

UNTIL THE BREAK OF DAWN



Title Until the Break of Dawn
Cast Tori Matsuzaka, Kirin Kiki, Ryuta Sato, Mirei Kiritani
Director Yuichiro Hirakawa
Running time 129 min
Release date 2012
Genre Drama
PG: PG 10

S Y N O P S I S

Ayumi's grandmother is a Connector – she holds the power to bring solace to the living by summoning the dead. Before passing this gift to Ayumi, she

wants to be sure that he fully understands what it entails. By helping a series of clients to meet with their departed friends and loved ones, Ayumi learns the importance of living without regret, and at the same time comes to terms with the doubts that have haunted his own past. Based on a prize-winning novel by Mizuki Tsujimura called "Tsunagu".

TAMAKO LOVE STORY



Title Tamako Love Story
Cast Aya Suzaki, Atsushi Tamaru, Yuki Kaneko, Naoko Yamada
Director
Running time 83 min
Release date 2014
Genre Animation / Romance
PG: PG

S Y N O P S I S

Tamako Love Story is the sequel to the popular anime Tamako Market and follows schoolgirl Tamako Kitashirakawa in her day-to-day life as she discovers a love that has been there all along.

Tamako is the eldest daughter of a family that runs Tama-ya mochi (rice cake) shop in the Usagiya Shopping District. Mochizo is Tamako's childhood friend whose family owns the mochi shop across from Tama-ya.

The movie picks up where the anime left off, with Dera the talking bird bringing us back into the story - Mochizo is attempting to build up his courage to confess his feelings to Tamako before leaving for university in Tokyo. When he eventually does, Tamako goes into a state of shock as she grapples to deal with this revelation and her own feelings.

The Kirishima Thing



Title The Kirishima Thing
Cast Ryunosuke Kamiki, Ai Hashimoto, Suzuka Ohgo
Director Daihachi Yoshida
Running time 103min
Release date 2012
Genre High School Drama
PG: PG 13

S Y N O P S I S

The complex and intricate web of school life all seems to revolve around cool kid Kirishima. When Kirishima falls inexplicably off the radar, this sets off a ripple effect that

slowly undermines the established hierarchy, exposing the arbitrary spectres that govern the lives of big fish in a little pond. Exquisitely shot and with a finale to savour, The Kirishima Thing is a subtle revolution which quietly mushrooms into a moment of film-making glory. Based on an award-winning novel, and featuring the ever-stoic Ai Hashimoto.

WOOD JOB!



Title Wood Job!
Cast Shota Sometani, Masami Nagasawa, Hideaki Ito
Director Shinobu Yaguchi
Running time 116 min
Release date 2014
Genre Comedy Drama
PG: PG 10

S Y N O P S I S

This charming coming-of-age comedy/drama by Shinobu Yaguchi, (Waterboys, Swing Girls Robo-G) is based on the popular novel by Shion Miura. Having flunked his university

entrance exams, 18-year-old Yuki Hirano decides to leave the city behind to take part in a one-year forestry programme, swayed not by a passion for lumberjack life but rather by the attractive girl in the recruiting brochure. Knowing little of what lies ahead, Yuki winds up in rural Kamusari, a small village deep in the mountains, far from modern conveniences and facing a much tougher challenge than anticipated. The story, rich with ancient mythology and Japanese forest legend, has drawn praise from Studio Ghibli animation filmmaker, Hayao Miyazaki.

MY LITTLE SWEET PEA



Title My Little Sweet Pea
Cast Maki Horikita, Kimiko Yo, Ryuhei Matsuda, Yumi Asou
Director Keisuke Yoshida
Running time 95 min
Release date 2013
Genre Human Drama
PG: PG

S Y N O P S I S

With family, it is never too late to forgive.

After their father's death, Mugiko and her brother have only each other left

to depend on. One day, their estranged mother unexpectedly reappears in their lives, but emotions run high and reconciliation is always just out of reach. When their mother passes away just as suddenly as she appeared, Mugiko begrudgingly travels to her mother's hometown with the weight of bitter memories and an urn in her arms to bury her mother's ashes. There, Mugiko finds herself revisiting what she knows about her mother and starts to discover the life and dreams of the parent she hardly knew.



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