

mongrel  
MEDIA

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
March 28, 2000

“A Masterpiece!”

Newsday

# After Life

A Film by KORE-EDA Hirokazu  
Opens April 21 at Cumberland Cinemas

Toronto – Opening in both New York and London to rave reviews, ***After Life*** by KORE-EDA Hirokazu played at the '98 Toronto International Film Festival and was nominated for several festival awards around the world. This exquisite film explores the profound need to discover meaning in everyday life. ***After Life*** opens on Good Friday, April 21 at Cumberland Cinemas. National release to follow.

***After Life*** is set at a way station between Heaven and Earth. There, guides have less than a week to help the newly dead sift through their memories for one defining moment to take with them to Heaven. Once a decision is reached, the guides recreate this chosen memory and capture it on film, giving the deceased a very personal heaven they will enter for eternity. And while these memories may seem simple, deciding on them is no easy task. Interactions between the soul-searching dead and their dedicated guides explore the range of human experience. The film focuses on the grudging respect that develops between Watanabe, an undistinguished old man, coming to terms with his uneventful life, and Mochizuki, the young guide helping him.

***After Life*** explores the intricate lives of the Japanese – their pleasures and horrors in the broader history of postwar Japan. As the characters struggle with their memories, the film explores our universal attachments to life – pain, pleasure and most importantly, love.

KORE-EDA Hirokazu was born in 1962 in Tokyo, Japan. *Maborosi*(95) won him international acclaim. ***After Life*** is his second feature.

*After Life*, Japan, 1998, 118 minutes. Japanese with English subtitles.