

# NEW PEOPLE

# VIZ CINEMA

## ***MEDIA ALERT***

**Media Contact:**  
Erik Jansen  
MediaLab  
[erik@medialab-pr.com](mailto:erik@medialab-pr.com)  
(714) 620-5017

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

## **SUMMER HEATS UP AS VIZ CINEMA CELEBRATES ICONIC JAPANESE FILMMAKES IN NEW *UNTOLD LEGENDS* FILM SERIES**

*Month Kicks Off With Four Crime Noir Films By Akira Kurosawa*

**San Francisco, CA, June 1, 2010** – VIZ Cinema and NEW PEOPLE present a cinematic theme of *Untold Legends* for the month of June by offering audiences a rare chance to glimpse the lesser known sides of several of Japan's most iconic filmmakers.

The summer season heats up with a celebration marking the centennial birth of Japan's most beloved film director – Akira Kurosawa – and presents four of his acclaimed crime noir films. Kurosawa masterfully combines thrilling storytelling with conflicted characters to depict the desperate human conditions and tense drama of post-war Japan in timeless movies like *Drunken Angel*, *High And Low*, *The Bad Sleep Well* and *Stray Dog*.

Tickets, screening times and more details are available at: [www.vizcinema.com](http://www.vizcinema.com).

### ***Drunken Angel*, June 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>**

(1948, 98min, 35mm, English Subtitles)

In this powerful early noir film from the great Akira Kurosawa, Toshiro Mifune bursts onto the screen as a volatile, tubercular criminal who strikes up an unlikely relationship with a jaded physician.

### ***High and Low*, June 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> and also June 10<sup>th</sup>**

(1963, 143min, 35mm, English Subtitles)

Toshiro Mifune is unforgettable in his role as Kingo Gondo, a wealthy industrialist whose family becomes the target of a cold-blooded kidnapper in Akira Kurosawa's impactful film that is a compelling race-against-time thriller and a penetrating portrait of contemporary Japanese post-war society.

***The Bad Sleep Well, June 8<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>***

(1960, 151min, 35mm, English Subtitles)

Continuing his legendary collaboration with actor Toshiro Mifune, Kurosawa combines elements of Hamlet and American film noir to chilling effect as a young executive hunts down his father's killer.

***Stray Dog, June 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> and also June 9<sup>th</sup>***

(1949, 122min, 35mm, English Subtitles)

When a pickpocket steals a rookie detective's gun on a hot and crowded bus, the cop goes undercover in a desperate attempt to right the wrong. Kurosawa's thrilling noir film probes the squalid world of postwar Japan and the nature of the criminal mind.

VIZ Cinema is the nation's only 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<sup>®</sup>-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 21<sup>st</sup> Century. A dedicated web site is also now available at: [www.NewPeopleWorld.com](http://www.NewPeopleWorld.com).



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