

Director Kitano awarded culture prize in Italy

Film director Takeshi Kitano was awarded the **Galileo 2000** Prize in Florence on Sunday. The prize, now in its 10th year, is annually awarded to artists who contribute greatly to cultural development as well as those who have contributed to world peace.

Kitano won the prize in culture for his contribution to film art. In 1996 he won the Venice Film Festival's Golden Lion with "Hana-Bi."

A leading figure in international cinema, he has won many awards at major international film festivals, and the film "Kikujiro" was premiered in the Cannes