

theHoustonMuseumofnaturalscience

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An Inside Look into the World of Anime

A Public Lecture by Shinichiro Watanabe, famed anime director



HOUSTON—Famed Japanese anime director Shinichiro Watanabe will speak on *An Inside Look into the World of Anime* as part of the Houston Museum of Natural Science Public Lecture series, on Saturday, Feb. 11, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. The event, sponsored by the Consulate-General of Japan at Houston and The Japan Foundation, will feature clips from Watanabe’s films. The lecture will be conducted in Japanese with an English interpreter.

The Honorable Yoshihiko Kamo, Consul General of Japan, stated, “Anime has crossed international borders, making it one of the most accessible aspects of modern Japanese culture. With his popular series, *Cowboy Bebop*, Mr. Shinichiro Watanabe is a pioneer in popularizing anime in the U.S. Texans will especially like *Cowboy Bebop* because of the Wild West and cowboy influences.”

Watanabe’s career began when he co-directed the well-received *Macross Plus* in 1994. *Cowboy Bebop*, one of the first anime series to become popular in the U.S., debuted next, followed by 2001’s theatrical *Cowboy Bebop* movie, *Knockin’ on Heaven’s Door*. In 2003, Watanabe directed his first anime for Americans with *Kid’s Story* and *A Detective Story*, both part of *The Animatrix*, an anthology of animated back-stories from the movie *The Matrix*. In 2004, *Samurai Champloo*, a TV series following two samurai who agree to help a teahouse waitress find a “samurai with the scent of sunflowers,” debuted. Watanabe is noted for several stylistic elements, including blending multiple genres in one film, elongated focus on the eyes of the main character and the role of music in his films, which has included jazz, blues, bebop, funk, New Age and hip hop music.

Tickets for the lecture are \$7 for adults; \$6 for children (3 – 11), seniors (62+), and college students with a valid ID; and \$5 Museum members. For tickets, or more information, visit www.hmns.org or call (713) 639-4629. Information is available in Spanish at (713) 639-4603.

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