

The 10th East Asian Conference on Slavic Eurasian Studies

Pre-conference Welcome Event

Exclusively for our conference participants

An Evening of Film Screening and Discussion with Director Masaki Inoue

The Prisoner of Sakura (2019)

『ソローキンの見た桜』 *В плену у сакуры*

Directed, edited, and screenplay by Masaki Inoue (井上雅貴)

19:00-21:20, Friday, June 28, 2019

Auditorium 1, Faculty of Law and Letters Building 2

University of Tokyo (Hongo Campus)



English subtitles. Running time: 1 h 51 min. The screening will be followed by a discussion and Q&A featuring the director Masaki Inoue and the producer Irina Inoue.

Starring:

Junko Abe (Yui / Sakurako), Rodion Galyuchenko (Alexander Sorokin)
Alexander Domogarov, Issei Ogata, Yoko Yamamoto, Naomasa Musaka

Production Company: Heisei Project INOUE VISUAL DESIGN

Distributed by KADOKAWA

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This event is presented by

The Organizing Committee for the 10th East Asian Conference on Slavic Eurasian
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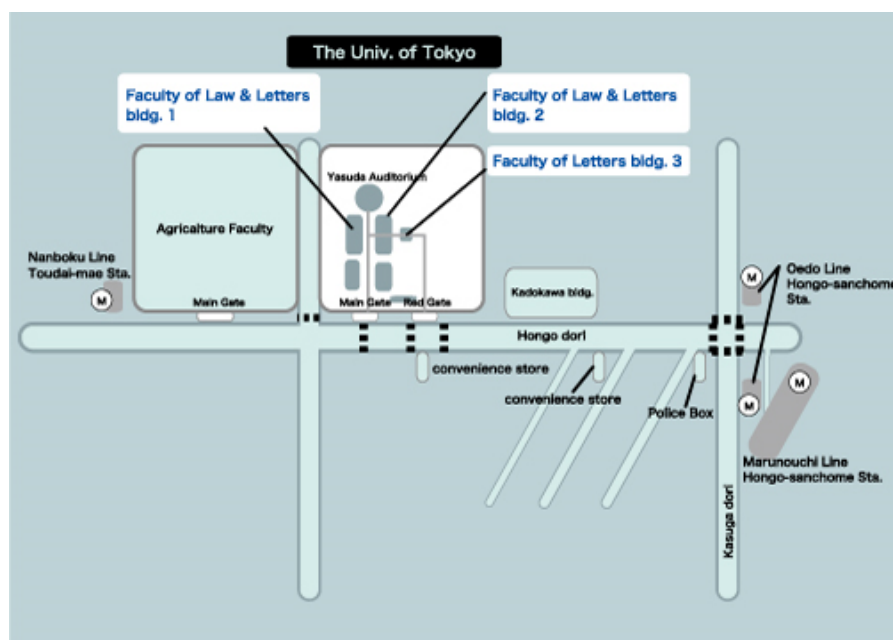
Story and Historical Background

The film is a love story set in the city of Matsuyama in Ehime Prefecture on the Japanese island of Shikoku against the historical backdrop of the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905). The movie is centered around the romance between Russian officer Sorokin (Rodion Galyuchenko) and Japanese nurse Yui (Junko Abe) who find themselves on opposing sides of the war. Sorokin meets Yui as a POW at a camp in Matsuyama City. The Russo-Japanese War came at a time when Japan was trying to turn itself into a “modern” nation, and during the war, Japan made efforts to treat Russian POWs humanely. Nearly 70,000 Russian POWs were reportedly brought to Japan during this time and placed in close to 30 camps across Japan.

The city of Matsuyama, where Yui and Sorokin’s story takes place, is actually where the first of such Russian POW camps was established in Japan, and while the love story is fiction, it is indeed historically true that the prisoners there were treated relatively well. The Russian prisoners received decent food and were allowed a good amount of freedom including taking baths in hot springs or buying alcohol at local stores. As a result, there was significant interaction between the Russian prisoners and the local population of Matsuyama.

The story is told as a piece of history uncovered by one of Yui’s modern-day descendants, a young TV director named Sakurako (also played by Junko Abe).

Access to the Venue



Nearest subway stations: Hongo-sanchoe (Marunouchi Line and Oedo Line),
Toudai-mae (Nanboku Line), Nezu (Chiyoda Line)