



A MINI-SEASON OF FILMS
BY JAPANESE DIRECTOR

SHOHEI

IMAMURA

PIGS AND BATTLESHIPS

THE INSECT WOMAN

VENGEANCE IS MINE

THE BALLAD OF NARAYAMA

THE EEL

10 January to 7 February 2016

Sundays at 7.00pm (5 week mini-season)

Edinburgh Film Guild Cinema, The Filmhouse, 88 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH3 9BZ

<http://edinburghfilmguild.org.uk>





Shohei Imamura
(1926-2006)

Shohei Imamura is widely recognised as one of the most important directors to emerge from the Japanese New Wave of the 1960s. He is the only Japanese director to win two Palme d'Or awards.

Imamura's work is typically ribald, bawdy, and earthy, revealing and revelling in the underpinnings of Japanese society.

"I am interested in the relationship of the lower part of the human body and the lower part of the social structure on which the reality of daily Japanese life supports itself."
— Shohei Imamura



Pigs and Battleships

Sunday, 10 January at 7.00pm

Japan 1961 / 108 minutes / English subtitles

Imamura answered his true calling as Japanese cinema's most dedicated and brilliant chronicler of society's underbelly with this astonishing film. A riotous portrait of sub-Yakuza gangsters battling for control of the local pork business in a U.S. Navy-occupied coastal town, Imamura conjures a chaotic world of petty thugs, young love, tough-headed women, and underworld hypochondria.



The Insect Woman

Sunday, 17 January at 7.00pm

Japan 1963 / 123 minutes / English subtitles

A portrait of opportunism and resilience in three generations of women. *The Insect Woman* is Imamura's most expansive film, and Tomé, who survives decades of Japanese social upheaval, as well as abuse and servitude at the hands of various men, his ultimate heroine. Arguably Imamura's most radical and emphatic testament to female resilience.

Winner: Best Actress Award (Sachiko Hidari) at the 1964 Berlin Film Festival.



Vengeance is Mine

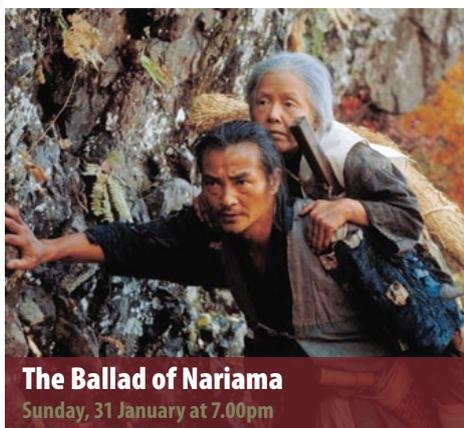
Sunday, 24 January at 7.00pm

Japan 1979 / 140 minutes / English subtitles

This startlingly violent film recounts, in a simple dispassionate style, the true story of Iwao Enokizu, self-styled "King of the Criminals." Unfolding through multiple flashbacks, Ken Ogata delivers a career-defining performance as a con-artist turned rapist and murderer.

Winner: Japanese Academy Prize for Best Film, 1979.

Imamura's film...*"has no wish to make sense of a 'senseless crime,' it only wants to make 'senselessness' palpable. And that it does — to devastating effect."* (D. Ehrenstein, Criterion)



The Ballad of Nariama

Sunday, 31 January at 7.00pm

Japan 1983 / 130 minutes / English subtitles

A brutal and haunting meditation on the nature of life, sex and death. With typical directness and black humour, Imamura presents a bracingly unsentimental rumination on mortality and an engrossing study of a community's struggles against the natural elements. Handled with a masterful control and simplicity, moving effortlessly between the comic and the horrific, *The Ballad of Narayama* is one of Imamura's deepest, richest works.

Winner of the Grand Prix at the 1983 Cannes Film Festival.



The Eel

Sunday, 7 February at 7.00pm

Japan 1997 / 116 minutes / English subtitles

After an eight-year prison sentence for murder, Takuro chooses to start a new life as a barber in a small town, which offers perfect isolation from his fears. As a favour to the town priest he agrees to help a young woman with a troubled past by offering her job as his assistant. However, when he least expects it, her past will collide with his. A tonally-shifting exploration of self-forgiveness and self-acceptance that is deeply lyrical, imaginative, funny and emotionally resonant.

Winner of the Grand Prix at the 1997 Cannes Film Festival.