

NEW PEOPLE

VIZCINEMA

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MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DYSFUNCTIONAL SIBLING RIVALRY AND GOOFY SUMMER
CAMP ROMANCE ARE THE FOCUS OF TWO NEW FILMS –
FUNUKE AND *SORASOI* – SET TO PREMIERE AT
VIZ CINEMA**

*Two New Japanese Comedies Set To Screen This Month At NEW
PEOPLE's Movie Theatre Located In The Heart Of
San Francisco's Japantown; Noted Film Director Katsuhito Ishii To Make
Rare Personal Appearance*

San Francisco, CA, September 14, 2009 – NEW PEOPLE, a dynamic entertainment destination bringing the latest examples of Japanese popular culture to North American shores, has announced the premiere two new Japanese comedies set to screen at VIZ Cinema. The films include *FUNUKE: Show Some Love You Losers!*, playing 9/18 – 9/23, and *SORASOI*, which plays 9/25 – 10/1. Both films are presented in Japanese with English subtitles. *SORASOI* director Katsuhito Ishii is scheduled to make a rare personal appearance, along with several stars from the film, on Friday, September 25th.

Reviewed as an “amusing Japanese dramedy” by Variety, *FUNUKE* was a 2008 Cannes Film Festival Official Selection. Directed by Daihachi Yoshida, *FUNUKE* is a dark comedy centering on a dysfunctional family with a history of secrets. When both parents tragically die in a car accident, actress-wannabe Sumika returns home from Tokyo and takes every opportunity to harass her aspiring manga artist sister Kiyomi, who she blames for her own failures in life. *FUNUKE* is a dark but often funny portrait of sibling rivalry and as the family dramas of the past collide with the conflicts of the present, audiences will delight in the hilarious and sometimes heartbreaking results. More information and screening times are available at:
<http://www.newpeopleworld.com/films/films-9-2009/#funuke>

SORASOI is film visionary Katsuhito Ishii's latest work, and was called a, “delightfully goofy summer-camp comedy” (Variety). The story is set in a small beachside hostel

called "SORASOI" where a group of college students practice their dance routine day and night for an upcoming competition. Meanwhile, a mysterious girl named Yuri comes to stay at "SORASOI" and one of the male students falls in love with her at first sight. *SORASOI* will charm audiences with quirky and eccentric characters and an insightful and often humorous look at Japanese relationships. More information and screening times are available at: <http://www.newpeopleworld.com/films/films-9-2009/#soraso>

VIZ Cinema is the nation's first movie theatre devoted exclusively to Japanese film and anime. The 143-seat subterranean theatre is located in the basement of the NEW PEOPLE building and features plush seating, digital as well as 35mm projection, and a THX®-certified sound system.

NEW PEOPLE offers the latest films, art, fashion and retail brands from Japan and is the creative vision of the J-Pop Center Project and VIZ Pictures, a distributor and producer of Japanese live action film. Located at 1746 Post Street, the 20,000 square foot structure features a striking 3-floor transparent glass façade that frames a fun and exotic new environment to engage the imagination into the 21st Century. A dedicated web site is also now available at: www.NewPeopleWorld.com.

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