

CALL FOR PAPERS



The Centre for Media, Culture and Creative Practice
Birkbeck College, University of London
Presents:



Symposium

The Art Theatre Guild of Japan: Spaces for Intercultural and Intermedial Cinema

30th & 31st July 2011

Gordon Square Cinema, Birkbeck College, University of London

Keynote Speaker

Roland Domenig (University of Vienna)

Confirmed Plenary Speaker: Hirasawa Go (Meiji Gakuin University)

More details will be announced at:

<http://www.bbk.ac.uk/creative/news-events/atg>

With the generous support of:



In collaboration with:



Mixed Cinema Network



Close-Up Film Centre



BFI

In Conjunction with:

The Art Theatre Guild of Japan Season
(AUGUST: BFI Southbank)

Theatre Scorpio Retrospective: Japanese Independent and Underground Cinema of
the 1960s and 1970s
(JULY: Close-Up Film Society at Bethnal Green Working Men's Club)

Symposium Convenors:
Oliver Dew (Birkbeck College, University of London)
Julian Ross (Mixed Cinema Network, University of Leeds)



Post-symposium Screening – U.K. Premier: *Crazy Love* (Okabe Michio, 1969)

To celebrate the arrival in London of the Art Theatre Guild of Japan (ATG) season at the BFI Southbank and the Theatre Scorpio retrospective programme at the Close-Up Film Centre in July and August 2011, this international symposium will explore the many faces of Japanese independent arts in the 1960s and 1970s.

Partly inspired by the BFI, ATG was inaugurated in 1961 to distribute and exhibit international new-wave films across Japan, generating an engagement with global film culture. In 1967 the organization began to assist in the production of local independent filmmakers' projects, co-producing some of the most critically acclaimed works of the key directors of the era, including Oshima Nagisa, Susumu Hani, Yoshida Kiju, Terayama Shuji and Wakamatsu Koji, amongst many others. Furthermore, ATG, and in particular its centrepiece cinema Art Theatre Shinjuku Bunka and its underground space Sasori-za (Theatre Scorpio), instigated a dialogue between cinema and the other arts that reached previously unattained levels. ATG continued to co-produce key works in Japanese cinema for decades afterwards.

The symposium aims to contribute to the recent resurgence of critical and public interest in 1960s avant-garde culture across the globe, and place ATG's phenomenal creative output in an international context. We would like to focus in particular on how cultural spaces, such as the Art Theatre Shinjuku Bunka, were key in yielding an atmosphere where a network of heterogeneous artistic voices could interact and collaborate, develop a relationship with their audience, and experience their art within an international forum. Although the focus will remain on the circuit of ATG activities, the symposium aims to branch out further to explore alternative venues and fields of activity that were equally significant within the cultural climate.

Although all proposals will be considered, we particularly welcome papers that explore the following themes:

- Japanese Cinema of the 1960s/70s in an **international** context
- Japanese Cinema of the 1960s/70s and its relationship with **other arts**
- The meaning of **independence** in 1960s/70s Japanese culture industries
- Japanese **experimental** cinema and **avant-garde** arts of the 1960s/70s
- The impact of ATG and other comparable **cultural spaces** on 1960s/70s Japan
- Examples of cross-medial **collaborations**
- **Audiences** of 1960s/70s Japanese arts and **reception** of such works in Japan and elsewhere
- **Comparative** studies of **cultural venues**
- **Comparative** studies of new wave films in **world cinema**
- Studies of key **directors** and **collaborators** (cinematographers, actors, art directors, etc.) of 1960s/1970s Japanese cinema.
- The **resonance** of Japanese 1960s culture in the world today

We welcome proposals from researchers at any stage of their project, and we will accept proposals from those within and beyond the academic field of film studies. Please send a 400-word abstract and 200-word (max) biography to atg.symposium@gmail.com.

Please note that selected papers will be considered for publication in a special issue of *Vertigo Magazine* dedicated to Theatre Scorpio.

For more information on *Vertigo Magazine*, published by Close-Up Film Centre, please visit: www.vertigomagazine.co.uk or www.closeupfilmcentre.com/

The logo for Vertigo Magazine, featuring the word "vertigo" in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters are white and set against a solid black rectangular background.

The deadline for application is 25th May 2011.

Successful candidates will be approached by 31st May 2011. To register a seat for the symposium or for any further questions, please contact the e-mail address above.