

**VOICES From THE NEW YORKERS**

**JAPAN CUTS at Japan Society**

by Justin Tedaldi

The largest festival of contemporary Japanese cinema in North America, this year's JAPAN CUTS at Japan Society serves up 42 films from July 19-28, featuring more than 20 guest filmmakers and talent in person for daily post-screening Q&As.



"This 13th edition of JAPAN CUTS provides testament to the continued vitality of contemporary Japanese cinema with a wide array of films by emerging filmmakers who dare to take formal and thematic risks," says Kazu Watanabe, Japan Society Deputy Director of Film.

"They are paired with a roster of veteran directors who similarly began their career in the spirit of creative innovation, and who continue to expand their vision in new directions," he continues. "Together, they tackle stories about existential ennui, class conflict and social discrimination through a range of filmmaking practices that continually subvert expectations and expand our notion of what Japanese cinema is."

The Opening Film on July 19 is the U.S. premiere of "Dance with Me," an office comedy-road trip-musical directed by "Waterboys" helmer Shinobu Yaguchi, featuring a breakout performance by star Ayaka Miyoshi. The festival's Centerpiece Presentation on July 24 is the East Coast premiere of "Killing," a subversive samurai drama and meditation on the nature of violence by internationally renowned cult director Shinya Tsukamoto ("Tetsuo: The Iron Man"), who will be presented with the 2019 CUT ABOVE Award for Outstanding Achievement in Film prior to the screening. Tsukamoto will also introduce a special 35mm presentation of his 1998 black-and-white classic "Bullet Ballet" on July 25.

The Closing Film on July 28 is the North American premiere of director Yuko Hakota's remarkable debut feature "Blue Hour," a comedic drama

**THE JAPAN VOICE**

**COOL JAPAN from New Yorkers' Viewpoints**



Tsunaki Mihara



Manji Inoue's ceramic art



Toshimi Kajiki

**K.J.JAPANESE ARTIST SHOW**

**BLUE COMETS OLD BOY TSUNAKI MIHARA TO SING AT CARNEGIE HALL**

Hosted by the KJ International Artist Association, the KJ Japanese Artist Show will be held on Wednesday, July 24 at 7:30 PM at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall (881 7th Avenue, 57th Street).

The special guest will be Tsunaki Mihara, a former member of the legendary band Blue Comets. This band performed together with The Beatles when they first visited Japan, and also was the first-ever Japanese performing act on The Ed Sullivan Show. Mr. Mihara was also responsible for composing songs from the mid-to-late period of the Blue Comets' career, such as "Ame no Akasaka." After Blue Comets disbanded, Mihara formed the Tsunaki Mihara Band, and performed as a backup band for singer Hiromi Go. He is still active today,

holding live performances throughout Japan.

The MC will be singer Toshimi Kajiki. In addition, Manji Inoue's ceramic art, which was deemed an "important intangible cultural property" by the Japanese



government, will be presented alongside an exhibition of work by Carnegie Hall interior designers.

Roma Toniolo, a Paris Fashion Week model who became well-known for repurposing a kimono into a dress, will come from France to attend. Famous Japanese gospel singer active in the United States, TiA, will also perform.

Admission is free. For more information and to purchase tickets, call 609-325-0476 or e-mail kjfashow@gmail.com.

(Written by Ryoichi Miura / Translated by Yudai Kaneda)

about rural homecoming and reinvention starring festival guests Kaho and Eun-kyung Shim.

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [www.japansociety.org/JAPANCUTS](http://www.japansociety.org/JAPANCUTS). (Justin Tedaldi has written about Japanese arts and entertainment since 2005. For more of his stories, visit <http://jetaany.org/magazine/>.)



TiA

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- Haiku in English may consider the following as a model:

Across the still lake  
through upcurls of morning mist  
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- O. Mabson Southard

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