



*Bean Cake*  
Director: David Greenspan  
USA, 2001, 12 min.

*Bean Cake*, inspired by a short story by Lafcadio Hearn which in turn was based on a Japanese folktale, won the Golden Palm Award for Best Short Film at Cannes in 2001 and richly deserves continued attention. David Greenspan, whose more recent work includes editing and directing episodes of *Grey's Anatomy*, will present and answer questions about *Bean Cake*.

## **ABSTRACTS OF ARTICLES IN SHORT FILM STUDIES 5.2**

### **1. Masculinity and femininity in *Bean Cake***

Social exchanges in Japan tend to be formal and follow prescribed rituals. In *Bean Cake*, gender representation, reflects the rigid order of the Japanese society of 1933. But, as a story of pure love, aesthetically influenced by the cinema of Ozu, the film shows the feminine bedrock of that society.

- Jacques Lefebvre-Linetzky, Cinémathèque de Nice

### **2. Conflicting Loyalties in Prewar Japan**

Set in Japan in 1933, the film deals with the workings of a totalitarian system in everyday life. This article discusses the significance of the film for modern Japanese historiography, especially its interpretation of the Japanese 'totalitarian' system. The article also examines how well the film presents such large political and historical questions both visually and as narrative.

- Hiromi Sasamoto-Collins, University of Edinburgh

### **3. Japanese Masquerade in *Bean Cake* and "The Red Bridal"**

This essay will contextualize *Bean Cake* with the source of its plot, namely the Lafcadio Hearn short story "The Red Bridal" (1894), both examples of Japanese masquerade by non-Japanese artists, and further discuss the appeal and risk for foreigners in the appropriation of Japanese aesthetics.

- Deborah Shagoon, National University of Singapore