

Summary of Press Conference

(November 15th, 2023)

On Programs during the Year-end and New Year's Holidays

(Comments by YAMANA Hiroo, Executive Director of General Media Administration)

I'd like to introduce our recommended programs for the year-end and New Year's holidays.

Once again this year, we will offer a lineup of programs to respond to viewer wishes to watch their favorite programs "more and once again" by intensively scheduling special versions of regular programs and those that received a great response, as well as those viewers wish to be rerun. Let me introduce the programs we'd like to recommend according to the broadcasting channels and dates.

First comes the General TV. On December 27th, we'll broadcast "Kateryna ga Mitsumeta Senka no Kokyo." Kateryna Novytska, a Ukrainian-born NHK Producer, returned to her hometown for the first time in five years and was reunited with her parents and classmates. By using what is called the self-documentary method to express what she felt there, the program depicts a war-ravaged Ukraine that has not been fully covered in Japan.

The next program we'd like to introduce is the special edition of "Family History Kusakari Masao," which received a great response when it was aired in August. Actor KUSAKARI Masao found out for the first time through this program that his father was alive until 10 years ago. Unable to suppress his desire to see his paternal relatives, he went to the United States after the program's recording in the studio. The special edition will show you all of the fulfilling time he spent during his stay in the U.S. We would also like you to listen to what Kusakari's eldest daughter, KURAN, has to say. She said she was feeling Kusakari's long-held inner conflicts about his father as she was closely watching him.

On December 30th, we'll broadcast "Document 72 Hours Nenmatsu Special" once again this year. Please stay tuned to see how the Top 10 episodes will turn out.

On January 3rd, we will air a special edition of "The Honest Realtor," a TV drama series that has proved still popular following its broadcast in spring last year. The special edition, completely newly produced, is designed to lead into "The Honest Realtor Season 2" that will start on January 9th. In order for viewers to enjoy this special edition and Season 2 even more, all 10 episodes of "The Honest Realtor Season 1" will be re-run during the New Year's holidays.

Educational TV will present a special edition of “Kowai Ehon” on December 30th as a program for parents and children to enjoy together. Author KYOGOKU Natsuhiko and actress NON, who appeared in this program’s first episode, will discuss all about what “scary” represents.

Next, I would like to talk about the satellite broadcasting that will make a fresh start next month. To help people get familiar with new BS channels, programs of popular genres in satellite broadcasting, such as history, drama, sports and nature, will be scheduled during the year-end and New Year’s holidays, when people frequently watch TVs. Among the programs to be aired is “Kessen! Sekigahara VR” scheduled for December 30th on NHK BS.

BS is popular for its broadcasts of the Major League Baseball. With OHTANI Shohei having become the first Japanese MLB home run champion, broadcasts of MLB games and related programs were very well viewed this year. The “Waasupo MLB Special,” to be broadcast on NHK BS on December 30th, will look back at the 2023 season with NHK’s baseball commentator, IGUCHI Tadahito.

The new TAIGA historical drama, “Dear Radiance,” will start on January 7th, with Murasaki Shikibu, Japanese writer and lady-in-waiting known as the author of “The Tale of Genji,” as the protagonist. It will be the first drama in seven years to feature a woman as the main character. In order for viewers to better enjoy the drama, we will broadcast a special program, to be titled “TAIGA Drama Mei-Bamen Special Rekishi ni Na o Kizamu Josei-tachi.” It will be broadcast as a two-hour program on NHK BS and NHK BS Premium 4K whereas it will be aired as a 30-minute version on General TV. The program’s broadcasting schedule is currently being adjusted.

NHK BS Premium 4K, which is characterized for its high-definition images, will present a program on nature, titled “Cho-kicho Eizo de Semaru! Iriomote Yamaneko Shinka no Mystery,” on New Year’s Day. This program will explore the evolutionary mystery of Iriomote cats, which inhabit Iriomote Island in Okinawa Prefecture. Their number is said to be only around 100.

We have captured a plenty of precious moments with the powerful images that only 4K can provide. We hope you will enjoy the world you have never seen before.

On our radio service, Radio 1 will present “KAMISHIRAISHI Mone no ‘Monegatarī’ 2023” on December 26th, while FM will broadcast “HINO Terumasa Tamashii ga Hanatsu Oto” on New Year’s Eve.

NHK Plus will make available a variety of playlists, such as those related to the TAIGA historical drama “Dear Radiance,” to enable viewers to easily find the programs they want to watch.

During the year-end and New Year's holidays, we will broadcast special programs in a variety of genres. We are planning previews and interviews for some of these programs, so we will be pleased if you could cover them.