

THE HARVARD FILM ARCHIVE PRESENTS



SELF-DESTRUCTION CINEMA. THE FILMS OF TETSUYA MARIKO February 21 – 24, 2020

Japanese filmmaker Tetsuya Mariko (b. 1981) has directed a series of arresting and subversive films centered on characters locked into cycles of extreme antisocial behavior. Whether loners who have long abandoned any desire to engage except by their absolute but anarchic rules, or lovers set out on stark revenge, Mariko's self-absorbed antiheroes inhabit an alternate zone that inverts quotidian reality by sparking cycles of dark violence in broad daylight and transforming banal domestic and everyday spaces into unexpected stages for bleak, brooding yet also darkly humorous theatrical performances. Mariko first gained fame for his Super-8 films made while a student at Tokyo's Hosei University and then at Image Forum, feverish and autobiographically inspired works that turned inward to channel dark self-reflective fantasies evoking his family history and even including his parents as vocal critics of their son's work, questioning his risky gambits in sharp and hilarious dialogue that clearly announces the unique intertwining of the playful and painful in Mariko's cinema. Mariko's second feature film, *Destruction Babies*, went even further by offering a violent sociopath as its strange icon, tearing through the streets of a provincial town and challenging anyone who stands in his path to a crazed fisticuff duel. A controversial cult hit in Japan, *Destruction Babies* continues to be hotly debated for its enigmatically ultra-violent hero, driven ever forward by reasons never made wholly clear. With his latest feature *Miyamoto*, Mariko turns for inspiration to a popular manga story to create a fable-like revenge tale of a hapless salary man pulled all-too-easily into a savage underworld. – HG



The Harvard Film Archive is pleased to welcome Tetsuya Mariko, now an artist-in-residence at Harvard's Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, for three evenings of screenings and conversations, together with producer Eisei Shu.

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21 AT 7PM

DESTRUCTION BABIES (DISUTORAKUSHON BEIBIZU)

With Director Tetsuya Mariko and Producer Eisei Shu
in Person

\$12 Special Event Tickets

Wildly popular in Japan, Mariko's breakthrough feature tells the story of a young man drawn mysteriously into a spiral of unrelenting violence, fearlessly engaging in an unceasing series of fights and brawls with anyone who stands, or even hesitates, in his way. A purposefully problematic film, *Destruction Babies* seems at one level to embrace the unreal ultra-violence of manga, video games and commercial cinema while also bending it into a kind of parodic self-criticism.

Directed by Tetsuya Mariko. With Yuya Yagira, Masaki Suda, Nana Komatsu

Japan 2016, DCP, color, 108 min.

Japanese with English subtitles

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22 AT 7PM

MIYAMOTO (MIYAMOTO KARA KIMI E)

Director Tetsuya Mariko in Conversation with
Alexander Zahlten and Eisei Shu

\$12 Special Event Tickets

Mariko's latest film is a spirited and violent adaptation of Hideki Arai's legendary 1990s manga chronicle of a frustrated stationery company salesman whose bad temper and sense of absolute justice lead him into an ever-escalating series of dark misadventures. Made first into a popular late-night television series, Arai's heroic loser is given fiercely cinematic dimensions in Mariko's long-awaited feature film.

Directed by Tetsuya Mariko. With Sosuke Ikematsu, Yu Aoi, Arata Iura

Japan 2019, DCP, color, 130 min.

Japanese with English subtitles

MONDAY FEBRUARY 24 AT 7PM

SHORT FILMS OF TETSUYA MARIKO

Tetsuya Mariko in Conversation with Alexander Zahlten and
Haden Guest

\$12 Special Event Tickets

Combining two of Mariko's celebrated Super-8 student films with a recent featurette, this program reveals the full range of the director's fascination with antiheroes and the margins of society. With his autobiographically inflected shorts, Mariko's *30 Pirates* and *The Far East Apartment*, the then-student filmmaker first revealed his penchant for uncomfortable intimacy and awkwardly confrontational situations, here embodied in the figure of a young filmmaker and dreamer inventing alternate worlds on his university campus and in his cramped apartment. In *Ninifuni*, Mariko tells the story of a small-town young man seized by the impulse to rob a pachinko parlor, leading to a desperate chase and strange encounter with the J-Pop idol band Momoiro Clover Z.

MARIKO'S 30 PIRATES (MARIKO SANJUUKI)

Directed by Tetsuya Mariko

Japan 2004, Super-8 transferred to digital, color, 28 min.

Japanese with English subtitles

THE FAR EAST APARTMENT (KYOKUTOU NO MANSHON)

Directed by Tetsuya Mariko

Japan 2003, Super-8 transferred to digital, color, 32 min.

Japanese with English subtitles

NINIFUNI

Directed by Tetsuya Mariko

Japan 2011, Super-8 transferred to digital, color, 42 min.

Japanese with English subtitles