

Mischief of the Gods:

Tales
From the
Ethiopian
Street



Fri. 02 Aug
Sat. 03 Aug
Sun. 04 Aug

"What a rich life it is to have these memories of time spent with the young Azmari singer Tigabu, the Lalibela poet Tilahun, and the other spirits of improvisation. I envy Itsushi Kawase. For him the streets of Gondar are close, dear, and touching."

—Ryuichi Sakamoto

MEET THE AUTHOR

Book & Film Event

ITSUSHI
KAWASE

is a filmmaker, poet, a professor at Japan's National Museum of Ethnology and the Graduate University for Advanced Studies. He has conducted research on Ethiopia's hereditary singer-poets since 2001. His recent book, "Mischief of the Gods," captures the daily lives of Ethiopia's diverse people through a poet's sensibility. It is a playfully structured collection of stories that elevate these experiences into a cohesive work.

Free Admission
Reservation Required
Limited to 25 Guests

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Info@empty-shelf.com
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Empty Shelf
At Mission Art Center
609 W Santa Anita St
San Gabriel, CA91776



FILM SCREENING

02 Aug 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm**"Azmari -The Fest of Voices-"**

(70min, 2023, Amharic(English Subtitles))

Azmari, hereditary musicians in the Ethiopian highlands, play the one-stringed masenqo. Their songs, featuring improvised poetry, offer social and political satire. This film follows Solomon Ayanaw, an Azmari in Addis Ababa, exploring the transformation and authenticity of Azmari culture through his performances and conversations with his relatives and the audience.



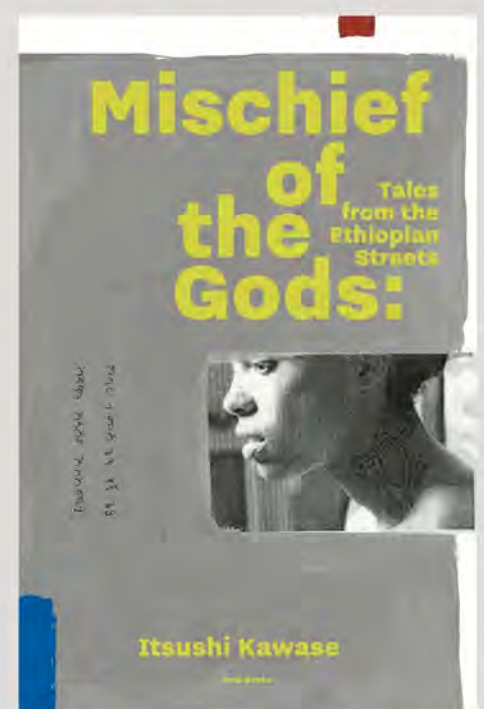
TALK & Discussion

03 Aug 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Itsushi Kawase Talk About his book **"Mischievous of the Gods"** with **Alemayehu T Alemayehu**, a haiku poet

**Itsushi Kawase****Alemayehu T Alemayehu**

"Mischievous of the Gods"
Itsushi Kawase (author),
Jeffery Johnson (translator)
Awai Books (2023)



Join us for a talk show with Itsushi Kawase, author of "Mischievous of the Gods," and Ethiopian haiku poet Alex. They will introduce and discuss the Ethiopian street culture featured in the book, the impact of first English translation, and the nuances between Amharic, Japanese, and English from their poetic perspectives.

FILM SCREENING

04 Aug 1:30 pm - 2:30 pm**"Living in Connection-Ethiopians in Tokyo-"**

(48min, 2024, Japanese, Amharic (English Subtitles))

Japanese society includes people from various cultures, but the lives of African immigrants are not well known. Nearly 200 Ethiopians in Tokyo's Katsushika and Sumida wards connect through their church and interact with locals through music and food. This film highlights how they integrate while maintaining their culture, promoting reflection on Japan's cultural diversity.

