

The Graduate Film Working Group Presents

Film Screening:

Happy Hour

Ryûsuke Hamaguchi, 2015 (317 Minutes)

In Japanese with English subtitles – Free and Open to the Public



Ryûsuke Hamaguchi

Director and Filmmaker

In Attendance via Skype

Ryûsuke Hamaguchi's "Happy Hour" (2015) is a seemingly picturesque melodrama about four women living in Kobe who quietly drift apart. A noir despair, however, cracks through its bright surface - the film seems darkened by the shadow of the 3/11 Earthquake. Hamaguchi, a filmmaker and documentarian invested in exploring "a sense of dread as everyday life continues," has created a uniquely engaging 317-minute epic. It heralds a unique cinema of quiet apocalypse, one in which his heroes loom on the edge of an oblivion that is always coming. Or, has it already arrived?

"Happy Hour" has been praised as an arrival of a major film visionary. Unprecedentedly, all four of its main actors were awarded acting prizes at the Locarno International Film Festival in 2015 and it was recently screened at MOMA.

The filmmaker will join us for a Skype Q+A.

Sunday, May 14, 2017

12:30 p.m.

142 Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley

Sponsored by the Department of Film & Media and the Townsend Center for the Humanities