

## Drama Series

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Note: Programs are not available to the general public.

### NEW! ANEGO

10 eps., #1 & 10 approx. 75 min, #2 - 9 approx. 60 min.



Stars:  
Ryoko Shinohara  
Rie Tomosaka  
Hitoshi Akanishi  
Naho Toda  
Miwako Ichikawa  
Masaya Kato

Naoko Noda, who works in a trading company, is called "anego" by her younger co-workers. What is "anego"? It means "older sister", but in this case it is given as a nickname to Naoko because she is like a big sister to the other workers, who depend on her to give them advice about everything. This drama, based on a popular novel, depicts realistically how Naoko lives her everyday life, including her love life, the problems she faces, and her uneasiness about the future. Naoko, 32, works in the corporate strategy division. She is single, and has been working hard for 10 years, now she often finds herself in the role of training and guiding the younger female workers. Recently she realizes that most of the temporary and contracted workers' goals are to find an elite male employee within the company to marry. Naoko also hopes that the man of her dreams, a prince on a white horse will one day come into her life, but it seems like her younger co-workers are always the ones who win the hearts of all the elite men. One day, on the way home from work, a handsome man saves Naoko from a drunk man who was bothering her, but she sees the wedding ring on his finger, and feels the emptiness of being single. One day, Naoko goes out to play golf with the general manager and other co-workers, and there she unexpectedly meets her former co-worker, Eriko Sawaki. Eriko seems to have a picture-perfect life; she is married to a company president, and already has one child. Naoko gets distracted by Eriko and the happy atmosphere around her, and ends up with a terrible golf score. After finishing the round, Eriko's husband comes to pick her up, and Naoko is surprised when she sees his face. Eriko's husband is the handsome man who saved her from the drunk man. Naoko's heart starts pounding, and she can't help but envy Eriko's happy life. When working women reach their 30s, they start to worry about various things; "How long should I continue working for this company?", "Will I marry the man I am dating?" "If I continue living like this what will I do when I grow old?" etc. In this drama, the main character, who is a 32-year old single woman working at a prestigious trading company, suddenly finds herself as one of the elders at the office, being a big sister to her younger co-workers. From the outside, it seems like she is a happy and successful businesswoman, but inside she is insecure and worried about her future. This drama, through the main character, portrays the everyday life of working women realistically; what they are really thinking, the problems they face, and how they do their best to survive in this world.

### NEW! QUEEN OF THE CLASSROOM

11 eps., #1 approx. 75 min., #2 -10 approx. 60 min., #11 approx. 90 min.



Stars: Yuki Amami, Michiko Hada, Sachie Hara, Toshinori Omi

April – the season for the new school term. Meet Maya Akutsu, a mysterious new teacher at Hanzaki Elementary School. Her way of talking and behaving is as graceful and magnificent as a queen. Miss Akutsu, with her high intelligence, artistic talent, and perfect athletic skills, soon overwhelms the other teachers and makes all the parents obedient. She takes charge of "Class Three" in the sixth grade. In Miss Akutsu's class, test scores precede everything else. She gives pop quizzes every week and students with low scores have to do odd jobs in the classroom, like her slaves. If they try to disobey, they're severely punished. Miss Akutsu is the law. She is the queen of her domain. Kazumi, one of her students, soon becomes her main target. Although Kazumi is a sweet and innocent twelve-year-old girl, she cannot achieve above average on either her exams or in gymnastics. Kazumi withstands Miss Akutsu's outrageous brand of "punishment," but her classmates begin to crack in the grip of fear. Jealousy, slander, and betrayal run rampant in the class. Even in the darkest time of her life, however, Kazumi strongly wishes to "graduate happily with her classmates", and she finally decides to gather up all the students to face their evil teacher. How will the 24 sixth-graders grow up during the final year at elementary school? And what is Miss Akutsu's real purpose of being so devilish toward her students?

**NEW!**

## RURI'S ISLAND

10 eps., #1 - 9 approx 60min, #10 approx 80 min.



**Stars:** Riko Narumi, Yutaka Takenouchi, Manami Konishi, Mitsuko Baisho, Ken Ogata.

This is a touching drama about a young girl never loved by her parents, who begins to live with a foster family on a small isolated island and how she learns to love again, bonding with her new family. The story is set on Hatomi Island, a small island in the southernmost part of Japan. The population of the island is only 49 people, and the island is so small that you can circle it in an hour. There are no hospitals, no police, no banks, no convenience stores on the island, but it is a beautiful island surrounded by coral, and full of blooming hibiscus flowers. Then, the only school on that beautiful island becomes in danger of being closed... Since there are no more children on the island, the only public institution on the island, the elementary school, which is a symbol of hope, is in danger of being closed. Closing the school means that the island would be abandoned from society, and eventually become an uninhabited island. To try to avoid the school closure, Yuzo Nakama, who was born and raised on the island, has an idea that he will bring a foster child from Tokyo to live on the island. He goes to Tokyo to look for a foster child, and the girl he meets is Ruri Fujisawa, a flashy dressed 6th grader with wavy hair, who has grown up never knowing her parents' love.

**NEW!**

## SUMMER AT THE BEACH HOUSE

10 eps., #1 approx 90min, #2 - 10 approx 60min.



**Stars:** Shinobu Terajima, Ken Ishiguro, Tomoko Nakajima, Noriko Nakagoshia

34-year-old Miyuki is a traditional Japanese housewife, with her "salaryman" husband and a son. Although she believes her dream has come true, she secretly feels unsatisfied with the fact her life completely depends on her husband. Sumiko, Miyuki's childhood friend, is a single woman who has recently been promoted to a manager at a huge corporation. With her high salary, she doesn't

rely on anybody, but she hasn't been romantically involved for some time, and begins to feel anxious about living life alone. Yu is just about to turn thirty, but still depends on her father and lives at his home as a "parasite single." She cannot figure out what she really wants to do or what she really wants to be. One day, Miyuki meets an old lady whom she is nursing as her part-time job. Just before passing away, the lady signs over the deed to a beach house to Miyuki. The old lady turns out to be Yu's grandmother. Initially, Miyuki has no idea what she should do with the beach house, but after being encouraged by Sumiko, whom she reunites with after twenty years, Miyuki finally decides to run it as a business. Sumiko and Yu also join as business partners, but each of them has a totally different idea for the house and the situation between them increasingly worsens. Will the beach house succeed? Will the three women release their anxieties and start new lives?

## OTHER DRAMA TITLES (ALPHABETICAL)

**87%**

10 eps., #1 approx. 75 min., #2 - 10 approx. 60 min



**Stars:** Yui Natsukawa, Masahiro Motoki, Shouhei Kawaguchi, Kaoru Sugita, Shuji Kashiwabara, Wakana Sakai

Most dramas dealing with the topic of cancer portray people who are terminally ill, and how they lived the last days of their lives. This drama is different. It is about a single mother who is diagnosed with breast cancer in its early stages, and the doctor - who in the past lost his wife to breast cancer - who takes care of her. Through these two main characters, this drama portrays the fight against cancer, as well as family love.

## BEAUTY SEVEN

11 eps.



**Stars:**

Kaori Momoi, Takashi Fujii, Takako Uehara, Uno Kanda, Yuko Nakazawa, Misaki Ito, Takako Kato, Mami Uematsu, Seiko Takada, Anna Umemiya

In its heyday 10 years ago, a once bright, promising, and full-of-spirit beauty salon now finds itself in decline. The floor manager, son of the founder of the shop, is tending to a shop losing customers and money hand over fist, and very listless employees. With collapse imminent, the primary investor in the shop sends in a "specialist" to help turn things around, which she promises to do so within 3 months. So how does a beauty salon rebound? What is the secret to connecting with women to get them to visit the salon again? That's simple to do when you know that a woman with an emotional complex is a woman that wants to be beautiful.

## THE CITY OF PURE SOULS

12 eps.

**Stars:**

Koichi Domoto  
Fumiya Fujii  
Noriko Sakai

A pair of half-brothers has been living quite distinct lives. The younger has loose ties with the underground world and maintains little contact with the family. The elder, who is autistic but highly artistic, works in a factory. After losing his job, the elder brother moves in with his younger one. Though initially negative about the new burden on his shoulders, the younger brother's heart softens toward his autistic relative. Just when things are going smoothly, the elder is diagnosed with blood cancer and needs a transfusion. A futile search for their father prompts a fallback on shady connections to raise the money for the treatment.

## DANGEROUS ANGELS

11 eps.

**Stars:**

Tomoya Nagase  
Junichi Okada  
Yasufumi Terawaki

Two teenagers use their extrasensory powers to help solve crime mysteries.

## DANJIKI: BUDDHIST DIET SECRETS

8 eps.



**Stars:**

Masatoshi Nakamura, Shouzou Endo, Marina Watanabe, Kanako Enomoto

Diet pills, rigorous exercise, low-calorie diets, liposuction and tummy tucks, the list of ways to lose weight can go on and on, but none seems to work just right. We have the answer for you! Danjiki! Come with us as five brothers, all Buddhist Priests, introduce their traditional and humble - but very effective - diet secrets to those in need of shaping up their minds and bodies. Now you can lose that unwanted weight and keep it off!

## FACE

8 eps.



**Stars:**

Katsunori Takahashi, Yukie Nakama, Marina Watanabe, Minako Tanaka, Ko Shibasaki

A love story about a woman who falls in love with a man suffering from split personality disorder, and the troubles she goes through because of this love. Saki Aizawa, who works for a trading company, was having an affair with her department chief, Okada, but decided she wanted to put an end to the relationship. On her way home after telling Okada it is over, Saki is surrounded by a gang of young boys. Luckily, Ryo Takagawa, a man with a piercing glance who happened to be there, rescues her, then steals some money from her wallet and walks away. The next day, a new employee, Takumi Mizuno, reminds her of him. Saki thinks that it can't be the same man....

## THE FILES OF SILVER WOLF

11 eps., two episodes complete one story

**Stars:** An otherwise average high school student in fact carries altered genes that enable him to become a dynamic, super-brained sleuth.  
 Koichi Domoto  
 Mai Hoshō  
 Emily Nakayama

## THE FILES OF THE YOUNG KINDAICHI, 1 & 2

Part 1, 7 eps; Part 2, 9 eps.

**Stars:** A young man who showed little promise while a high school student becomes a master detective, just like his grandfather.  
 Tsuyoshi Domoto  
 Rie Tomosaka

## THE FILES OF THE YOUNG KINDAICHI, 3

9 eps.

**Stars:** The Young Kindaichi is back and better than ever! In this first of many cases, Kindaichi finds himself onboard a cruise ship in which the captain mysteriously disappears the day after a big party. A search of the ship finds nothing, except for little drops of blood on the light switch in the captain's room. Might it be a clue perhaps? You bet! When what looks to be a case of serious foul play unfolds, the ship's radio is found disabled—so much for contacting the authorities. So, far out at sea until they can reach land, it's up to Kindaichi and friends to find the killer...and stay alive!

## THE FILES OF THE YOUNG KINDAICHI: MURDER ON THE MAGIC EXPRESS

Special

**Stars:** When the head of the touring magician's group "Magical Fantasy" is murdered on a train while on his way to Hokkaido, young Kindaichi, who also just happens to be on board, is fast on the case to find the culprit. But just as quickly as the case unfolds, the body disappears only to be rediscovered again, along with other new bodies.  
 Jun Matsumoto,  
 An Suzuki,  
 Harumi Inoue,  
 Takashi Naito

## THE FILES OF THE YOUNG KINDAICHI: LEGEND OF THE SHANGHAI MERMAID

Special

**Stars:** Kindaichi is off on yet another case, this time in Shanghai. When the father of a Chinese friend of the young Kindaichi is murdered at the circus, it is up to the ever-resourceful and clever young high-school detective to solve the case. But hidden in the background is the 4000 year-old legend of the Shanghai Mermaid.  
 Tsuyoshi Domoto, Rie Tomosaka,  
 Masato Furuoya, Asami Mizukawa,  
 Akira Nakao

## FIVE SPIES

11 eps.



**Stars:** Rie Tomosaka, Sarina Suzuki, Tomoe Shinohara, Kumiko Endo

Five teenage girls who had been in prison go to work as spies for the man who helped them escape, infiltrating schools and even the police station.

## FOOD FRENZY!

11 eps.

**Stars:** Tsuyoshi Kusanagi (of SMAP), Kyoko Fukada, Shiro Sano

Pleasant and kind Ihara, a once-orphan and now blue-collar worker at a big food company holds a secret: He is the reigning champion in an underground eating competition held at the company. Two contestants battle to see which can pack away more food within a specific time limit. With nine consecutive wins, Ihara always donates his monetary winnings anonymously to his old orphanage. The circumstances surrounding his victories, however, are often surprising and usually unusual.

## FOOD FRENZY!, SPECIAL 1

1 ep.

**Stars:** Tsuyoshi Kusanagi (of SMAP), Kyoko Fukada, Rie Miyazawa

Legendary "Food Fighter" Mitsuru Ihara is back for more action-packed, mouth-chomping excitement, and this time in the Asian culinary capitol Hong Kong! When the chairwoman (Rie Tomisawa) of a large food producer finds herself in a serious jam against a mafia controlled competitor, the noble Ihara is asked to help out in a food fighting competition pitting Japan's best against Hong Kong's. But this is no easy task as the ensuing 3-round winner-takes-all food fight has Ihara against Hong Kong's food fighting king. With the stakes high and the lines of battle drawn, can Ihara do it?

## FOOD FRENZY!, SPECIAL 2 - RE TURN OF THE FOOD FIGHTER

1 ep.

**Stars:** Tsuyoshi Kusanagi (from SMAP), Kyoko Fukada, Rie Miyazawa

All seems serene aboard car number 9 of a train Food Fighting Champ Ihara and friends are riding on their way to a picturesque town somewhere in Japan. Then, suddenly, a telephone call arrives...a menacing call. "There's a bomb on board the train," the caller says with steely calm. "If you win the game in time, I'll tell you where the bomb is and how to defuse it." What game??? Enter the Food Fighter. The game is simple. Starting in car number 9, Food Fighter Ihara has to take on various opponents in each of the train cars in sequence (and win) until he reaches car number 1. Each car features an increasingly more challenging opponent and culinary battle. Can he save himself and his friends in time? Did we neglect to mention the orphans on board too?

## GETTING BY, 1

10 eps.

**Stars:** Noriyuki Higashiyama, Atsuko Asano, Anju Suzuki

A debt-burdened noodle shop owner and his fanatically resourceful wife have almost no money for their five kids, but with lots of laughter and quick thinking somehow manage to get by.

## GETTING BY, 2

11 eps.

**Stars:** Noriyuki Higashiyama, Yuka, Anju Suzuki, Hidehiko Ishizuka, Sarina Suzuki, Ken Horiuchi, Atsuko Asano

Widower Mantaro Kanemoto (Noriyuki Higashiyama) has a lot on his mind, specifically 6 kids that he has to take care of on his own following the death of his wife. Doing the best he can to raise his family alone, 37 year-old Mantaro is struck by cupid's arrow and falls in love with 20 year-old Tomo Yuki (Yuka). When his kids find out that he is going to remarry, they are against it completely; No way will they let in another woman into their house to replace their lost mom. And if that wasn't enough, it seems that the spirit of Mantaro's deceased wife, Setsu (Atsuko Asano), is also against the marriage and makes "appearances" to try and convince Mantaro otherwise. Will it end happily ever after?

## GETTING BY, SPECIAL

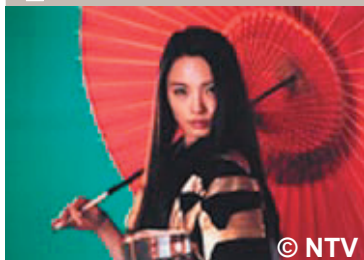
1 ep.

**Stars:**  
Noriyuki Higashiyama, Yuka, Anju Suzuki,  
Hidehiko Ishizuka, Sarina Suzuki,  
Ken Horiuchi, Atsuko Asano

Setsu becomes pregnant, but at the same time, finds out that she has a tumor in her uterus. Takeshi, who has been doing the housekeeping, rebels against Mantaro for the first time.

## GOKUSEN

12 eps. plus one special



**Stars:** Yukie Nakama, Misaki Itoh, Katsuhisa Namase, Ken Kaneko, Yuko Nakazawa

Newly graduated Kumiko Yamaguchi wants to make her mark on the Japanese educational system as a teacher. All well and good until she finds out that the class she'll be in charge of is full of troublemakers and rabble-rousers. But those guys don't frighten her though for she has a secret of her own - she's a fourth generation crime syndicate member and next in line to head it up. She's gone straight and wants to be a teacher though, but she's one person in whose class you don't want to be caught fooling around!

## GOKUSEN, THE SECOND SERIES

10 eps., #1 & 10 approx. 90 min, #2 - 9 approx. 60 min.



**Stars:** Yukie Nakama, Kazuya Kamenashi, Jin Akanishi, Katsuhisa Namase, Mikiyama Azuma

Who can forget high school teacher Kumiko Yamaguchi, a dull-looking high school teacher who comes from a Yakuza family and resolves problems with dutiful soul, justice and love? In the second series of "GOKUSEN", Yamaguchi is hired to teach at a prestigious all-boys high school. Her class is again full of troublemakers and punks that no other teacher can handle. Everything seems hopeless, but Yamaguchi, in her unique way, tries to turn her students around in the 3 months remaining before graduation. Don't miss the exciting adventures of Yamaguchi, her Yakuza family, the teaching staff, and her class of delinquents!

## GOLDEN BOWL

11 eps.



**Stars:**  
Takeshi Kaneshiro, Hitomi Kuroki,  
Rio Matsumoto, Naoya Ogawa, Tetsuro  
Degawa, Tsurukou Shofukutei, Kanako  
Enomoto, Eiko Segawa, Muga Takewaki

Focus, concentration, proper posture and good release are the hallmarks of a good bowler, just like Shu Akutagawa. It's at the Golden Bowl bowling alley, a place that's a bit rundown and small, but no worse for wear, that this stockbroker likes to strut his stuff. A regular at the Golden Bowl, he likes nothing better than the rumble of the bowl streaking down the lane, and the crash and crackle of the pins tumbling down. But life's not all bowling! When his old flame Hitomi Sakura (now married to someone else) makes an appearance at the Golden Bowl, things start to heat up again as Shu teams up with her to challenge some pro bowlers. But the question is will Shu be as lucky with Hitomi as he is with the pins?

## THE HAPPY PRINCE

11 eps., #1 & 11: approx. 75min, #2 -10: approx. 60min



© NTV

Stars:  
Masahiro Motoki,  
Miho Kanno,  
Atsuro Watabe,  
Chiriko Sakashita

Visualize this. Shuhei, a 37-year old wreck of his former self with gruesome burn scars covering his body and hair as white as a ghost, has lost the ability to hear beautiful music and can only utter a few guttural words. Not only does he have ghastly physical scars, but deep emotional ones too. His parents have cut him out of their life, his friends have betrayed him and the one woman he loved is never to be seen. In order to unravel this heartbreaking tragedy, we must turn back the pages of time 14 years to when Shuhei was the happiest man in the world: an ambitious, handsome 22-year old from an affluent family whom everyone envied and loved, a top medical school graduate with dreams of becoming a professional pianist and marrying his true love Umi. The more Shuhei gave to others, the more he lost of himself. Shuhei's benevolent behavior of helping others without thinking of himself seemingly led to his self-destruction. What could have happened to turn his life upside down? This pensive drama with a love story theme will reveal Shuhei's tragic life as it makes you question your own thoughts and actions, as well as reflect on your past, present and future.

## HARMONIA

9 eps.

Stars:  
Koichi Domoto, Miki Nakatani,  
Akiko Yada

Part thriller, part love story. At a home for the physically impaired, a cellist teaches a patient whose is unable to speak but possesses a hyper-keen ability to play music. As her cello skills improve, however, so does a mysterious, innate power that allows her to cause great harm to others through ESP-like channeling.

## HEAVEN'S COIN, PARTS 1 & 2

12 eps. each



© NTV

Stars: Noriko Sakai, Takao Ohsawa, Yutaka Takenouchi

A hearing-impaired woman falls in love with a man who, after becoming engaged to her, loses his memory.

## HEAVEN'S COIN, PART 3

10 eps.



© NTV

Stars: Mari Hoshino, Tatsuya Fujiwara, Megumi Okina, Takaaki Enoki

Abandoned at the age of five by her mother, deaf and mute Mahiru Morita's life has been filled with sorrow. Living with adoptive parents in Okinawa, she is also routinely treated cruelly at home and at school. But hope springs eternal as she dreams of one day finding her true mother living in far-off Tokyo. Can her dream come true? When young Kazuki, a young man attending university in Tokyo, comes to visit Okinawa on a scuba diving trip, a life-threatening incident brings the two young hearts together. As their adventure unfolds, young Kazuki recounts to Mahiru the fable of how a young girl is showered with coins from heaven in admiration of her purity of heart. Is Mahiru the one?

## I'LL BE BACK

10 eps.

Stars:  
Tsuyoshi Domoto,  
Kumiko Endo

A college senior who suddenly dies returns to life four years earlier. With full knowledge of his future, he attempts to correct past mistakes and realize previously unaccomplished goals, only to die and be reborn again and again. Though the circumstances are different each time, he encounters people who form a common, connecting thread.

## INVESTIGATION

10 eps., #1: approx. 90min, #2 - 9: approx. 60min, #10: approx. 75 min.



**Stars:** Kazuhiko Nishimura, Kaho Minami, Akiko Hinagata

A successful robbery sets the stage, against the backdrop of two unsolved murders. When one of the robbers is released from prison 15 years later and is murdered the following day, the other one, still at large, becomes the main suspect. Young forensic investigator, Atsuhiko, must scour the crime scene for clues. His investigation forces him to deal with the memories of his father's death in the line of duty. Why did his father, a police detective, try to catch the robbers on his own? The clues point toward an insider at the bank, who gave the robbers the delivery route and schedule details they needed to successfully pull off the heist. Atsuhiko embarks on a personal crusade to solve the murders and clear his father's good name.

## JUDO KIDS "IPPON!"

10 eps., #1 approx. 75 min, #2 - 10 approx. 60 min.



**Stars:** Aya Matsuura, Masatoshi Nakamura, Tomomitsu Yamaguchi, Ken Kaito, Asami Ishikawa, Yumiko Shaku

Tomoe, 17, is an average high-school girl, interested in clothes and guys, but her family life is not so average. Losing her mother at a young age, she lives alone with her father, Shouhei, and does all of the cooking, laundry, housekeeping, like a mother would do. They have a hard time making ends meet, because Shouhei's only income is from working as a judo teacher to the neighborhood kids. Tomoe can't wait to go to university to get away from her father, and judo, which she hates. But because of her father's unfortunate arrest, she is forced to take over at the dojo. With help from the captain of her high school's judo team, Tomoe begins to teaching the few kids who still come to learn judo, and even starts practicing the judo that she gave up as a child. This heartwarming family drama will entertain kids and adults alike.

## KEYS TO THE CITY - THE KIDS ARE IN CHARGE

10 eps.

**Stars:**  
Koichi Domoto, Tsuyoshi  
Domoto, Mai Hosho

Solely children manage an entire city after a government-hidden accident results in all of the adults being killed. The child leaders must save the city and also fight the government, which tries to hide the truth.

## THE LAST LAWYER

10 eps.



**Stars:** Hiroshi Abe, Risa Sudo, Tsubasa Imai, Yuki Asano

Moved by television shows of lawyers she saw as a child, Ryoko Ishida dreamt of nothing more than becoming one herself. Though she studied hard she was never able to realize her dream. Resigned to her fate, Ryoko later went on to work for a bank where she was put in charge of going after defaulted loans, the most detested job of them all at the bank. Told not to come back to the bank until she'd collected from at least one of the many deadbeat borrowers she was assigned to pursue, Ryoko reaches Kazuaki Yudo, a heavily indebted lawyer and the last person on her list. Operating out of a dilapidated home office, lawyer Kazuaki's work - when he gets any - mostly involves him serving as a court-appointed attorney to defendants unable to afford legal counsel. In other words, Kazuaki makes no money. But that is not why he's a lawyer. He and his newfound partner Ryoko share an intimate desire to protect the weak and defend the innocent.



## THE LAST PRESENT

11 eps., # 1 approx. 75 min., 2 -11, approx. 60 min.



Stars: Yuki Amami, Hiromi Nagasaku, Kuranosuke Sasaki, Mayuko Fukuda

Everything seems to be going great for 36-year-old Asuka, a successful architect. She enjoys her job, and is surrounded by great co-workers. Although she suffered from depression in the past, which resulted in divorcing her husband and abandoning her daughter, she is happy with her independence, and finally things are looking on the bright side. Then one day, after a routine check-up, she is diagnosed with cancer, and is told she only has 3 months to live. Asuka, shocked and scared, keeps her cancer a secret, and makes up her mind to spend her last summer with her 9 year-old daughter, Ayumi, who she hasn't seen in 3 years. Meanwhile, her ex-husband is ready to introduce Ayumi to his fiancé, who he hopes will take over the role as Ayumi's mother. Will Asuka be able to mend the mother-daughter bond that was broken? You'll be moved by this story of a mother who is determined to win back her daughter's heart, as she hides her pain.

## LOVE AND PEACE

12 eps.

Stars:  
Masahiro Matsuoka,  
Aiko Sato, Touma Ikuta

A police detective assumes parental responsibility for two nephews and a niece after his elder brother suddenly dies. While also trying to nurture a fragile relationship with his fiancé, he attempts to bring love and peace to both his investigations and his private life.

## MAY TOMORROW BRING SUNSHINE

10 eps., #1: 90 min, #2 - 9 60 min, #10: 120 min.



Stars: Arisa Mizuki, Toru Nakamura, Yoshihiko Inohara, Eii Morisako, Keiko Toda, Yunsona

It isn't rare anymore to hear about a young single mother working hard to support her child. But what's so special about Hana is her powerfully positive attitude toward life, despite the difficulties of raising her 5-year old daughter Mimi on her own. After a brief 2-year marriage and severing ties with her parents, Hana begins working as a waitress at a local café to earn an honest living, but in a turn of events, lands an exciting job as a weathergirl on a television network, which leads to a string of fateful encounters. With just two short days of intense training, always-smiling Hana takes her place in front of the camera. As pressure mounts on her to perform professionally while still being a good mother for Mimi, Hana finds support and solace in supportive friends like Keito whom Hana leans on, sisterly colleague Marie who advises her on the art of parenting, and heart-throb TV producer Shuji who emanates worldly wisdom. During the course of the story, Hana and Mimi develop a loving mother-daughter relationship with an unbreakable bond, although that bond is tested numerous times. This success story of a single mother's struggles is certain to provoke laughter, tears and inspiration.

## MIDNIGHT RUN

10 eps.



Stars: Masatoshi Nakamura, Mikiyoshi Azuma, Taichi Kokubo

Independent stories featuring a group of five loan consultant "angels" whose after-hours job is to steer in the right direction well-intentioned borrowers who have found themselves unable to repay their shady lenders.

Produced by Kouwa International and NTV.

## MONKEY (ORIGINAL SERIES)

52 eps. in Japanese, 39 eps. in English



© International Television Films

**Stars:** Masaaki Sakai, Masako Natsume

Tales of a young Buddhist priest and his journey across China in search of holy scriptures.

## MY DARLING LITTLE WITCH

11 eps.



© NTV

**Stars:** Hideaki Itoh, Ryouko Shinohara, Arata Furuta, Kouji Ookura, Akane Oda, Becky, Mokomichi Hayami, Hisahiro Ogura, Midori Kiuchi, Sadao Abe, Masahiko Nishimura

Three years into their amorous marriage, Michio and Rumiko (affectionately nicknamed each other "Mittang" and "Rumitang") continue to be the most lovey dovey couple in town. Mittang is swooped up by a major advertising agency, offered a lucrative chance to work overseas and seems to be heading for big-time success. All that changes when he receives word that his wife was involved in a minor bicycle accident. That was enough to make Mittang quit his job to stay close to his one and only love, who after the accident, is no longer the same Rumitang he knew. His lovely wife exhibits phenomenal memory recall powers, but with one little glitch...cute Rumitang transforms into a craggy-faced, but well-known mnemonic specialist. Luckily, the metamorphosis is only temporary. As the lovebirds begin working at an odd job business where they can be together 24-7, they encounter quirky characters like a two-timing secretary, a neighbor's husband with a roving eye for the ladies, and deal with Rumitang's vertically-challenged father-in-law. As a result, they find themselves involved in even quirkier situations. In this fast-paced love comedy, you're sure to relate to one of the eccentric characters who will make you laugh and cry. Look for the heartwarming messages hidden in each episode and get bitten by the love bug!money. But that is not why he's a lawyer. He and his newfound partner Ryoko share an intimate desire to protect the weak and defend the innocent.

## MY LIFE AFTER HER DEATH

9 eps., #1: 75 min., #2 - 9: 60 min.

**Stars:**  
Tomoya Nagase (TOKIO),  
Kyoko Fukada, Yoshino  
Kimura

Love's sweet sorrow forms the dramatic storyline for this mystery drama. A free-spirited young woman, Yukari, touches those around her with a zest for life, full of passion. Following her unexplained suicide, her envious younger sister, Reiko, and naive fiancé, Yoshio, form an unlikely alliance with the last person to see her alive, playboy-entertainer Hajime. The three unlikely comrades must join forces to discover the circumstances surrounding Yukari's sudden death. The answers they seek may be found in the many phone numbers stored in her mobile phone. One by one they must interview the people Yukari associated with, to unravel the mystery surrounding her untimely demise. However, the truth may contain more questions than answers. As Yukari's hidden past is revealed, her secret life promises to shock and surprise those who thought they knew her best.

## THE NARITA FAMILY

5 eps.

**Stars:**  
Noriyuki Higashiyama,  
Shogo Shimizu, Keiko  
Toda, Shin Yazawa

Introducing the Naritas: Sakiko lives for wasting money, and her husband Tomio keeps getting laid off from his job. Their daughter Kaori got drunk and ended up starring in a porn video, and their son Hajime once set the house on fire. This family is far from being united. Nobody knows what the other does, and they don't care either. Tomio is troubled because he can't manage to tell the others that he has been laid off.

## ■ NURSEMAN

10 eps. plus one special.

**Stars:**  
Masahiro Matsuoka  
(of TOKIO), Natsumi  
Abe, Keiichi Yamamoto,  
Takako Uehara

The world of nursing has been the redoubt of women since time immemorial. Men were the doctors and women the nurses. That changed as more and more women broke through the glass ceiling to become doctors themselves, but women still control the nursing profession...until now! Newly graduated from nursing school, Yujiro Takasawa and Shinta Yamaoka are eager, ready, willing and able to pursue their life-long dreams as male nurses. Not so fast. At their new posting at Shirayuri Memorial Hospital, male nurses Yujiro and Shinta go head to head against some seriously entrenched and very stubborn female nurses. These women are so strong-willed that even the doctors are afraid of them. Will these two "nursemen" persevere for men's rights in the end?

## ■ NURSEMAN RETURNS

9 eps., #1 approx. 75 min., #2 8 approx. 60 min., #9 approx. 90 min.



**Stars:** Masahiro Matsuoka, Karina, Naomi Zaizen, Megumi Yokoyama

Yujiro Takasawa had been working for 3 years as a male nurse, in a workplace mostly made up of women. During this time he got used to the environment and his job as a nurse, but one day, he is transferred to another hospital. At first, Yujiro is excited about starting work in a new place, but things do not go as expected. His co-workers, all women, are not used to having a male nurse around. The doctor in charge is also female and is very strict, always ordering him around. In the previous "Nurseman", most of the story was focused on inside the hospital, but this time, the drama also takes a look inside the characters' private lives.

## ■ PARTNERS IN CRIME

10 eps., #1: 75 min., #2 10: 60 min.



**Stars:** Atsuko Asano, Hiroshi Mikami, Hiroyuki Ikeuchi, Megumi Okina, Shiro Sano, Mitsuru Fukikoshi, Renji Ishibashi

For the past 15 years, Misaki Fuyukawa has lived a quiet, reclusive life while keeping her secret well-hidden. With just two months left before the statute of limitations on the murder of her colleague expires, a mysterious man appears in Misaki's life, who says, "I know your secret." Is he a friend or foe? The nameless man who claims to know about Misaki's past does not reveal any personal information about himself, but only says he wants to live with her in exchange for keeping her secret. Hence, a bizarre living arrangement begins. Who is this man and what is his purpose? Meanwhile, conventional detective Kiba is convinced that Misaki is the elusive criminal behind the 15-year old murder case and is determined to uncover evidence to prove his theory. As this peculiar love-suspense drama unfolds, you will need to piece together information to solve the mysterious puzzle of murder while the clock counts down to the expiration deadline.

## ■ PRESCHOOL GUY

11 eps.



**Stars:** Shou Sakurai (of Arashi), Yuki Matsushita, Kazue Fukishi, Shozo Endoh

Ask any nursery-aged little girl what she wants to be when she grows up and she's bound to say nurse, florist, or ballerina. Ask any nursery-aged little boy what he wants to be when he grows up and he's bound to say policeman, fireman, sports player, or pilot. As for 20-year-old young man Taiyo Suzuki, however, he's had different aspirations all his life. Moved by his elderly nursery school teacher, Taiyo decided then and there that he too would also become one. Now, having passed the nursery school teacher examination, bright-eyed and eager Taiyo is out to make his mark on a totally female-dominated world. Posted at the Himawari Nursery School to cover for another teacher on maternity leave, Taiyo has but a few short months to prove himself to the female teachers and children's mothers who are arrayed against him that he is every bit as capable as the women. And more importantly, along the way, he'll make his mark with his sparkle and energy to be a true best friend to the children at the school as well.

## PRIVATE ACTRESS

10 eps.



Stars: Kanako Enomoto, Hisako Manda, Koichi Iwaki

A high school girl has the rather unconventional part-time job of being hired out as an "actress" to play roles of real and invented people. Need a lost child, a dead relative, a daughter for a politician's mistress? She's the one. Each episode is an independent story featuring the private actress caught up in clients' equally unpredictable lives.

## PSYCHO DOCTOR

11 eps.



Stars: Yutaka Takenouchi, Michiko Hada, Masahiko Nishimura

Are you afraid of heights? Why? Is it just acrophobia? Or, perhaps as a very young child you witnessed the murder of your father as he was pushed off your apartment building and now have a deathly fear of going up to the 20<sup>th</sup> floor of any building! Sounds far fetched, right? Not to psychoanalyst and counselor Kyosuke Kai. A bit quirky with compulsions of his own, Kyosuke ends up finding out more than just the standard medical reasons for his patient's emotional problems. So, rather than just practice counseling Dr. Kai becomes a detective as well. Join Dr. Kai and examine his case files to learn more about his patients and what makes them tick...or crack

## REMOTE CONTROL

10 eps.



Stars: Koichi Dohmoto (from KINKI KIDS), Kyoko Fukada, Konishiki, Jun Nagura

Locked away deep in his home and hiding a secret that keeps him there, Detective Kozaburo Himuro (Koichi Dohmoto) remains ever vigilant in his duties of police work. But how does the wunderkind detective investigate crime scenes without ever stepping out of his home? Enter traffic cop Kurumi Ayaki (Kyoko Fukuda). She's a young lady who's about to marry and resign from the force when tasked with being Himuro's eyes and ears on the beat. While on the scene of the crime their only means of communication is via mobile phone. Together they investigate a series of mind-boggling murder mysteries that put them, particularly Kurumi, in constant danger. Can Kurumi keep up with Detective Himuro, and the fast-paced and dangerous work of criminal investigation? Switch your remote control to our "Remote Control."

## ROSHINANTE - AN ANIMAL DIARY

10 eps.

Stars:  
Tsuyoshi Domoto,  
Jimpachi Nezu,  
Maki Mizuno

"Dear Diary, the dogs broke out of the veterinary clinic again today..." you would think was written by a person when in fact the whole story is in fact told by a dog, Rosinante, one of the inhabitants of a university veterinary clinic. Chief among his writings is happy-go-lucky yet hapless vet student Arata Mukai, totally at bliss with animals. But can Arata get along with his peers and professors as well as he can with the animals he cares for?

## SHINJUKU PUNK RESCUE SQUAD

10 eps.



Stars: Ryo Tamura, Atsushi Tamura, Takako Uehara

In the hard-playing entertainment district that is Shinjuku, Tokyo, it seems only fitting that so are the members of the local rescue squad. Former bike gang members Hideki Go and Goro Todoroki are a pair of mischievous and oh-so-very playful rescue squad workers who spend as much time on the job trying to pick up women as they are saving lives ... both of which they seem to do well. Along the way they learn the bittersweet lessons of life and love in this medical comedy.

## SIMPLY PSYCHIC (1 AND 2)

Part 1: 10 eps., Part 2: 12 eps.

**Stars:**  
Masahiro Matsuoka, Nene Otsuka,  
Shizuka Kudo, Yoshihiko Inohara

The adventures of a high school student who, with e xtrasensory pow-  
ers, can visualize the pieces of a crime and help solve the case.

## STRAIGHT NEWS

10 eps.



**Stars:** Hiroshi Mikami, Tomoyo Harada, Nene Otsuka

Ratings, ratings, ratings. In the fast-paced world of broadcast news, where the battle is against time as much as it is against competing networks, the truth and sincerity are sometimes at stake. Follow the exploits of one such producer as he tries to bring the audience “straight news”.

## SUIKA

10 eps.



**Stars:** Ruriko Asaoka, Kyoko Koizumi, Sa tomi Kobayashi, Rie Tomosaka,  
Miwako Ichikawa

Perfectionist thirty-something bank clerk Motoko is weighed down by the burdens of the world. Unsuccessful cartoonist Kizuna has withdrawn into herself after losing a twin sister. Child of divorced parents and an absent father, ambitionless 20-year old Yuka questions the point of life as her father leaves her the job of being the landlord of his run-down, wooden boarding house. A strict anthropology professor on campus and a mysterious, matriarch boarder, Yumiko has veiled her past while worriedly watching Yuka grow from a rosy-cheeked baby girl into a despondent young woman. What everyone has in common is that they all face a crossroads in life and dwell in the shabby boarding house. Her friendship with colleague Mariko forces Motoko to re-evaluate her values and outlook on life, as she shockingly finds out that Mariko has taken a wrong turn in life by embezzling 3 million yen of the company funds and is on the run. Watching Yumiko live life true to herself, the other women are gradually able to choose a path that will allow them to pursue their own interpretation of happiness.

## TANAKA CLAN DETECTIVES

9 eps.



**Stars:** Motoki Fukami, Izumi Inamori, Takanori Jinnai, Ryunosuke Kamiki,  
Ryoko Kuninaka

There’s an old saying: it takes the first generation to create the business and the second one to destroy it. When the Tanaka Family’s father, a career private eye, passes away, eldest daughter and mother figure Sayuri has to decide whether or not to continue the family detective business. Seeing no hope or interest on the part of her younger siblings to carry on the business, she’s about to shut it down when her long-lost elder brother Ichiro returns. A down-on-his-luck truck-driving single father now, he decides to take the mantle and continue the family tradition —his only experience being that he played cops and robbers as a kid. In his new capacity of “president” of the family business he conveniently decides to move into the home that he left many years before too. Will the Tanaka Clan really be able to resurrect the business together? Or does elder brother Ichiro have some other plans for the business?

## THE ONE AND ONLY

1 ep., approx. 150 min.



**Stars:** Seiko Matsuda, Eiichiro Funakoshi, Keiko Toda, Ryoko Sakaguchi, Shin Takuma

What would you do if you were told that your precious newborn child only has one year to live? Based on a true story, this drama tells the touching story of a husband and wife who live an unforgettable and invaluable 6 years and 2 months with their only son, who is diagnosed with Down's syndrome soon after birth.

Yumi Sato and her husband Kotaro, who met at the foreign-owned band where they both worked, gave birth to a son who they named Akiyuki shortly after marriage. Akiyuki was diagnosed with Down's syndrome, and was given only one year to live. It is quite normal for people with Down's syndrome working and living a normal life in society, but Akiyuki was diagnosed with not only Down's syndrome, but also a congenital heart disease, and an abnormality in his lungs as well. Yumi and her husband raise Akiyuki very carefully, and hope that their precious son will live even one day longer than expected. Akiyuki thrives in their love, and contrary to the doctors' diagnosis, he becomes old enough to attend preschool. Through their son's short but special life, Yumi and Kotaro realize that Akiyuki has taught them so much. Just being with Akiyuki, they feel wonderful things that they never even noticed before. Most of all, Akiyuki showed them the meaning of true happiness.

The three actors appearing in this drama are children with Down's syndrome. It is the first time that children with Down's syndrome have appeared on Japanese television as actors.

## TEACHER OF LEGENDS

11 eps.

**Stars:**  
Hitoshi Matsumoto,  
Masahiro Nakai,  
Naoto Takenaka

A man who appears to have no particular passion for anything ironically proves effective with troubled high schools tudents. Known as a legendary savior of problem schools, he shows up one day to salvage what's left of a class that had fallen apart completely. His highly unpredictable reactions and controversial advice to students shock the teachers and staffs much as they do the problem students themselves.

## THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW

11 eps.



**Stars:** Masatoshi Hamada, Hitoshi Matsumoto, Izumi Inamori, Yukie Nakama

A decade of economic slump has certainly taken their toll on corporate Japan, and no one group more so than the white collar workers that laden Japan Inc. For Toaru Corporation, a large Osaka-based trading company, times are tough. At the products trading division in the Tokyo office of this struggling company, desperation is always in the air as this on-the-verge-of-being-downsized group tries hard to find a new business niche to survive. Their morale low and their activity listless, the group needs leadership. Enter Assistant Manager Hamada (of comedy group "Downtown" fame) to shake things up. But can the ever-positive-thinking and hard-charging Hamada turn things around? This comedy will have you enjoying all the trials and tribulations of work, friendship, inter-company romance, family, and future dreams.

## THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW SPECIAL

1 ep.

**Stars:**  
Masatoshi Hamada,  
Hitoshi Matsumoto,  
Izumi Inamori,  
Yukie Nakama

Toaru Corporation suddenly has changed into a foreign-owned enterprise, where things are always decided based on assessment. At the products trading division (Section 13), the group's morale has gone down again, and the atmosphere is bad. Positive-thinking Assistant Manager Hamada and the others decide to plan a self-service sushi restaurant, but will they succeed?

## TO DAISUKE IN HEAVEN 1 ep., 150 min.



**Stars:** Masaharu Fukuyama, Shun Oguri, Asaka Seto, Mitsuru Fukigoshi, Rio Matsumoto, Shinji Yamashita, Reo Morimoto and Naoko Ootani

After making a serious error in his news story, political newspaper reporter Youhei Iida grudgingly takes on an assignment for the sports section to write about the Takushoku University track and field team as they prepare for the annual Hakone relay road race after a 13 year absence. During the course of covering this team, disgruntled Youhei meets optimistic and promising runner Daisuke Sato who is determined to lead his university team to victory, and even has dreams of someday making it to the Olympics. As Youhei struggles to deal with his problem-laden work and personal life, he discovers that 23-year-old Daisuke has been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness. Inspired by the young runner fighting back against the acute disease with the same determination he had while training for the relay race, Youhei makes an important promise to Daisuke. Will this heartbreaking yet heartwarming experience be enough to change Youhei's cynical perspective of life and finally give him courage?

## TOKYO MONEY PIT 9 eps.



**Stars:** Saki Kagami, Rei Kikukawa, Yoshio Harada, Akiko Matsumoto, Aiko Morishita, Papaya Suzuki

One wish every parent has is for the children to finally move out of the house and be independent. For recently retired professor Kazuo Tameyama, father of 5 married and single independent-minded daughters, one would think he'd want the same too. But alas, he wants to reunite his whole family...and into the same house no less! Despite howling protests from his daughters, with a very modest sum of money from his cancelled insurance policy and retirement funds in hand, Kazuo sets out to find the perfect home: posh central Tokyo location, close to the local grade school for his daughter's children, and good transportation access...and all for 30 million yen. Is he kidding? Sure enough he finds the seemingly perfect dream home and moves right in with all 9 family members in tow. But not everything is what it seems for the house holds some surprisingly costly secrets of its own.

## TUESDAY SUSPENSE THEATRE 3 titles.

**Japan Travelogue Mystery Series** 30 eps.

**Stars:** Eiichiro Funakoshi, Mari Torigoe

Writer Naoko Kashiwagi and her cameraman friend Katsuya Yamamoto stumble onto murder mysteries on their travels throughout Japan.

**"Hachiro Onitsura Case Files"** 13 eps.

**Stars:** Yasuo Daichi, Miyuki Kosaka

Follow the exploits of the ailing diabetic Tokyo-based detective Hachiro Onitsura as he investigates murder mystery around Tokyo.

**"Takenosuke Asahi, Esq. Case Files"** 16 eps.

**Stars:** Keiju Kobayashi, Hirohide Yakumaru, Fukumi Kuroda

Noble Takenosuke Asahi is a modern-day Robin Hood, of sorts. He helps the poor and downtrodden by providing them with legal service. Of course, some times he gets in a bit too deep...

## WALTZ OF HER HEART

11 eps., #1 approx. 90 min., #2 - 11 approx. 60 min.



© NTV

**Stars:** Natsumi Abe, Hidetoshi Nishijima, Haya to Ichihara, Natsuki Kato, Toru Kazama

Brought up in an orphanage, Haoto, a young blind girl, was teased and discriminated against, and the only things she enjoyed were playing with a puppy at the pet shop, and playing the piano. Even though she is blind, Haoto had an amazing talent that even she didn't realize. A talent called "perfect pitch". She could play any song on the piano after hearing it only once. Finally, someone noticed her talent. His name was Shinya Minazuki, and he was also a lonely pianist who was brought up in an orphanage. Haoto, about to start a new life in a world unknown to her, comes to be entangled in an intense dispute between the siblings of the rich Minazuki family over who will inherit their prestigious music school. What will happen to the gifted Haoto? This drama, which evolves around beautiful piano music, is full of love, suspense, and mystery.

## WATER MARGIN

26 eps.



© International Television Films

**Stars:** Kei Satoh, Atsuo Nakamura, Hajime Hana

A mixture of fairy tale, adventure and drama, this classic Robin Hood-style story has been a favorite of audiences young and old for years. The series is based on the famous Chinese novel "Shui Hu Chan," whose plot revolves around an exotic world in which undreamed luxury and bitter poverty, cruel violence and touching helpfulness are found side by side. A brave and unconquerable hero becomes the leader of a band of robbers and outcasts. Together they fight to defend the rights of the poor and force their oppressors to give back the wealth they have extorted. A huge cast, magnificent landscapes, and superb costumes help make The Water Margin an unforgettable voyage through a world of fantastical adventure.

## VIRTUAL GIRL

12 eps.



© NTV

**Stars:** Kanako Enomoto, Takanori Jinnai, Ken Miyake

Using unique computer software designed by her own mother, a teenager enters a virtual world in which she probes the feelings of others, and through them, solves crime cases.

## WHO MEANS THE MOST TO YOU

10 eps., #1 75 min., #2 - 10 approx. 60 min.



© NTV

**Stars:** Rie Miyazawa, Goro Kishitani, Riho Makise, Takashi Naito, Ryuta Saito

Kaname Matsugaya is a policeman working at a local police box. He once married a woman named Toko, who was reckless and pushed Kaname around. They ended up divorcing 10 years later. Their daughter, Konami, instead of living with her caring father, Kaname, went to live with Toko. Later on, Kaname goes on to marry a caring woman, the exact opposite of Toko. They start their new life in the town where Kaname is transferred, but that town just happens to be the place where Kaname's ex-wife and their daughter live. In this hard, imperfect world, full of worries, anger, and laughter, Kaname gets trapped in a situation where he must determine who is the most important to him.



## WITHOUT FAMILY, 1 &amp; 2

9 eps. each



Stars: Yumi Adachi, Koichi Domoto, Naoki Hosaka, Maki Mizuno

An often challenged yet determined twelve-year-old girl who becomes skilled in the art of saving - and some times even swindling - money in order to help her ill mother.

## WITH THE LIGHT

11 eps., #1 and 11 approx. 75 min., #2 - 10 approx. 60 min.

Stars: Ryoko Shinohara,  
Satomi Kobayashi, Tatsuya  
Yamaguchi, Shinji Takeda,  
Anju Suzuki, Haruka Igawa,  
Ryusei Saito

Sachiko and Masato Azuma, in their 4<sup>th</sup> year of marriage, had been so excited about the birth of their long-awaited first child. They named their baby boy "Hikaru" (meaning "light" in Japanese). Nobody doubted that the birth of their precious son Hikaru would bring great happiness to the Azumas' family life. Until one day, Sachiko noticed that there was something different about Hikaru. This heartwarming drama is a story about family. Hikaru's mother goes through so many difficulties raising her autistic son, sometimes so overwhelmed that she doesn't know what to do. Then at Hikaru's school, with the help of one very special teacher, she learns to deal with her son's autism, and think positive about her family life. Her story will touch the hearts of all mothers with young children, mothers who have brought up young children, as well as women who will be mothers in the future. This drama is dedicated to mothers all around the world.