

# Okayama News in Brief

Taken from various news sources, including the Sanyo Shimbun

## ◆ Economy Stimulus Package

Non-Japanese residents are entitled to claim the national government's "cash benefit" handouts of ¥12,000 per adult, provided they had registered their residence before February 1<sup>st</sup> and are not on short term visas. Local municipal governments are responsible for distributing the funds. Contact your local city hall or branch office for assistance.

## ◆ Okayama Villa Group Disbanded

Okayama International Villa Group will be disbanded from April, following the withdrawal of prefectural funding. Some of the villas will continue to be operated independently. For full details see:

<http://www.harenet.ne.jp/villa/>

## ◆ Pay as you throw: teething problems

Okayama City began charging for garbage collection from February 1<sup>st</sup> and the change-over has been mostly smooth. Authorities reported that some people, particularly in the central business district, are still not using the authorized yellow garbage bags which can be purchased at supermarkets.

## ◆ Prefecture Halves ALT Numbers

The Okayama Prefectural Board Of Education announced its budget for the new school and revealed that it would only be employing 14 ALTs (Assistant Language Teachers) for its 56 senior high schools and 11 special schools. There were 28 JET program participants on the prefectural payroll in 2008.

## ◆ Board of Education Pushes for Openness

The national scholastic tests in 2008 showed that Okayama was below the national average in all subjects. On March 5<sup>th</sup>, Okayama Prefecture officially requested the individual schools to publish their scores. Many schools don't wish to release these figures, fearing such statistics will promote inter-school and inter-district rivalry.

## ◆ Airport Parking Fees

Governor Ishii told the prefectural assembly on March 5<sup>th</sup> that management was considering charging for car parking at Okayama Airport. The proposal to charge for the closest parking (distant areas remaining free) could come in to effect as early as 2010.

Theatre / Date		MAR	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	
Merpa Cinemas 086-221-0122 (Ekimae) www.merpa.info/	☆SEVEN POUNDS (USA) ☆STREET FIGHTER ★AUSTRALIA (English & Aboriginal) ●20SEIKI SHONEN: DAI NO SHO ●DORAEMON 2009 ●GENERAL ROUGE NO GAISEN ●SHONEN MERIKENSAKKU									From 13 <sup>th</sup> ? DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION (USA)							From 20 <sup>th</sup> ? VALKYRIE ● TSURI KICHI SAN-PEI							From 28 <sup>th</sup> ●AIBOU 2009					
	Jolly 086-221-0122 (Omotecho)	☆MAMMA MIA ☆THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON																											
Toho Cinema Konan 086-261-9051 (Konan) www.tohotheater.jp/	? THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (USA) ? SEVEN POUNDS (USA) ? MAMMA MIA (GBR/USA) ? CHANGLING (USA) ? QUANTUM OF SOLACE (GBR/USA/FRA/ITA/ESP/GER) ★AUSTRALIA (English & Aboriginal) ●OKURIBITO (A.k.a. Departures) ●ASAHIYAMA DOBUTSUEN MONOGATARI ●SHONEN MERIKENSAKKU ●20SEIKI SHONEN 2 ●KANSEN RETTO ●LALA PIPO ●DORAEMON 2009 ●KERORO GUNSOU 2009 ●YATTERMAN ●GENERAL ROUGE NO GAISEN									From 13 <sup>th</sup> ☆/●DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION							From 20 <sup>th</sup> ? VALKYRIE ? DROP ● TSURI KICHI SAN-PEI ● BED TIME STORIES (JP Dub)							From 27 <sup>th</sup> ☆/●MARLEY & ME (USA)					
	Cinema Clair 086-231-0019 (Marunouchi) www.cinemaclair.co.jp/	? DOUBT (USA) ● KAFU WO MACHIWABITE ★ ELLE S'APPELLE SABINE (FRA) ● BOKU NO OBAACHAN ● AKUMU TANTEI 2										From 14 <sup>th</sup> ? MADAGASCAR 2 (USA) ? UNDERWORLD (USA / NZL) ● HONOKAA BOY																	
MOVIX Kurashiki Cinemas 086-430-3600 www.movix.co.jp	☆THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON (USA) ? MAMMA MIA (GBR/USA) ? QUANTUM OF SOLACE (GBR/USA/FRA/ITA/ESP/GER) ? STREET FIGHTER (CAN) ? SEVEN POUNDS (USA) ? CHANGLING (USA) ★AUSTRALIA (English & Aboriginal) ★BROKEN ENGLISH (English & French) ● SHONEN MERIKENSAKKU ● GENERAL ROUGE NO GAISEN ●YANKEE ELITE SABURO ● HALFWAY ●OKURIBITO (A.k.a. Departures) ● ASAHIYAMA DOBUTSUEN MONOGATARI ● 20SEIKI SHONEN 2 ● KANSEN RETTO ● YATTERMAN ● DORAEMON 2009 ● KERORO GUNSOU 2009									From 13 <sup>th</sup> ☆/●DRAGONBALL EVOLUTION (USA) From 14 <sup>th</sup> ? MADAGASCAR 2 (USA)							From 20 <sup>th</sup> ? VALKYRIE ? YES MAN ● BED TIME STORIES (JP Dub) ● DROP ● TSURI KICHI SAN-PEI ● PRE CURE 2009 ● SUBARU							From 27 <sup>th</sup> ☆/●MARLEY & ME (USA)					
		● OBLUHOVAL JSEM ANGLICKÉ HO KRÁ LE (CZE) ● TABIDACHI ● NAKITAITOKINO KUSURI ● MAHOTSUKAI NI TAISETSU NA KOTO																											



KEY: ● Japanese Language ☆ English Language ★ Other  
? Possibly dubbed into Japanese

This schedule is subject to big changes, including whether English will be heard or not! PLEASE CHECK TIMES WITH THE THEATRES. In general, ¥1000 discount admission applies on (1) the first day of the month, (2) Ladies day (for women), and (3) Men's days (for men.) Men's Day and Ladies Day are usually the same day of the week, but this varies from theatre to theatre. Some theatres also offer discount tickets for late shows and/or early morning screenings. Advanced tickets from convenience stores or ticket retailers are usually cheaper than at the door.