

The New York Times 2008年2月10日掲載

ニューヨーク上映 *Dawn of Japanese Animation* <1>

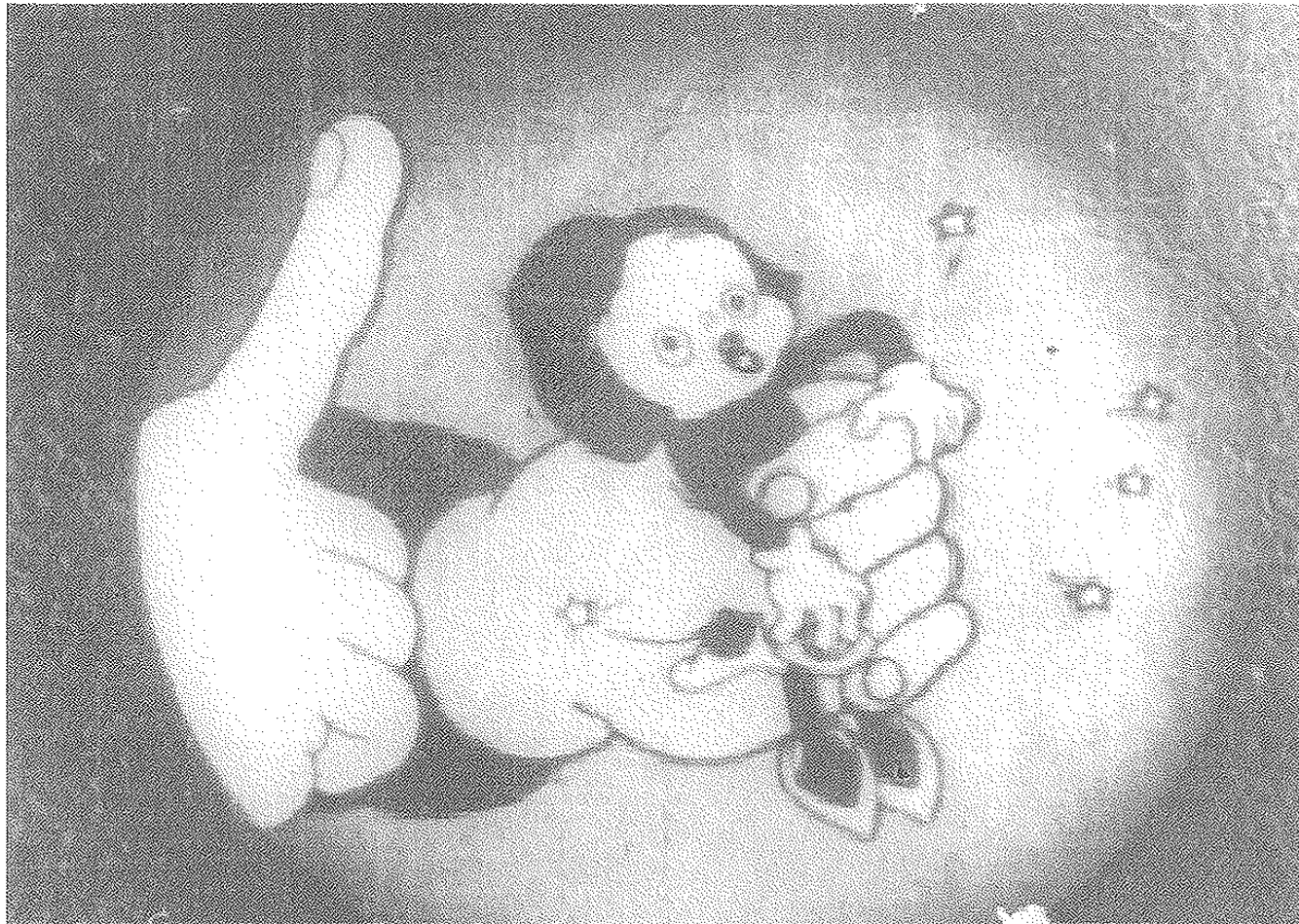
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THE WEEK AHEAD

FEB. 10—FEB. 16

New York Times critics and reporters preview the week's cultural happenings.

More comprehensive listings of cultural events can be found each Friday in the Weekend section.



MATSUDA FILM PRODUCTION AND DIGITAL MEME

"Ta-chan's Underwater Adventure," a 1935 cartoon by Kenzo Masaoka, is being shown at Japan Society.

weeks after she had given birth to a daughter) helped solidify her international career. The cast includes Johan Botha as Otello and Carlo Guelfi as Iago. Semyon Bychkov conducts. 8 p.m., Metropolitan Opera House, Lincoln Center, (212) 362-6000, metopera.org; \$15 to \$375.

Pop

Jon Pareles

You don't have to be Buddhist to care about Tibet, where the ancient culture has faced destruction and assimilation since China invaded in 1950. The annual Tibet House benefit concerts assembled by the composer **PHILIP GLASS** have always been diverse events, and this year's lineup gathers musicians from four continents, with a preponderance of songwriters, both introspective and rowdy.

It includes imagistic lyricists like **SUFJAN STEVENS**, whose constantly surprising chamber pop dips into history and visions of transformation, and **TOM VERLAINE** from Television, whose songs combine sinewy guitar lines with sly paradoxes. **MARISA MONTE**, from Brazil, is equally at home with supple, sensuous ballads and her own thoughtful take on the Brazilian samba; Mr. Glass has done arrangements for her

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Film

Mike Hale

Japanese animation had already had a golden age decades before Osamu Tezuka began to define what we now think of as anime in the early 1960s. Films from that period have been next to impossible to see, but that will change for four nights this week when Japan Society presents **DAWN OF JAPANESE ANIMATION**, a festival of nearly 40 cartoons dating mainly from the late 1920s to the mid-1930s.

The short, mostly silent films reflect an obvious, inevitable American influence — particularly the Fleischer brothers, but also early Disney — that combined in fascinating ways with Japanese visual forms, from manga to woodblock prints, and narrative traditions. Characters from Japanese folklore move to jazz-age rhythms in stories that incorporate ancient pieties and modern, imperial anxieties. In “Momotaro’s Sky Adventure” (1931) by the great Yasuji Murata, for instance, the folk hero Momotaro is reimagined as a pilot fighting suspiciously American-looking eagles. (It’s part of the “Propaganda” program on Friday, the most interesting of the four nights, which also includes Sanae Yamamoto’s beautiful “Animal Village in Trouble” and Noburo Ohtsuji’s “Kimigayo,” in which the Jap-

forced to serve them. (Only “Friday Night Lights” fans are as serious.) This drama, about a small Kansas town dealing with the threat of nuclear devastation, returns for its second season on Tuesday at 10 p.m.