

Art & Entertainment

Japanese animation films to screen in Vientiane

PHONESAVANH SENGSOBBOUN

The Japanese Animation Film Festival, to take place at the National Culture Hall, will share aspects of Japanese culture with local audiences.

The films to be shown were selected after feedback was received from viewers at last year's festival, held in Vientiane and in some provinces.

Second Secretary of the Japanese Embassy to Laos Ms Mariko Shiohata believes audiences will enjoy this year's films.

Japanese animation is well-known for its originality, storytelling and artistic qualities. It is becoming increasingly popular in many parts of the world and industry producers have won several prizes at international festivals in Berlin and Venice in recent years.

"Some people might think that cartoons and animation films are for children, but in Japan comic books and animations are a part of the culture," Ms Shiohata said.

She said animation is respected as an art form and is an integral part of popular culture, for both entertainment and education purposes, for people of all ages.

The festival is being organised in cooperation with



Ms Mariko Shiohata.

the Embassy of Japan to Laos, Ministry of Information and Culture, Japan Foundation and the Lao-Japan Human Resource Cooperation Centre.

Three films will be shown over three days, the first to be 'Draemon: Nobita's Dinosaur 2006', which will screen at 5:45 pm on Friday this week.

'Glass Rabbit' will be

shown on Saturday September 27 at 2pm. The film is based on a true story about a woman who lost most of her family members in the Second World War. The original book by Toshiko Takagi, was published in 1977 and has been made into films in the past.

The third film will be 'Galaxy Express 999', to be

Japanese animation film 'Galaxy Express 999'. - Photo by 1979 Toei Company, Ltd.

shown on Sunday at 2 pm. This is a science fiction film set in the year 2221, about a boy called Tetsuro who sets off on a journey into space in search of eternal life, accompanied by a mysterious woman called Maitre.

The Embassy of Japan encourages both children and adults to attend the free screenings.

The festival will also feature several other events, including a Japanese opera concert, Lam Yong and Bon Odori dances and a song contest.

World music knocks at Vientiane's door

PHOONSAB THEVONGSA

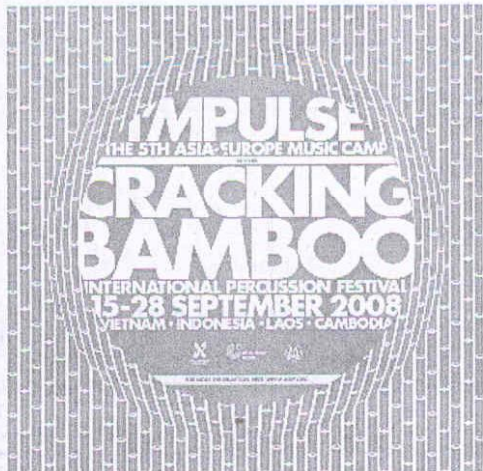
An exciting show titled Cracking Bamboo awaits music lovers tonight at the National Culture Hall at 8 pm, as part of the International Percussion Music Festival.

Cracking Bamboo blends contemporary European music with traditional Asian music and is a concept aimed at enhancing cultural exchanges between the two regions.

In this case the connecting links are percussion instruments, which offer, more so than other instruments, possible reference points which permit western music to relate to traditional non-European music.

The show offers a platform for an encounter between percussionists with modern instruments from Europe and their forefathers, the traditional instruments of Southeast Asia, for a musical dialogue.

Cultural Exchange Project Executive from the Asia-Europe Foundation Mr David Ocon Fernandez said "During the one and a half hour show audience members will see a colourful performance of new and fresh music using



The advertising logo for the concert.

percussion instruments to combine traditional and contemporary music. We encourage anyone interested in music to attend this unique show."

"The idea came from the artistic director of the project, Professor Bernhard Wulff

from Germany, who wanted to establish an international music festival in Indochina, where musicians from Southeast Asia and Europe could meet and share knowledge and expertise while they work together in creating unique musical performances," he said.

"Actually this is the fifth time that we've organised such an event; we've held previous concerts combining traditional, contemporary and electronic music in the Philippines, Sweden, China and Ireland," Mr Fernandez said.

"However, this is the first time we've featured percussion instruments and the reason we chose Indochina for this event is because the region has many traditional instruments and a wide variety of musical styles, so there is excellent potential for unique and interesting new music."

"We've just performed five concerts in Hanoi, Vietnam, which attracted large audiences. The feedback was all positive, especially from local musicians who had the opportunity to learn and develop their musical skills."

The concert is an opportunity for musicians to learn about other instruments and musical styles while helping audiences discover other cultures and enjoy performances by talented artists from around the world.

The concert is organised by the French Language Centre and entry is 10,000 kip.

Nine nominated for Rock Hall in US

BEIJING (Xinhuanet) -- The 1980s rap act Run DMC, along with Metallica and The Stooges, are being nominated for next year's hall of fame class, the US Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Foundation announced on Monday.

There are nine nominees in all, including guitarist Jeff Beck, singer Wanda Jackson, Little Anthony and

the Imperials, War, Bobby Womack, and disco and R&B group Chic, the only nominee back from last year's ballot.

After more than a decade-long absence the ceremony is returning to Cleveland, Ohio, and tickets will be made available to the public for the first time, the foundation said.

Five winners will be

announced in January and inducted into the Hall on April 4, 2009, in Cleveland.

Last year, Grandmaster Flash and the Furious Five became the first hip-hop act to be inducted. Now, Run DMC, nominated in their first eligible year, has the chance to follow on the bases of rock and rap blends such as the 1986 cover of Aerosmith's

"Walk This Way" and classics like "It's Tricky" and "My Adidas."

Stirring the heavy metal wave in the 1980s, Metallica is still selling out arenas after 25 years as it released "Death Magnetic" this month. "Death Magnetic" is regarded by many in the US music industry as a comeback of Metallica's early speed metal days.

What's On

Exhibitions and Shows

Opera
The Lao-Japan Human Resource Cooperation Centre at the National University of Laos is showing an opera at the Lao National Culture Hall on September 26. The free concert starts at 8pm.

Silk Painting Exhibition
"Painted Memories" is open for the public at T'Shop Lai behind Inpeng temple in Chanthabouly district. The exhibition will run until the end of this month.

Japanese Animation Film Festival September 26-28
The festival will open on September 26 at the National Culture Hall at 5:45pm and features impressive Japanese cartoons including Draemon, Glass Rabbit and Galaxy Express. Entry is free.

The Sinoxay Cultural Club is seeking 100 young female applicants for the Miss SEA Games 2009 beauty pageant. Exhibitions of Japanese culture and Lao cultural events at the Centre, at the National University of Laos (Dongdok Campus). Open Mon-Fri: 8:30-19:30, Sat: 8:30-17:30. Contact: lccenter@laopdr.com

Photo Exhibition at Sinouk Coffee Factory, Theouei Road, Sattanakham district. Mon-Fri, from 8:30am.

Museums

Kaysone Phomvihane Museum
The museum at Km 6 is open from Tuesday to Sunday during normal office hours. Entry is free.

Lao National Museum
The museum is on Samsenthai Road opposite the National Culture Hall and is open every day. From Mon-Fri it is open during normal office hours and on the weekend from 9am to 4pm.

Horphakeo Museum
On Sethathirath Road opposite Vat Sisakhet. Open Mon-Sun during normal office hours.

Social Activities

The Women's International Group is a volunteer group. If you would like to get in touch

and learn more about what WIG does call Andrea Stadel 021-314721, 020-6773555

Meditation at Vat Sokpaluang every Saturday, 4-5:30pm. Contact Venerable Mr Khuan or Venerable Ms Kao at the temple, on 021-231938

English Language Church Service every Sunday 10am at the ARDA Language Centre (near Novotel). For more information call (021) 261441, or visit <http://www.the-chs.org>

Sports

The Lao Elephants Australian Rules Football Club trains on Wednesdays and Sundays in Vientiane and plays occasional international tournaments. Contact Wai (020 7848543) or see www.laoelephants.com for more information.

Body Language at Vientiane Asutani, Khouvieng Rd. Class includes stretching and respiratory exercises with an oriental touch. Tuesday and Thursday, from 5:30-6:30pm. Contact 020 3012107.

Aerobics at Sokpaluang swimming pool, Sattanakham district. Open every day from 6am-6pm.

Vientiane Hash House Harriers
Meet at Nam Phu Fountain every Saturday for travel to out-of-town runs. Mixed Hash, register at 9:45pm and depart 4pm. Monday VH3, family Hash, 3 runs - short, medium and long. Meet at 6pm at advertised venue. Phones: 223867, 217493, mobile 020 5511293, 5514669.

Vientiane Rugby Club
The Vientiane Buffalos RUFC is a men's adult and junior rugby club. Training is every Tuesday and Thursday from 7:30pm at the Polytechnic in Ban Saphanthong. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact us on 020-2212411 or visit www.buffalos-rufc.com

The Vientiane Lions is a women's rugby club which trains every Tuesday and Thursday from 7pm at the Polytechnic in Ban Saphanthong. For more information contact Mouk on 020-5654090 or Elena on 020-7901601. All levels welcome.

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