

NEW YORK

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NYSCREEN WEIRD IS GOOD

Instead of programming yet another slate of quiet art-house dramas, the New York Asian Film Festival has become one of the city's most exciting film events by celebrating excess: innovative, sometimes baffling, often whiplash-stylish Asian pop that expands your sense of what's possible on a movie screen. This year's downright-crazy-ass lineup (June 22 to July 8 at the IFC Center and Japan Society) fêtes some prestige films (like *The Banquet*), for sure, but you can skip those: Instead, gross out at *Aachi & Ssipak*, a postapocalyptic Korean 'toon version of *Urinetown*; goth up with Japan's *manga*-based *Death Note* blockbusters; laugh yourself scared with Pakistan's first slasher flick, *Hell's Ground*. And don't miss *I'm a Cyborg, But That's OK* (pictured), a mesmerizing romance from *Oldboy*'s vengeance-obsessed director Park Chan-wook. LOGAN HILL

