima becomes mixed up with a secret government project known as Akira, he is given supernatural powers that he then uses to try and destroy his captors along with the entire city. Conspiracy theories, telepathic and telekinetic children, and wild motorcycle rides decorate the neon-lit urban landscapes in a film that tests the human will and true friendship. 124 min.

Monday, July 11, 6:00; Wednesday, July 20, 6:00. T1

Ranma 1/2: P-P-Chan, He Is Good for Nothing. 1989. Japan. Directed by Tsutomu Shibayama. Manga by Rumiko Takahashi. Heir to the *Anything Goes* School of Martial Arts, Saotome Ranma must deal with his arranged marriage as well as a world of people who want to get in the way, all the while hiding an ancient Chinese curse that turns him into a girl when splashed with cold water. 25 min.

Urusei yatsura (Beautiful Dreamer). 1984. Japan. Directed by Mamoru Oshii. Manga by Rumiko Takahashi. After a botched invasion of earth, high school student Ataru Moroboshi finds himself engaged to Lum, an alien princess with the attributes of a demon, including horns, tiger-skin bikini costume, a bad temper and a tendency to electrocute first and ask questions later. 90 min.

Monday, July 11, 8:00; Sunday, July 17, 2:00. T2

Rurouni Kenshin [episode 1]. 1996. Japan. Directed by Kazuhiro Furuhashi. Manga by Nobuhiro Watsuki. At the start of the Meiji Restoration, reformed samurai killer Himura Kenshin swears to protect a once-proud school of swords from criminals, government intrigue, his past and his reputation. 25 min.

Crayon Shin-chan: Tip and Run! Pig Hoof Battle. 1998. Japan. Directed by Masaaki Yuasa. Manga by Usui Yoshito. Shin-chan, a precocious and curious child, goes on wild adventures in this anime series that features the not-so-cute side of childhood. 50 min.
Wednesday, July 13, 6:00; Monday, July 18, 6:00. T2

Ginga tetsudô 999 (Galaxy Express 999) [episode 1]. 1978. Japan. Directed by Nobutaka Nishizawa. Manga by Leiji Matsumoto. Hoshino Tetsuro journeys toward the Andromeda Galaxy from Earth in this sci-fi adventure that delves into the many allegories and parables of psychology and the human spirit 25 min.

Waga seishun no Arcadia (Space Pirate Captain Harlock: Arcadia of My Youth). 1982. Japan. Directed by Tomoharu Katsumata. Manga by Leiji Matsumoto. The original space pirate, Captain Harlock, a man haunted by his unsettled past, travels to confront an alien force that threatens all of humanity in direct defiance of the unjust Illumidas Occupation Forces. 130 min.
Friday, July 15, 8:00 (T2); Thursday, July 21, 8:00 (T1)

Tetsuwan Atomu (Astroboy) [episode 1]. 1963. Japan. Directed/manga by Osamu Tezuka. The first android ever created in manga, anime, cartoons, and comic books, Astroboy was an irresistible robot with a heart of gold who fought for humankind and in the process, proved his own humanity. 25 min.

Fushigina Merumo (Marvelous Melmo) [episode 1]. 1971. Japan. Directed/manga by Osamu Tezuka. Granted a strange batch of magical candy from heaven, Melmo discovers that she is able to transform her age and others' at will. 25 min.

Hinotori (The Phoenix: Chapter of Dawn) [episode 1 only]. 1966/2004. Japan. HD version directed by Ryousuke Takahashi. Manga by Osamu Tezuka. Hinotori is the tale of a mythical bird and man's unending quest for immortality, from the distant past to the far-off future. In English. 25 min. Program 75 min.
Saturday, July 16, 2:00. T2

Dragonball: shenron no densetsu (Dragon Ball: Legend of the Dragon). 1986. Japan. Directed by Daisuke Nishio. Manga by Akira Toriyama. The movie that started a revolution in anime also popularized the genre in the U.S. This loose reworking of a classic Chinese tale tells the story of Son Goku the monkey boy, and his first encounter with the legendary wish-granting Dragonballs. 45 min.
Saturday, July 16, 4:00. T2

Boku no chikyu wo mamotte (Please Save My Earth). 1994. Japan. Directed by Kazuo Yamazaki. Manga by Hiwatari Saki. Seven teens begin remembering that they are reincarnations of a group of alien scientists who had been studying Earth from a hidden observatory on the moon. But with their old memories come old abilities, feelings and agendas and events surrounding the deaths of their previous incarnations changes some of them for the worse. 30 min.

Shoujo kakumei Utena (Revolutionary Girl Utena) [episode 1]. 1997. Japan. Directed by Kunihiko Ikuhara. Manga by Chiho Saito. Cross-dressing Utena Tenjo journeys to the School of Roses in search of her prince only to discover that at this school, fights are resolved with sword duels. 25 min.

Kareshi kanojo no jijo (His and Her Circumstances) [episode 1]. 1998. Japan. Directed by Hideaki Anno. Miyazama Yukino is the perfect girl on the outside: sweet, helpful, brilliant, and athletic. On the inside however, she's lazy, temperamental, slovenly, incredibly vain and willing only to work so that she can keep up appearances. Her world, however, is thrown upside-down when her rival discovers her secret. 25 min. Program 80 min.

Wednesday, August 24, 6:00. T1

Samurai 7 [episode 1]. 2004. Japan. Directed by Toshifumi Takizawa. In an age when warriors enhance their bodies mechanically, the samurai code still lives on in this sci-fi recreation of Akira Kurasawa's original *Seven Samurai* movie. 25 min.

Samurai Champloo [episode 1]. 2004. Japan. Directed by Shinichiro Watanabe. Manga by Dai Sato, Shinji Obara. Mugen is a violent and womanizing samurai. Jin is a traditional and well-mannered swordsman. Two polar opposites are brought together when they're saved by a ditzzy waitress named Fuu who demands a favor in return for saving their lives. 25 min.

Keroro Gunso (Sergeant Keroro) [episode 1]. 2004. Japan. Directed by Sato Jun'ichi. Manga by Yoshizaki Mine. After a foiled invasion, alien frog Sergeant Keroro is forced to adapt to life on earth. 25 min.

Thursday, August 25, 6:00. T1

Shin seiki Evangelion gekijou-ban: air/magokoro wo, kimi ni (Evangelion: End of Evangelion). 1997. Japan. Directed by Hideaki Anno. End of Evangelion concludes the series that the T.V. show began with a battle between protagonist Shinji Ikari and the government forces that wish to destroy him and everything he cares about. An anime that reinterprets the theme of the apocalyptic giant robot through philosophical introspection, Evangelion shows the tenuous yet awesome power of the individual mind. 87 min.

Friday, August 26, 6:00; Monday, August 29, 6:00. T1

Kareshi kanojo no jijo (His and Her Circumstances) [episode 1]. 1998. Japan. Directed by Hideaki Anno. Miyazama Yukino is the perfect girl on the outside, sweet, helpful, brilliant, and athletic. On the inside however, she's lazy, temperamental, slovenly, incredibly vain and willing only to work so that she can keep up appearances. Her world is thrown upside-down, however, when her rival discovers her secret. 25 min.

Fushigina Merumo (Marvelous Melmo) [episode 1]. 1971. Japan. Directed by Osamu Tezuka. Granted a strange batch of magical candy from heaven, Melmo discovers that she is able to transform her age and others' at will. 25 min.

Ranma 1/2: The Return of the Headmaster from Hell. 1989. Japan. Directed by Tsutomu Shibayama. Manga by Rumiko Takahashi. Heir to the *Anything Goes* School of Martial Arts, Saotome Ranma must deal with his arranged marriage as well as a world of people who want to get in the way, all the while hiding an ancient Chinese curse that turns him into a girl when splashed with cold water. min. Program 75 min. T1

Saturday, August 27, 2:00. T1

Robot Carnival. 1987. Japan. Directed by Atsuko Fukushima, Hidetoshi Omori, Hiroyuki Kitakubo, Hiroyuki Kitazume, Katsuhiko Otomo, Koji Morimoto, Mao Lamdo, Takashi Nakamura, Yasuomi Umetsu. A collection of work by the best anime robot designers, sound-track driven Robot Carnival is filled with inspired drawing and unconventional plots, meditating on the interaction between humans and machines. 91 min.

Saturday, August 27, 5:00. T1

Kokaku kidotai (Ghost in the Shell). 1995. Japan. Directed by Mamoru Oshii. Manga by Masamune Shirow. This icon for new anime's cyberpunk aesthetic underscores the increasingly surreal intersections between man and machine. Set in a dystopic future metropolis, the story follows bionic policewoman Major Motoko Kusanagi and her task force, Section 9 as they track down a renegade computer program hacking its way through the city. 83 min. Sunday, August 28, 2:00. T1

Tetsujin Nijyuu-hachigou (Gigantor) [episode 1]. 1963. Japan. Directed by Yonehiko Watanabe. Manga by Tadao Wakabayashi, Mitsuteru Yokoyama. Finding Iron Man 28 is only the beginning of the adventure as Shotaro, a young boy, turns an evil secret government project against the mob. 25 min.

Mobile Suit Gundam [episode 1]. 1979. Japan. Directed by Yoshiyuki Tomino. In the midst of a great war between Earth and the orbiting spatial colonies otherwise known as Zeon, Amuro Ray discovers his scientist father's mobile suit known as the Gundam, and uses it to combat the Zeon forces on the side of Earth. In English. 25 min.

FLCL/ Furi Kuri (Fooly Cooly) [episode 1]. 2000. Japan. Directed by Tsurumaki Kazuya. Manga by Enokido Yohji. Sixth-grader Nandaba Naota and his crazy family meet Haruhara Haruko, a woman riding a flying vespa and wielding a guitar mixed with a lawnmower engine as strange hand-shaped machines start literally coming out of Naota's head. 30 min. Program 80 min.
Sunday, August 28, 5:00 (T2); Wednesday, August 31, 6:00 (T1)

Hoshi no koe (Voices of a Distant Star). 2002. Japan. Directed by Makoto Shinkai. In 2048, as the government fights a war against a far off alien threat, Mikako Nagamine is drafted into the army and taken away from her love, Noboru Terao. As Mikako is forced deeper into space, she remains a young girl while Noboru continues to age back on Earth. With only a text-sending cell phone to connect them, they cling to their youthful dreams as the two of them are further separated by both time and space. 30 min.

Kumo no mukô, yakusoku no basho (Place Promised in Our Earlier Days.) 2004. Japan. Directed by Makoto Shinkai. *Two boys working to revive their comatose friend discover that her sleep is linked to a secret that will challenge their vision of their futuristic world.* 90 min. Thursday, September 1, 6:00 (T1); Friday, September 2, 6:00 (T1); Saturday, September 3, 1:30 (T2); Sunday, September 4, 5:00 (T1)

Interstella 5555, The 5tory of the 5ecret 5tar 5ystem. 2003. Japan/France. Directed by Kazuhisa Takenôchi, Leiji Matsumoto. Screenplay by Cédric Hervet, Guy-Manuel De Homem-Christo, Thomas Bangalter, Daft Punk. *Four musicians from another galaxy are kidnapped by an evil manager to ultimately become the biggest band on earth. An animated musical, Interstella 5555 comprises the fourteen videos from Daft Punk's "Discovery" CD.* 67 min. Thursday, September 1, 8:30 (T1); Saturday, September 3, 7:45 (T2)

Mind Game. 2004. Japan. Directed by Masaaki Yuasa. Screenplay by Yuasa, based on a story by Robin Nishi. A wild psychedelic ride through Osaka's backstreets, the afterlife, and a whale's belly, Mind Game is a surreal take on the never-ending story through the limitless nature of possibility. Incorporating photo frames of the actual voice-actors' faces, the film

reflects the rough aesthetic of the young production house Studio 4 Degree C, as well as an emerging anime trend toward DJ-style visual sampling. 104 min. Friday, September 2, 8:30 (T1); Saturday, September 3, 9:15 (T1); Sunday, September 4, 2:00 (T1); Monday, September 5, 5:45 (T1); Friday, September 9, 8:30 (T1); Saturday, September 10, 2:00 (T2)

Robotto Kânibaru (Robot Carnival). 1987. Japan. Directed by Atsuko Fukushima, Hidetoshi Omori, Hiroyuki Kitakubo, Hiroyuki Kitazume, Katsuhiro Ôtomo, Kôji Morimoto, Mao Lamdo, Takashi Nakamura, Yasuomi Umetsu. A collection of work by the best anime robot designers, sound-track driven Robot Carnival is filled with inspired drawing and unconventional plots, meditating on the interaction between humans and machines. 91 min. Saturday, September 3, 4:00. T2

Kôkaku kidôtai (Ghost in the Shell). 1995. Japan. Directed by Mamoru Oshii, Masamune Shirow. This icon for new anime's cyberpunk aesthetic underscores the increasingly surreal intersections between man and machine. Set in a dystopic future metropolis, the story follows bionic policewoman Major Motoko Kusanagi and her task force, Section 9 as they track down a renegade computer program hacking its way through the city. 83 min. Saturday, September 3, 6:00. T2

Akira. 1988. Japan. Directed by Katsuhiro Ôtomo. *When Neo Tokyo, motorcycle gang-member Tetsuo Shima becomes mixed up with a secret government project known as Akira, he is given supernatural powers that he then uses to try and destroy his captors along with the entire city. Conspiracy theories, telepathic and telekinetic children, and wild motorcycle rides decorate the neon-lit urban landscapes in a film that tests the human will and true friendship..* 124 min. Monday, September 5, 8:00. T2

ANIME!!

SCREENING SCHEDULE

Sunday, July 10

2:00 p.m. Hinotori (The Phoenix: Chapter of Dawn) [4 episodes]. 1966/2004. Japan. Manga by Osamu Tezuka. HD version directed by Ryouzuke Takahashi. A story involving a mythical bird and man's quest for immortality in the distant past and the far-off future. In English. 100 min. Also screening: Friday, July 15, 6:00 p.m.

Monday, July 11

6:00 p.m. Akira. 1988. Japan. Directed/manga by Katsuhiro Otomo. A motorcycle gang-member in Neo Tokyo becomes mixed up with a secret government project called Akira, and discovers his supernatural powers. An anime

featuring conspiracy theories, telepathic and telekinetic freaks, and wild motorcycle rides across neon-lit urban landscapes. 124 min.

Directed by Katsuhiro Ôtomo. In Neo Tokyo, Tetsuo Shima and Kaneda Shôtarô belong to a high school motorcycle gang. Tetsuo becomes mixed up with a secret government project called Akira, and discovers his supernatural powers. Bonds of friendship and humanity are tested in this anime featuring conspiracy theories, telepathic and telekinetic freaks, and wild motorcycle rides across neon-lit urban landscapes. 124 min

Also screening: Wednesday, July 20, 6:00; Monday, September 5, 8:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m. Ranma 1/2: P-P-Chan, He Is Good for Nothing. 1989. Japan. Directed by Tsutomu Shibayama. Manga by Rumiko Takahashi. When splashed with water, Ranma turns into a girl. 25 min.

Urusei yatsura (Beautiful Dreamer). 1984. Japan. Directed by Mamoru Oshii. Manga by Rumiko Takahashi. High school student Ataru meets Lum, an alien princess with the attributes of a demon, including horns and tiger-skin bikini costume. 90 min.

Monday, July 11, 8:00; Sunday, July 17, 2:00. T2

Wednesday, July 13

6:00 p.m. Rurouni Kenshin [episode 1]. 1996. Japan. Directed by Kazuhiro Furuhashi. Manga by Nobuhiro Watsuki. At the start of the Meiji Restoration, reformed samurai killer Kenshin protects a once-proud sword school from criminals and government intrigue. 25 min.

Crayon Shin-chan: Tip and Run! Pig Hoof Battle. 1998. Japan. Directed by Masaaki Yuasa. Manga by Usui Yoshito. Shin-chan, a precocious child, has wild adventures. 50 min.

Wednesday, July 13, 6:00; Monday, July 18, 6:00. T2

Friday, July 15

6:00 p.m. Hinotori (The Phoenix: Chapter of Dawn) [4 episodes]. See Sunday, July 10, 2:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m. Ginga tetsudô 999 (Galaxy Express 999) [episode 1]. 1978. Japan. Directed by Nobutaka Nishizawa. Manga by Leiji Matsumoto. A hero journeys toward the Andromeda Galaxy. 25 min.

Waga seishun no Arcadia (Space Pirate Captain Harlock: Arcadia of My Youth). 1982. Japan. Directed by Tomoharu Katsumata. Manga by Leiji Matsumoto. Harlock returns to his unsettled past and goes deep into the galaxy in defiance of the unjust Illumidas Occupation Forces. 130 min.

Friday, July 15, 8:00 (T2); Thursday, July 21, 8:00 (T1)

Saturday, July 16

2:00 p.m. Tetsuwan Atomu (Astroboy) [episode 1]. 1963. Japan. Directed/manga by Osamu Tezuka. An irresistible robot with a heart of gold fights threats to humankind. 25 min.

Fushigina Merumo (Marvelous Melmo) [episode 1]. 1971. Japan. Directed/manga by Osamu Tezuka. Magical candies allow little Melmo to transform her age at will. 25 min.

Hinotori (The Phoenix: Chapter of Dawn) [episode 1 only]. 1966/2004. Japan. HD version directed by Ryouzuke Takahashi. Manga by Osamu Tezuka. A story involving a mythical bird and man's quest for immortality in the distant past and the far-off future. In English. 25 min. Program 75 min.

4:00 p.m. Dragonball: shenron no densetsu (Dragon Ball: Legend of the Dragon). 1986. Japan. Directed by Daisuke Nishio. Manga by Akira Toriyama. A loose reworking of a classic Chinese tale, combining slapstick comedy with kung fu action. 45 min.

6:00 p.m. Boku no chikyuu wo mamotte (Please Save My Earth). 1994. Japan. Directed by Kazuo Yamazaki. Manga by Hiwatari Saki. Seven strangers who share a dark past dream of the moon. 30 min.

Shoujo kakumei Utena (Revolutionary Girl Utena) [episode 1]. 1997. Japan. Directed by Kunihiko Ikuhara. Manga by Chiho Saito. Utena cross-dresses and fights duels. 25 min.

Kareshi kanojo no jijo (His and Her Circumstances) [episode 1]. 1998. Japan. Directed by Hideaki Anno. Yukino strives to keep up appearances. 25 min. Program 80 min.

Wednesday, July 20

6:00 p.m. Akira. See Monday, July 11, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 25

6:00 p.m. Samurai 7 [episode 1]. 2004. Japan. Directed by Toshifumi Takizawa. In an age when warriors enhance their bodies mechanically, the samurai code still lives on. 25 min.

Samurai Champloo [episode 1]. 2004. Japan. Directed by Shinichiro Watanabe. Manga by Dai Sato, Shinji Obara. Dispossessed samurai and a ditzzy waitress come together amid hip-hop. 25 min.

Keroro Gunso (Sergeant Keroro) [episode 1]. 2004. Japan. Directed by Sato Jun'ichi. Manga by Yoshizaki Mine. Foiled alien frog invaders adapt to life on earth. 25 min.

Friday, August 26

6:00 p.m. Shin seiki Evangelion gekijou-ban: air/magokoro wo, kimi ni (Evangelion: End of Evangelion). 1997. Japan. Directed by Hideaki Anno. Young Shinji battles mysterious government forces and his own internal conflicts. An anime that reinterprets the theme of the apocalyptic giant robot through philosophical introspection. 87 min.

Friday, August 26, 6:00; Monday, August 29, 6:00. T1

Saturday, August 27

2:00 p.m. Kareshi kanojo no jijo (His and Her Circumstances) [episode 1]. 1998. Japan. Directed by Hideaki Anno. Yukino strives to keep up appearances. 25 min.

Fushigina Merumo (Marvelous Melmo) [episode 1]. 1971. Japan. Directed by Osamu Tezuka.

Magical candies allow little Melmo to transform her age at will. 25 min.

Ranma 1/2: The Return of the Headmaster from Hell. 1989. Japan. Directed by Tsutomu Shibayama. Manga by Rumiko Takahashi.

When splashed with water, Ranma turns into a girl. 25 min. Program 75 min. T1

Saturday, August 27

5:00 p.m. Robot Carnival. 1987. Japan. Directed by Atsuko Fukushima, Hidetoshi Omori, Hiroyuki Kitakubo, Hiroyuki Kitazume, Katsuhiro Otomo, Koji Morimoto, Mao Lamdo, Takashi Nakamura, Yasuomi Umetsu.

An omnibus filled with inspired drawing and unconventional plots, meditating on the interaction between robots and humans. 91 min.

Sunday, August 28

2:00 p.m. Kokaku kidotai (Ghost in the Shell). 1995. Japan. Directed by Mamoru Oshii. Manga by Masamune Shirow.

Evidence of the increasingly surreal hybridization of man and machine in recent anime's cyberpunk aesthetic. A bionic policewoman and her task force track down a renegade computer program in a dystopic future metropolis. 83 min.

Sunday, August 28

5:00 p.m. Tetsujin Nijyuuhachigou (Gigantor) [episode 1]. 1963. Japan. Directed by Yonehiko Watanabe. Manga by Tadao Wakabayashi, Mitsuteru Yokoyama. Shotaro turns an evil secret government project into good. 25 min.

Mobile Suit Gundam [episode 1]. 1979. Japan. Directed by Yoshiyuki Tomino. A boy discovers his scientist father's mobile suit, and combats enemy Zeon forces. In English. 25 min.

FLCL (Fooly Cooly) [episode 1]. 2000. Japan. Directed by Tsurumaki Kazuya. Manga by Enokido Yohji.

A sixth-grader and her crazy family captivate otaku ("geek") insiders. 30 min.

Program 80 min.

Sunday, August 28, 5:00 (T2); Wednesday, August 31, 6:00 (T1)

Thursday, September 1

6:00 p.m. Hoshi no koe (Voices of a Distant Star). 2002. Japan. Directed by Makoto Shinkai. In 2048, the government threatens Mikako Nagamine and Noboru Terao's love by selecting Mikako to fight in an intergalactic war. Mikako remains a teenager, while Noboru grows up. 30 min.

Kumo no mukô, yakusoku no basho (Place Promised in Our Earlier Days. 2004. Japan. Directed by Makoto Shinkai.

Two boys working to revive their comatose friend discover that her sleep is linked to the secrets of the world. 90 min. Thursday, September 1, 6:00 (T1); Friday, September 2, 6:00 (T1); Saturday, September 3, 1:30 (T2); Sunday, September 4, 5:00 (T1)

8:30 p.m. Interstella 5555, The 5tory of the 5ecret 5tar 5ystem. 2003. Japan/France. Directed by Kazuhisa Takenôchi, Leiji Matsumoto. Screenplay by Cédric Hervet, Guy-Manuel De Homem-Christo, Thomas Bangalter, Daft Punk. Four musicians from another galaxy are kidnapped by an evil manager to ultimately become the biggest band on earth. An animated musical, Interstella 5555 comprises the fourteen videos from Daft Punk's "Discovery" CD. 67 min. Thursday, September 1, 8:30 (T1); Saturday, September 3, 7:45 (T2)

Friday, September 2

8:30 p.m. Mind Game. 2004. Japan. Directed by Masaaki Yuasa. Screenplay by Yuasa, based on a story by Robin Nishi. A wildly psychedelic ride through Osaka's backstreets, the afterlife, and a whale's belly. Incorporating photo frames of the actual voice-actors' faces, the film reflects the rough aesthetic of the young production house Studio 4c, as well as an emerging anime trend toward DJ-style visual sampling. 104 min. Western premiere. Friday, September 2, 8:30 (T1); Saturday, September 3, 9:15 (T1); Sunday, September 4, 2:00 (T1); Monday, September 5, 5:45 (T1); Friday, September 9, 8:30 (T1); Saturday, September 10, 2:00 (T2)

Saturday, September 3

4:00 p.m. Robotto Kânibaru (Robot Carnival). 1987. Japan. Directed by Atsuko Fukushima, Hidetoshi Omori, Hiroyuki Kitakubo, Hiroyuki Kitazume, Katsuhiro Ôtomo, Kôji Morimoto, Mao Lamdo, Takashi Nakamura, Yasuomi Umetsu. An omnibus that meditates upon interactions between robots and humans. Inspired drawing and unconventional plots reflect the open-ended nature of this soundtrack-driven project. 91 min.

6:00 p.m. Kôkaku kidôtai (Ghost in the Shell). 1995. Japan. Directed by Mamoru Oshii, Masamune Shirow. This icon for new anime's cyberpunk aesthetic underscores the increasingly surreal intersections between man and machine. Set in a future dystopic metropolis, the story follows bionic policewoman Major Motoko Kusanagi and her task force as they track down a renegade computer program. 83 min.

Monday, September 5

8:00 p.m. Akira. 1988. Japan. Directed by Katsuhiro Ôtomo. In Neo Tokyo, Tetsuo Shima and Kaneda Shôtarô belong to a high school motorcycle gang. Tetsuo becomes mixed up with a secret government project called Akira, and discovers his supernatural powers. Bonds of friendship and humanity are tested in this anime featuring conspiracy theories, telepathic and telekinetic freaks, and wild motorcycle rides across neon-lit urban landscapes. 124 min.