

[Film Director & Comedian Atsushi Ogata: Clips, talk and Q&A from new award-winning Sketch Comedy Web Series "Yukata Cowboy"](#)

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Type:

Lecture

Date:

February 24, 2016

Location:

Japan

Subject Fields:

Cultural History / Studies, Film and Film History, Journalism and Media Studies, Popular Culture Studies, Social History / Studies

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2016

Time: 7:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. (doors open at 7:00 p.m.)

Venue: Temple University Japan Campus, Mita Hall 5F
(access: <http://www.tuj.ac.jp/maps/tokyo.html>)

Speaker: Atsushi Ogata, Film Director/Comedian

Moderator: Robert Dujarric, Director of ICAS

Admission: Free. Open to public

Language: English

RSVP: icas@tuj.temple.edu

(required) * We ask you to RSVP for this event as space might be limited. If you RSVP you are automatically registered.

Outline

Film director & comedian Atsushi Ogata will present a 16 minute compilation of his new web series "**Yukata Cowboy**" (in English with Japanese subtitles), a cross-cultural sketch comedy web series about the Most Mistaken Man in the World. The series has taken top awards at the web festivals in Dublin, Bilbao, Miami and Sicily, ranking #12 in the 2015 *Web Series World Cup* and has been praised by the French paper *Liberation/Web Series Mag*.

Ogata will discuss content and motivations; reveal his filmmaking process and answer questions from the audience - all with plenty of wit and humor.

With a cowboy hat, a lasso, Japanese "yukata" (casual summer garment) and rapid-fire tongue, *Yukata Cowboy* drifts across the U.S., Japan, and Europe. In each country, he tries to fit in, but the more he fits in, the more he is mistaken for someone else. Inspired by the true, fish-out-of-

water mishaps from his own life, Ogata plays all of the characters, portraying people's lives in other countries, focusing on common, everyday details such as stairs, elevator or bicycles. These observations translate into something more universal, similar to Jerry Seinfeld's stories about lost socks and dryers.

Original *Yukata Cowboy* T-shirts will be available for purchase (<http://yukatacowboy.com/> and <https://www.youtube.com/c/yukatacowboy>). There will also be opportunities to take pictures with Yukata Cowboy himself.

Speaker

Born in Japan and raised partly in the U.S., Ogata graduated from Harvard and MIT. His screenplays received funding in Germany and the Netherlands, and he appeared weekly as a comedian on VARA Dutch national TV for 3 years. As a writer-director, his earlier short was Japan's only entry for the prestigious New Directors/New Films Festival 2007 in New York at the MoMA and the Lincoln Center; his debut feature "*Cast Me If You Can*" was released theatrically in 16 cities in Japan and San Francisco and published as a novel. He has also guest-lectured at universities and at YouTube Space Tokyo. "*Trick or Treat: I LOVE America!*", his previous web series, realized in collaboration with one of Japan's most popular YouTuber MEGWIN TV, won 2 prizes at Rome Web Awards 2015 and was screened in Korea, Berlin, Sicily, Miami, Rio and Dublin.

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