

Special film screening co-sponsored by the
Japan Information & Culture Center, Embassy of Japan and the Japan Foundation



Photo: © Sanaka Okamoto

Children of the Woods

Wednesday, March 3rd @ 6:30 pm

In an age when many people believe that children should be raised in a safe, secure and clean environment, Eijyu Miyazaki, director of the Kisarazu Community Nursery School in Chiba Prefecture, has a different idea. “Children will not grow unless they are put in a risky environment. They will not grow healthily unless they get injured, covered in mud and play rough and physical games.” Located in an urban area’s cultivated woodland or *satoyama*, the children in his preschool do just that: get covered in mud, eat wild nuts, and interact with animals. Sometimes they get hurt and cry at the top of their lungs, and fights break out frequently. But through it all the children learn to communicate, be considerate, and help one another. Calling into question many contemporary child rearing philosophies, this documentary follows Miyazaki’s preschoolers over a period of a year and a half as they grow in a dialogue with nature.

This film is part of *JAPAN: Nature and Culture for the Future*, a special project by the Japan Foundation focusing on Japanese aesthetic values and ways of life which contribute to the harmony between man and nature. During the month of March, a number of events on this theme will be taking place in the DC area, including a screening of the 2007 anime *Miyori in the Sacred Forest* on March 10th. For more information on these events, please visit the [Japan Foundation’s website](http://www.japan-foundation.org).

Japanese with English subtitles. 110 min, 2008. Directed by Masaki Haramura.

This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and granted on a first come, first served basis. Doors close at 7:00 pm.

Reservations required. Only two (2) spaces can be reserved at a time. If you wish to reserve more spaces, please send additional email requests. Please send your name, affiliation, and the name of your guest to jicrsvp@embjapan.org.

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