

Hamburg, April 21st, 2017

JFFH – Japan-Filmfest Hamburg

31st May – 4th June 2017

[www.jffh.de](http://www.jffh.de)



## Director Michihito Fujii presents the opening movie of the 18th Japan-Filmfest Hamburg

- Director Michihito Fujii visits Hamburg
- World premiere of **INNOCENT BLOOD** opens the festival at Metropolis Kino
- International premieres of **7TH** and **WHERE IS THE BETTER FUTURE**

*HAMBURG | Waiting finally comes to an end. From the **31st May** to the **4th June** the **18th Japan-Filmfest Hamburg** and its partner cinemas **Metropolis Kino**, **3001-Kino** and **Studio Kino** will show some of the latest Japanese film productions. The festival opens on Wednesday, May 31st with the world premiere of **INNOCENT BLOOD** at **8 pm** in the **Metropolis Kino**.*

### Director Michihito Fujii presents the world premiere of **INNOCENT BLOOD**

Connoisseurs of far eastern cinema know **Michihito Fujii**, born 1986 as one of the great directors of his generation. He made his first directing experiences making advertisements, music videos and as the assistant director of Yu Irie (8000 MILES: SAITAMA NO RAPPĀ, JOKER GAME, HIBI ROCK). Fujii made his directing debut with **WHERE IS THE BETTER FUTURE** in 2012. Nowadays he's working as a freelancer director and script writer in Kagurazaka.

**Interview** with director **Michihito Fujii** (english subtitles): <https://youtu.be/-ORyUcjM9Jw>

Over the last few years he's been pumping out movie after movie and has become a regular at movie festivals worldwide. Some of his most successful ones are **7TH** (2015), **TOKYO CITY GIRL** (2015), **GENSHI** (2014) and **OH! FATHER** (2014). His recent Netflix series **MILLION YEN WOMEN** (2017) caught a lot of attention. With **INNOCENT BLOOD** Fujii created a multi layered drama about people whose everyday life got thrown into confusion by a stroke of fate. The innocence of a peaceful life breaks in a single moment. Riko Uchikoshi shows great talent in her first lead role. Director Michihito Fujii will personally present the world premiere of **INNOCENT BLOOD** on **MAY 31st** at **8 pm** in the **Metropolis Kino** (Kleine

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Theaterstraße 10, 20354 Hamburg).

## Story of the opening movie of the 18th JFFH: INNOCENT BLOOD

Innocence is a fragile thing: A bitter realisation which throws three people out of their everyday life. Hikari (Riko Uchikoshi) is a bright, happy teenager with a strong sense for justice. After she has realised that a classmate gets bullied, she decides to help her by befriending the shy outsider. Suddenly the tragedy happens – Hikari gets brutally raped in broad daylight. Her bright world sinks into darkness. Broken inside the only thing that keeps her going is the idea of revenge. Salary man Yo on the other hand finally dared to propose to his girlfriend. By chance they encounter a psychopath who indiscriminately attacks people with a knife. Blood stained Yos fiancée collapses in his arms. And then there's the fatal car accident of Kota, a young entrant, which completely shocks his sister Yuka. Three incidents which will have long-lasting impact on the fate of the affected people.

**Actors:** Riko Uchikoshi, Yuki Sera, Natsuko Kobayashi, Mika Dehara

**Director and script writer:** Michihito Fujii

**Running time:** 113 minutes

**Production:** BABEL LABEL

### Information for the opening movie of the 18th JFFH: INNOCENT BLOOD on the Internet:

<https://vimeo.com/183620426> (Official trailer INNOCENT BLOOD with English subtitles)

<https://youtu.be/7MFj3Bxm7aQ> (Official trailer INNOCENT BLOOD)

<http://hikaritochi-movie.com/> (Official website INNOCENT BLOOD)

## International premieres of 7TH and WHERE IS THE BETTER FUTURE

In addition to the opening movie the JFFH will also show the international premieres of **7TH** (2015), a tragic comedy about the shooting of a wannabee blockbuster and **WHERE IS THE BETTER FUTURE** (2012), the directing debut of Michihito Fujii in which two film students explore Tokyo's criminal underground to film a Yakuza documentary. The director is excited to see the reaction of the audience and will personally answer questions of the fans.

### Trailer for 7TH AND WHERE IS THE BETTER FUTURE on the Internet:

<https://youtu.be/YaorL6CtZgs> (Official Teaser-Trailer **7th**)

[https://youtu.be/Wv\\_Xu822weA](https://youtu.be/Wv_Xu822weA) (Official Trailer **7th**)

<https://youtu.be/uW8wuu8o2w8> (Official Trailer **WHERE IS THE BETTER FUTURE**)

[https://youtu.be/\\_8LeoMTqT5A](https://youtu.be/_8LeoMTqT5A) (Official Teaser-Trailer **WHERE IS THE BETTER FUTURE**)

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**Current information about the planned program of the 18th JFFH on the Internet:**

<http://www.facebook.com/japan.filmfest.hamburg> (Official JFFH-Facebook-page)

<http://www.jffh.de/presse-download/> (current photographic material)

<http://www.jffh.de> (Website)

<http://blog.jffh.de/> (Blog)

<http://j.mp/jffh-youtube/> (official YouTube-channel with trailers and impressions)

<https://www.flickr.com/jffh> (official Flickr-account with photos from last year)

Since 1998 the Japan-Filmfest Hamburg takes place in the end of May every year. In 2017, the festivals theme is "From hard to delicate – Japans cinema of lost innocence". The film festival is an event of the charitable organisation Nihon Media e. V. and gets mostly organised and handled by honorary members. The aim of the organisation is to contribute to the Japanese-German friendship and to give creative Japanese artists a stage in Germany. On inquiry, we'll gladly offer reporters additional information and photographic material. In case of a planned article we request a quick notification and disclosure of the targeted publication date. Accreditations for the 18th JFFH are possible if a current ID photo and the name of the represented medium is sent to us.

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