THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

ANIMATED WAR FILM FESTIVAL

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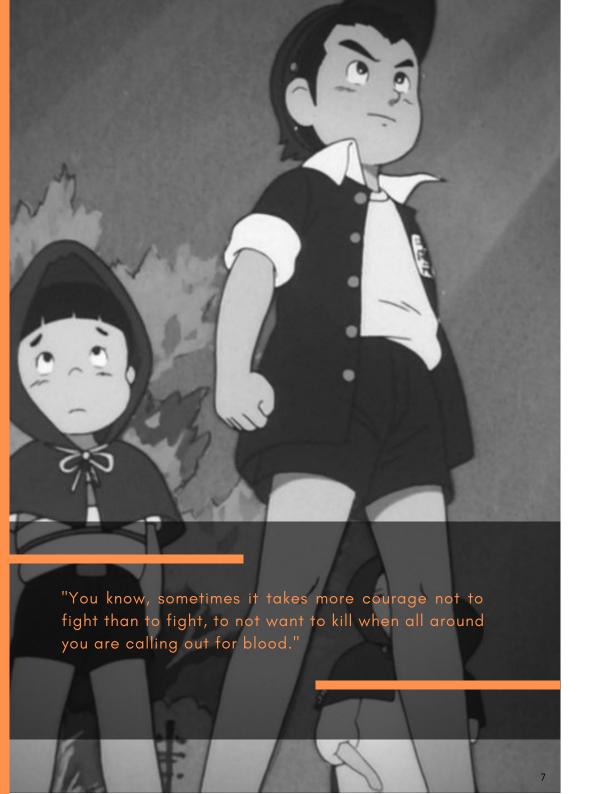
War has been a significant part of our human history. There are complicated, even conflicting emotions attached to war some want to forget, and some want to remember. Across different cultures and various generations, war can refer to different experiences and memories for each individual.

In this process of negotiating one's relationship with war, the medium of film turns up and records our understandings of it. Animated film as a sub-genre, has been functioning uniquely to document, present, and educate us about the war. By telling stories without putting real people on the screen, animated war film can distance us from, but at the same time invite us into its own film culture.

The ten film programs curated in this festival features animation pieces produced in different times and cultures. And with two roundtable discussions, I hope this film festival can open up a journey for you to explore how animated films situate in the broad war history, and how you, no matter how far or how close you have been with a war, are in relation to it.

Curator Lindsay Rui





Barefoot Gen

Mori Masaki (1983)

Screenplay: Takanori Yoshimune

Yasutaka lwase

Country: Japan Language: Japanese Length: 85 min

SYNOPSIS

The film is created based on the world-famous comic "Barefoot Gen" by Keiji Nakazawa.

#WWII #Atomic Bomb #Hiroshima

through the eyes of a kid, it presents life in Hiroshima after the atomic bombing. Distancing by local tradesmen, Gen and his family have to face food shortage. However, the concern becomes meaningless soon, since the US military begins its final assault on Japan with the use of its terrible new weapon. Through a focus on the life of Gen and his young brother Shinya, the story unfolds the wartime hardship.



In this Corner of the World

Sunao Katabuchi (2016)

Screenplay:

Fumiyo Kono

Sunao Katabuchi

Country: Language: Length: Japan Japanese 129 min

SYNOPSIS

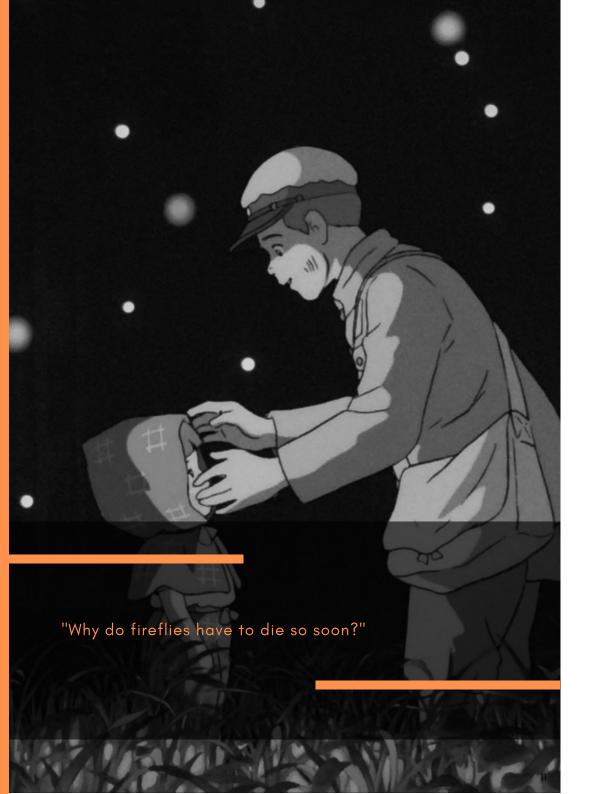
Based on Fumiyo Kono's award-winning manga, the film follows a young girl named Suzu who moves to the small town called Kure to marry a young clerk from the local navy in 1944. Through tough wartime conditions, she cooks and cares for her family until the bombs finally drop in Kure, causing devastating effect. Suzu's life is falling apart, but through perseverance and courage, she makes effort to continue and live a fulfilled life.

#WWII
#Atomic Bomb
#Hiroshima
#Female

FILM FESTIVAL & AWARDS

2017 Japanese Academy – Best Animation Film (Winner)

2017 Annecy International Animated Film Festival - Jury Award for Feature Film (Winner)



Grave of the Fireflies

Isao Takahata (1988)

Screenplay:

Akiyuki Nosaka Isao Takahata

Country: Language: Length: Isao Takahata Japan Japanese 89 min

SYNOPSIS

The story is set In Kobe, Japan in 1945. Seita has got used to the American bomber planes flying overhead. However, there is this day when he experiences their destructive power: after a firebomb hit the city, his neighbourhood is set aflame and his mother is burned as well, which leaves him and his fiveyear-old sister, Setsuko, homeless. When traumic days of the war rage around the kids, they must learn to survive with little shelter, a lack of food, and the ever diminishing hope.

#WWII #Homeless #Children

FILM FESTIVAL & AWARDS

1989 Japan Blue Ribbon Awards - Special Award (Winner)



The Wind Rises

Hayao Miyazaki (2013)

Screenplay: Country: Language: Length: Hayao Miyazaki Japan Japanese 126 min

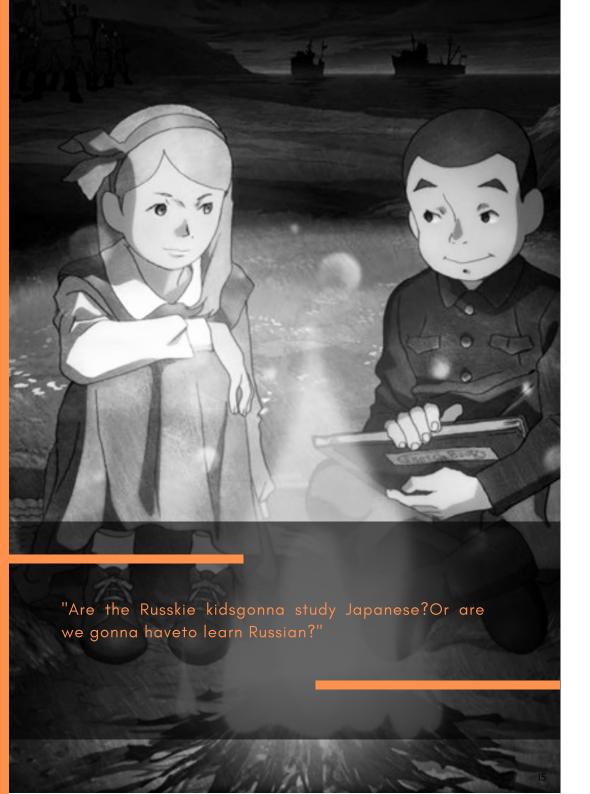
SYNOPSIS

Inspired by Caproni, the famous aeronautical designer, Jiro dreams of designing beautiful airplanes. Through a long journey of studying and working, he becomes one of the world's most accomplished airplane designers, the chief engineer behind the airplaine Zero used in World War II. He experiences key historical events in an epic tale of love and perseverance. He has to overcome challenges make choices in a turbulent world.

FILM FESTIVAL & AWARDS

#WWII #Aviation #Biography 2013 Japanese Academy – Best Animation Film (Winner)

2014 Academy Awards - Best Animated Feature Film (Nominee)



Giovanni's Island

Mizuho Nishikubo (2014)

Screenplay:

Shigemichi Sugita Yoshiki Sakurai

Country: Language:

Length:

Japan Japanese, Russian 102 min

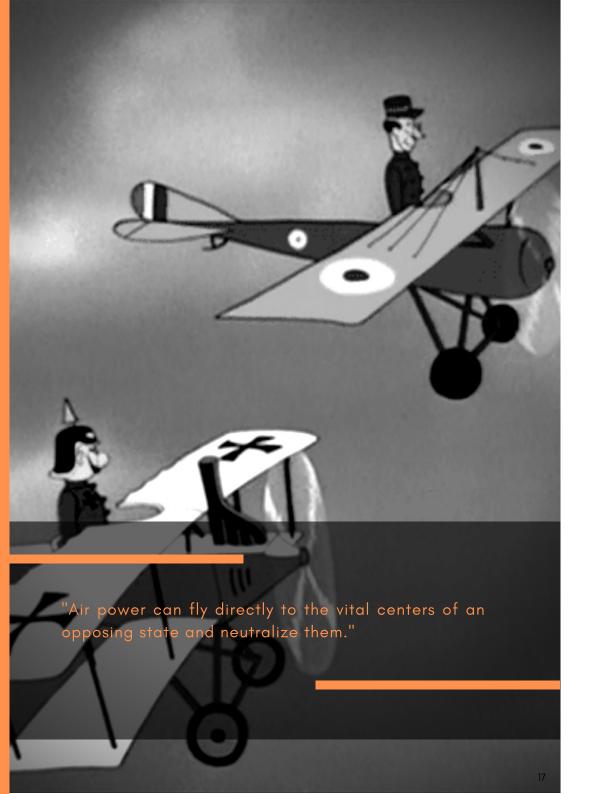
SYNOPSIS

The film tells the true story of two young brothers in Shikotan. Their lives on this remote island are forever changed during the aftermath of WWII. While the Red Army occupies the island after Japan's surrender, the boys confront with foreigners. Kids from different coutnries learn about each other's cuisines, music and language, which creates a quick bond between them — even when the occupation leads to escaping and traumatic memories for the boys' family.

#WWII #Island #Cultures

FILM FESTIVAL & AWARDS

2014 Annecy International Animated Film Festival - Special Distinction Feature (Winner)



Victory Through Air Power

James Algar Clyde Geronimi (1943)

Screenplay: Alexander de Severskys
Country: USA
Language: English
Length: 70 min

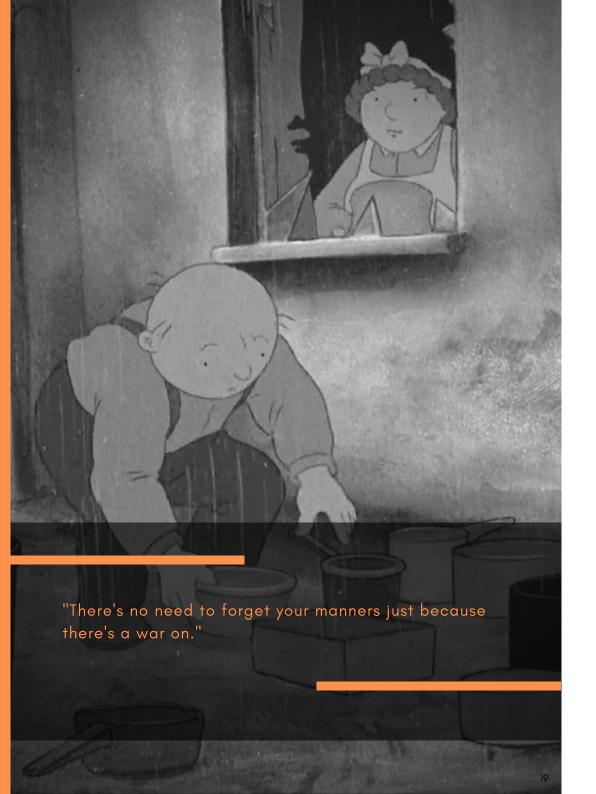
SYNOPSIS

Based on Maj. Alexander P. de Seversky's book of the same title, the film demonstrates how long-range air power could cause the defeat of the Axis and Japan during World War II. Created by Disney, the film opens with an animated history of aviation, followed by the Major explaining theories of air power, as well as its further development.

#WWII
#Disney
#Aviation
#Documentary

FILM FESTIVAL & AWARDS

2005 Annie Awards – Special Achievement Awards (Winner)



When the Wind Blows

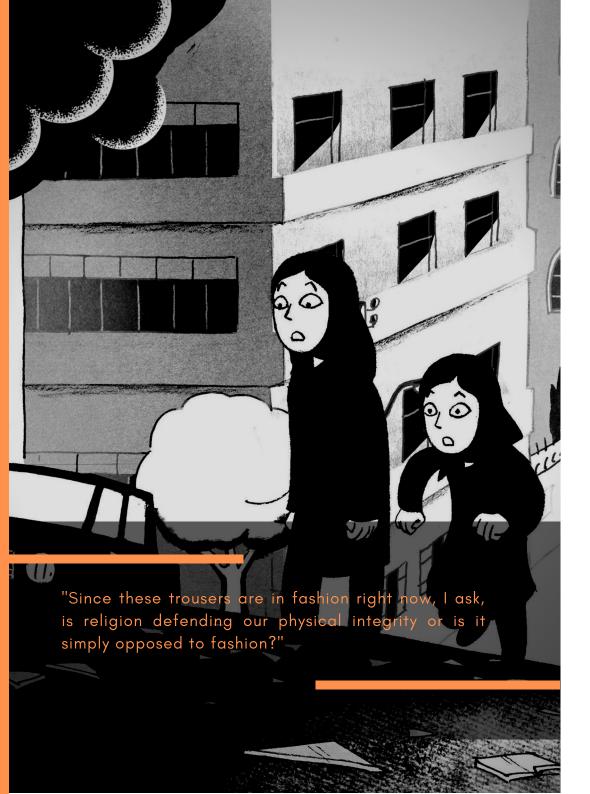
Jimmy T. Murakami (1986)

Screenplay: Country: Language: Length: Raymond Briggs UK English 80 min

SYNOPSIS

This charmingly crafted animated film presents the experience before, during and after a nuclear war from the eyes of a typically English retired couple. With the assistance of government-issued pamphlets, the couple try to build a shelter at home and prepare for the nuclear attack, not being aware that the nature of war has already changed from World War II, where their romantic memories lie.

#WWII #Elder #Countryside #Isolation



Persepolis

Vincent Paronnaud Marjane Satrapi (2007)

Screenplay: Vincent Paronnaud

Marjane Satrapi
Country: France, Iran
Language: French, English, Persian, German
Length: 96 min

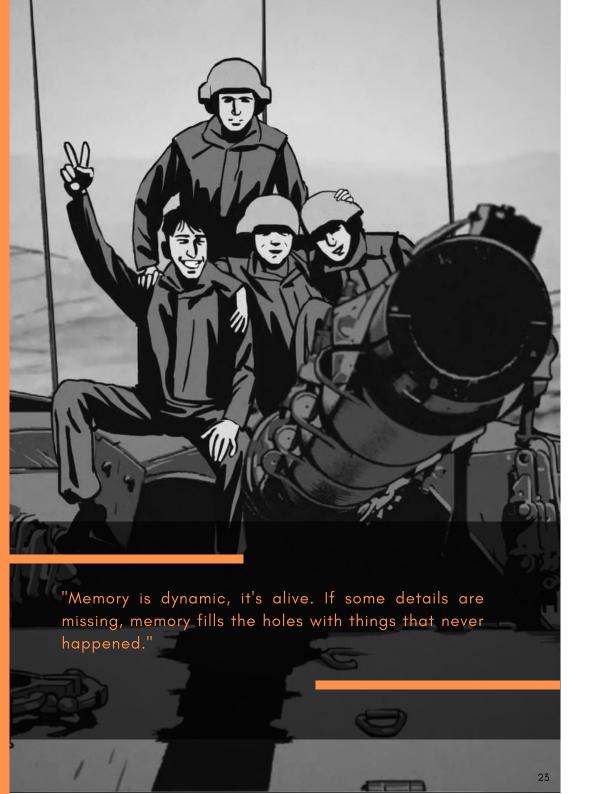
SYNOPSIS

The film is a portrait of a young girl's coming of age in revolutionary Iran. The tale follows Marjane, a strong-willed girl whose life is dramatically changed while the Shah of Iran is overthrown by the Islamic Revolution in 1979. While not being supporters of the Shah, Marjane's left-wing parents find their lives more difficult under the new regime. Marjane herself also finds it hard to adapt the country where rebellion increasingly becomes impossible, especially for girl like her.

#Islamic Revolution #Female #Cultures

FILM FESTIVAL & AWARDS

2007 Cannes Film Festival - Jury Prize (Winner)
2008 Academy Awards - Best Animated Feature Film
(Nominee)



Waltz with Bashir

Ari Folman (2008)

Screenplay: Ari Folmani
Country: Israel, Germany, France
Language: Hebrew
Length: 90 min

SYNOPSIS

Ari, the autobiographical protagonist, reaches out to find old friends and people who are able to help him recall the massacre in the Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra and Shatila. The director / protagonist was at that time a soldier of the army – will he manage to overcome the trauma and remember if he was part of the one of the darkest pages of Israeli history?

#Lebanon War #Massacre #Documentary #Biography

FILM FESTIVAL & AWARDS

2008 Cannes Film Festival – Golden Palm (Nominee)
2009 Academy Awards – Best Foreign Language Film
(Nominee)
2009 Annie Awards – Best Animated Feature (Nominee)

"One day, I found a toy on the street. I picked it up. It exploded. I don't remember what happened after that because it was the end."

The Bread winner

Nora Twomey (2017)

Screenplay: Anita Doron
Deborah Ellis

Country: Canada, Ireland, Luxembourg
Language: English
Length: 94 min

SYNOPSIS

In Taliban-controlled Kabul, women are not permitted to leave the house on their own, to earn money, or to buy food from the market. When Parvana's father, a teacher, is unfairly put into the prison, she has no choice but to disguise herself into a boy, so that she can become the family's sole breadwinner. Showing courage and perseverance, Parvana does anything she can to support the family, while making all effort to help free her father.

#Taliban

#Female

#Family

FILM FESTIVAL & AWARDS

2018 Annie Awards – Best Animated Feature (Winner) 2018 Annecy International Animated Film Festival – Best Feature Film (Winner)



The Power to Document

At first glance, animated and documentary films are two genres seeming not possible to integrate. The fundamental absence of human character in animation questions its capability to document.

However, from *Victory Through Air Power* produced during WWII, to *When the Wing Blows* in the 1980s, and to *Walts with Bashir* in the 21st century, filmmakers constantly try to mash the two genres together and present the audience animation's approach of reaching realism. Further, will it be possible to say that the distance between characters and viewers provided in animated films, actually expands what can be put on the screen? Traumatic memories such as the killing, the suffering, the wounded and the dead, seem to have a way - the animation - to be visualized. So, can animation be real? Does it have the capability to write our war history?

Animated Film (Not) For Children

Animated film has long been a medium that targets children as its audience. It features children, tells children's stories, and intends to communicate with children. Like many Japanese animated films presented in this festival, they let us see the world, our war history, through children's eyes. But we also understand that not all animation is considered children-friendly. They can be traumatic and cruel even for adult audience.

This roundtable will be exploring the relationship between three keywords - animation, war and children. What do we see from a children's perspective in animated films? And, can animated film become a potential way to pass on, or educate the young generation about the war?

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