

BFI Southbank Anime Weekend 2018



Plus anime screenings as part of year-long BFI Animation 2018 programme

Friday 23 March 2018, London.

The BFI today announces the line-up for the **BFI ANIME WEEKEND 2018**, taking place at **BFI Southbank** from **Friday 18 – Sunday 20 May**. The **ANIME WEEKEND**, which takes place at BFI Southbank every two years, showcases the best in recent anime to UK audiences, and this year includes screenings of the smash hit *Your Name* (Makoto Shinkai, 2016), new films in fan favourite franchises *Eureka Seven: Hi-Evolution Movie 1* (Hisatoshi Shimizu, 2017) and *Cardcaptor Sakura Movie 2: The Sealed Card* (Morio Asaka, 2000/2018) and much more. The BFI's year-long season **ANIMATION 2018** also continues in May with screenings of classic Japanese anime films, from the very first anime feature, *Momotaro's Divine Sea Warriors* (Mitsuyo Seo, 1944) which was thought lost for decades, to perhaps the most well-known anime of all time, *Akira* (Katsuhiro Otomo, 1988), which celebrates its 30th anniversary this year.

BFI Southbank's biennial **ANIME WEEKEND** returns from **Friday 18 – Sunday 20 May** with screenings of recent anime features. *Code Geass: Lelouch of the Rebellion I – Initiation* (Goro Taniguchi, 2017) is set in a world dominated by the Holy Empire of Britannia, where most of the globe has been conquered and forced into submission by a behemoth superpower. Japan, now renamed Area 11, harbours pockets of seemingly futile resistance. Enter an exiled Britannian prince with a deep hatred for the empire, who begins working as the faceless leader of Area 11's resistance. Fan favourite *Eureka Seven*, which originated as an anime series and inspired manga adaptations, video games and more, returns with a feature length anime for a new generation – *Eureka Seven: Hi-Evolution Movie 1* (Hisatoshi Shimizu, 2017) is the first in a new trilogy of films that focuses on the 'First Summer of Love' phenomenon which occurred a decade before the original *Eureka Seven* series. Another beloved TV anime comes to the big screen in *Cardcaptor Sakura Movie 2: The Sealed Card* (Morio Asaka, 2000/2018) – during the summer holidays Sakura and her class prepare a play for an annual festival, but a new evil force is causing mysterious events all over her town, and Sakura must figure out the cause.

The weekend will offer another chance to see the critical and commercial hit **Your Name** (Makoto Shinkai, 2016), one of the most successful Japanese films of all time, which tells the story of two teenagers whose lives are changed forever when the first visible comet for a thousand years approaches Japan. **Maquia: When the Promised Flower Blooms** (Mari Okada, Toshiya Shinohara, 2018) is about a girl from a clan who stop aging in their mid-teens; her life is destined to change forever when an army invades, searching for the clan's secret to immortality. Also screening is **Lu Over the Wall** (Masaaki Yuasa, 2017), an off-beat and uplifting tale featuring Lu, a fun psychedelic mermaid, who loves music but is vulnerable to sunlight. **In this Corner of the World** (Sunao Katabuchi, 2016) is a sobering and positively moving anime depicting the effects of war on everyday communities; in 1944, young Suzu marries a military official and moves to Kure, the site of a major naval base. As she adjusts to her new life, Suzu, like her neighbours, must deal with rationing and air raids, and try to make the best of things.

The BFI's ongoing **ANIMATION 2018** also series continues in May with a focus on anime. Although all copies were ordered to be destroyed by occupying forces, a copy of the WWII propaganda film **Momotaro's Divine Sea Warriors** (Mitsuyo Seo, 1944) survived, and after being unseen for many decades has been restored. Considered to be the first anime feature film ever made, director Mitsuyo Seo drew inspiration from Disney's *Fantasia* to tell the story of a young monkey, bear, puppy and pheasant who rise through the ranks of the animal navy to save Asia from Western colonisation. Unseen for many years until its recent restoration, **Belladonna of Sadness** (Eiichi Yamamoto, 1973) is an explicit revenge drama based on Jules Michelet's book *Satanism and Witchcraft*. A feudal lord in the middle-ages commits a terrible crime against a couple of newlyweds in a harrowing, sexually violent story. Although the film is troubling, it remains a true anime classic, combining vivid watercolours with western artistic influences such as Gustav Klimt.

Katsuhiro Otomo's seminal anime **Akira** (1988) – a striking, hyperkinetic adaptation of his own manga – almost single-handedly introduced the genre to audiences outside of Japan. In 2019, in a dazzling Neo-Tokyo, cyber-punk bikers cruise the Blade Runner-esque streets and do battle with military scientists and a telekinetic child. Impeccably detailed with fluid, jaw-dropping action, *Akira* remains a stunning cinematic achievement; the film will be screened on the biggest screen in the UK at the **BFI IMAX**, as well as at BFI Southbank. Also screening is the last film from *Perfect Blue* director Satoshi Kon (who died four years after its release); **Paprika** (2006) is visually stunning and makes us only dream what anime's equivalent of David Lynch might have gone on to make next. The family programme this month also includes **Studio Ghibli** favourites **Spirited Away** (Hayao Miyazaki, Kirk Wise, 2001), **Princess Mononoke** (Hayao Miyazaki, 1997) and **My Neighbour Totoro** (Hayao Miyazaki, 1988), providing audiences of all ages with an anime treat.

– ENDS –

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ANIME WEEKEND LISTINGS:

Code Geass: Lelouch of the Rebellion I – Initiation Kôdo giasu: Hangyaku no rurûshu

Japan 2017. Dir Goro Taniguchi. With the voices of Johnny Yong Bosch, Yuri Lowenthal, Jun Fukuyama. 135min. EST. 12A

In a world dominated by the Holy Empire of Britannia, most of the globe has been conquered and forced into submission by this behemoth of a superpower. Japan, now renamed Area 11, harbours pockets of seemingly futile resistance. Enter Lelouch Lamperouge; an exiled Britannian prince with a deep hatred for the empire, who begins working as the faceless leader of Area 11's resistance.

FRI 18 MAY 18:15 NFT3

Eureka Seven: Hi-Evolution Movie 1 Kôkyô shihen Eureka sebum Hai-eboryûshon 1

Japan 2017. Dirs Hisatoshi Shimizu, Tomoki Kyôda. With the voices of Yûko Sanpei, Kaori Nazuka, Kôji Tsujitani. 93min. EST

Fan favourite *Eureka Seven* returns for a new generation. Ten years ago, the 'First Summer of Love' occurred. Renton, who lost his father during the event, now attends an army school but feels something is lacking in his life. One day Nirvash, the world's oldest LFO, appears in front of him and a girl named Eureka emerges from the cockpit. Was this encounter a coincidence or was it fate?

FRI 18 MAY 20:50 NFT1

Your Name Kimi no na wa

Japan 2016. Dir Makoto Shinkai. With the voices of Ryûnosuke Kamiki, Mone Kamishiraishi, Ryô Narita. 106min. EST. 12A

A couple of teenagers are changed forever when the first visible comet for a thousand years approaches Japan. With his part body-swap comedy, part highly charged sci-fi, Shinkai proves himself to be a master of precise, observed animation, and as a writer he delivers an emotional story that keeps the viewer enthralled as it moves towards a thrilling conclusion.

TUE 15 MAY 20:50 IMAX / SAT 19 MAY 17:20 NFT1

Maquia: When the Promised Flower Blooms Sayonara no asa ni yakusoku no hana o kazarô

Japan 2018. Dirs Mari Okada, Toshiya Shinohara. With the voices of Manaka Iwami, Miyu Irino, Yûki Kaji. 115min. Digital. EST. Cert tbc

Maquia is from a clan who stop aging in their mid-teens. She has no parents and, although her days are peaceful, she feels lonely. Her life is destined to change forever when an army invades, searching for the clan's secret to immortality. After escaping, Maquia finds a boy who's been abandoned and vows to raise him – but how will their future pan out as he ages and she doesn't?

SAT 19 MAY 20:30 NFT2

Lu Over the Wall Yoake tsugeru Rû no uta

Japan 2017. Dir Masaaki Yuasa. With the voices of Kanon Tani, Shôta Shimoda, Shin'ichi Shinohara. 112min. Digital. EST. PG

Kai lives in a small fishing town. When confronted by bullies, he's helped by Lu, a fun, psychedelic mermaid who loves music but is vulnerable to sunlight. When the town is threatened, Kai, his friends and the mer-folk must work together if both communities are to survive. This funky, upbeat tale features cute mer-dogs, musical mermaids and a giant humanoid shark.

SUN 20 MAY 12:45 NFT3

In this Corner of the World Kono sekai no katasumi ni

Japan 2016. Dir Sunao Katabuchi. With the voices of Non, Kira Buckland, Christine Marie Cabanos. 130min. Digital. EST. 12A (suitable for ages 10+)

In 1944, young Suzu marries a military official and moves to Kure, the site of a major naval base. As she adjusts to her new life, Suzu, like her neighbours, must deal with rationing and air raids, and try to make the best of things. This sobering and positively moving anime depicts the effects of war on everyday communities.

SUN 20 MAY 15:15 NFT3

Cardcaptor Sakura Movie 2: The Sealed Card Kâdokaputâ Sakura: Fûin sareta kâdo

Japan 2000/2018. Dir Morio Asaka. With Sakura Tange, Motoko Kumai, Aya Hisakawa. 80min. Digital. EST

The finale to the beloved *Cardcaptor Sakura* TV anime comes to the big screen. During the summer holidays Sakura and her class

prepare a play for an annual festival, and some unexpected arrivals give her the courage to finally reciprocate her feelings. But as the cards begin to disappear one by one, Sakura discovers that a single card still remains – a card with power equal to all of hers, as the final battle approaches...

SUN 20 MAY 18:10 NFT3

ANIMATION 2018 LISTINGS:

Momotaro's Divine Sea Warriors Momotarô: Umi no shinpei

Japan 1944. Dir Mitsuyo Seo. 74min. Digital. EST. PG

Although all copies were ordered to be destroyed by occupying forces, a copy of this WWII propaganda film survived, and after being unseen for many decades was restored. For the first anime feature film ever made, Seo drew inspiration from Disney's *Fantasia* to tell the story of a young monkey, bear, puppy and pheasant who rise through the ranks of the animal navy to save Asia from Western colonisation.

SUN 6 MAY 15:20 NFT3

Belladonna of Sadness Kanashimi no Beradonna

Japan 1973. Dir Eiichi Yamamoto. With the voices of Tatsuya Nakadai, Katsuyuki Itô, Aiko Nagayama. 87min. Digital. EST. 18

Unseen for many years until its recent restoration, *Belladonna of Sadness* is an explicit revenge drama based on Jules Michelet's book *Satanism and Witchcraft*. A feudal lord in the middle-ages commits a terrible crime against a couple of newlyweds in a harrowing, sexually violent story. Although the film is troubling, it remains a true anime classic, combining vivid watercolours with western artistic influences such as Gustav Klimt.

TUE 8 MAY 18:20 NFT3

30th anniversary screening: Akira

Japan 1988. Dir Katsuhiro Otomo. With the voices of Mitsuo Iwata, Nozomu Sasaki, Mami Koyama. 125min. Digital. EST. 15

Katsuhiro Otomo's seminal anime – a striking, hyperkinetic adaptation of his own manga – almost singlehandedly introduced the genre to audiences outside of Japan. In 2019, in a dazzling Neo-Tokyo, cyber-punk bikers cruise the *Blade Runner*-esque streets and do battle with military scientists and a telekinetic child. Impeccably detailed with fluid, jaw-dropping action, *Akira* remains a stunning cinematic achievement.

WED 9 MAY 20:30 NFT1 / TUE 15 MAY 18:15 IMAX

Paprika Papurika

Japan 2006. Dir Satoshi Kon. With the voices of Megumi Hayashibara, Tôru Emori, Katsunosuke Hori. 87min. Digital. EST. 15

A device intended as a tool to allow therapists to enter their patient's dreams, soon finds itself in the hands of 'sleep terrorists,' opening up a nightmarish world where minds are invaded and wills changed (not unlike Nolan's *Inception* several years later). The last film from Satoshi Kon (who died four years after its release), *Paprika* is visually stunning and makes us only dream what anime's equivalent of David Lynch might have gone on to make next.

SUN 20 MAY 20:30 NFT2

My Neighbour Totoro Tonari No Totoro

Japan 1988. Dir Hayao Miyazaki. With the voices of Hitoshi Takagi, Noriko Hidaka, Chika Sakamoto. 87min. Digital. EST, with reading of subtitles via headphones. U (adv 6+)

Satsuki and Mei move to a new home in the country after their mother falls ill. It's soon clear that the building isn't empty – there are house spirits inside, and wood spirits and other creatures outside. The girls are soon whisked away on a magical adventure where they board a catbus and make many new friends. *My Neighbour Totoro* introduced the world to the iconic character Totoro, now the logo of Studio Ghibli itself.

SUN 6 MAY 12:45 NFT2

Princess Mononoke Mononoke-Hime

Japan 1997. Dir Hayao Miyazaki. With the voices of Yôji Matsuda, Yuriko Ishida, Yûko Tanaka. 113min. Digital. EST. PG (adv 8+)

After being cursed by a demon, young warrior Ashitaka begins a journey to search for a cure and meets a spirit princess named San. He soon finds himself in the middle of an ongoing war between animal gods and humans, which seems destined to leave neither side unscarred. This epic tale bridges history and fantasy and put Studio Ghibli firmly on the international map.

SAT 12 MAY 12:30 NFT2

Spirited Away Sen to Chihiro no kamikakushi

Japan 2001. Dirs Hayao Miyazaki, Kirk Wise. With the voices of Daveigh Chase, Suzanne Pleshette, Miyu Irino. 124min. Digital. EST. PG (adv 8+)

When 10-year-old Chihiro and her parents unwittingly stumble upon a magical place, a sanctuary for the weary inhabitants of the spirit world, her parents are turned into pigs. Chihiro begins a surreal journey to restore them and make it home, finding help in the form of a dragon, a mouse and a masked spirit. With a nod to *Alice in Wonderland*, this is Miyazaki's masterpiece and a true animated classic.

SAT 19 MAY 15:00 NFT2 / SAT 26 MAY 12:30 NFT3

About the BFI

The BFI is the lead body for film in the UK with the ambition to create a flourishing film environment in which innovation, opportunity and creativity can thrive by:

- Connecting audiences to the widest choice of British and World cinema
- Preserving and restoring the most significant film collection in the world for today and future generations
- Championing emerging and world class film makers in the UK - investing in creative, distinctive and entertaining work
- Promoting British film and talent to the world
- Growing the next generation of film makers and audiences

The BFI is a Government arm's-length body and distributor of Lottery funds for film. The BFI serves a public role which covers the cultural, creative and economic aspects of film in the UK. It delivers this role:

- As the UK-wide organisation for film, a charity core funded by Government
- By providing Lottery and Government funds for film across the UK
- By working with partners to advance the position of film in the UK.

Founded in 1933, the BFI is a registered charity governed by Royal Charter.

The BFI Board of Governors is chaired by Josh Berger CBE.

The BFI Southbank is open to all. BFI members are entitled to a discount on all tickets. BFI Southbank Box Office tel: 020 7928 3232. Unless otherwise stated tickets are £12.10, concs £9.70 including Gift Aid donation. Members pay £2.00 less on any ticket - www.bfi.org.uk/southbank.

Young people aged 25 and under can buy last minute tickets for just £3, 45 minutes before the start of screenings and events, subject to availability - <http://www.bfi.org.uk/25-and-under>.

Tickets for FREE screenings and events must be booked in advance by calling the Box Office to avoid disappointment

BFI Shop

The BFI Shop is stocked and staffed by BFI experts with over 1,200 book titles and 1,000 DVDs to choose from, including hundreds of acclaimed books and DVDs produced by the BFI.

BFI Reuben Library

BFI Southbank is home to the BFI Reuben Library which holds the world's largest collection of books, journals and digitised material about film, television and the moving image. The library is free to access and hosts a year-round programme of talks and events.

'Not just for movie nerds - this huge collection of film and TV books, periodicals, scripts, stills and posters is full of inspiration for anyone involved in the creative arts' – Evening Standard Magazine

The BFI Reuben Library is open 10:30-19:00, Tuesday-Saturday.

The benugo bar & kitchen

Eat, drink and be merry in panoramic daylight. benugo's décor is contemporary, brightly lit and playful with a lounge space, bar and dining area. The place to network, hang out, unpack a film, savour the best of Modern British or sip on a cocktail. There's more to discover about film and television through the BFI. Our world-renowned archival collections, cinemas, festivals, films, publications and learning resources are here to inspire you.

BFI Mediatheque

Free to access BFI Mediatheques offer users an opportunity to explore the digital collections drawn from the BFI National Archive and partner collections, at select UK-wide locations.

***** PICTURE DESK *****

A selection of images for journalistic use in promoting BFI Southbank screenings can be found at www.image.net under BFI / BFI Southbank / 2018 / May / Anime Weekend & Japanimation