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JUNE 12 - 26, 2025



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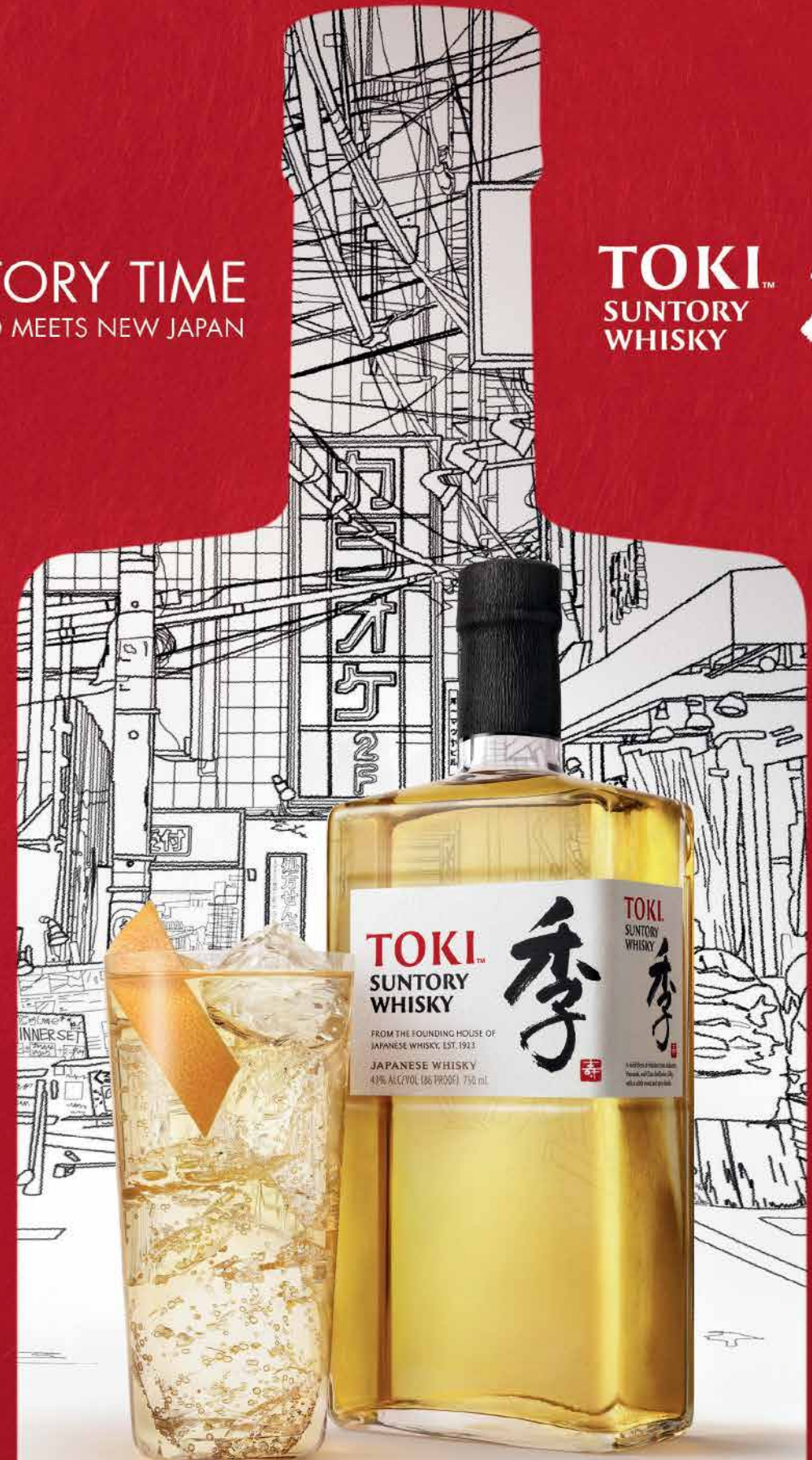
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THE HOUSE OF SUNTORY
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ABOUT THE TORONTO JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL



TORONTO
JAPANESE
FILM
FESTIVAL

"The TJFF line-up perfectly reflects the current Japanese film industry and I agree with director Harada that this festival that we Japan filmmakers should aspire it. I have been to many film festivals all over the world. The Toronto Japanese Film Festival took very good care of our team starting from the moment we arrived to our final departure; always with big smile, I felt great enthusiasm from both the festival staff and volunteers, and the audience too, of course. I hope to bring another movie to the Toronto Japanese Film Festival where so many people come to enjoy Japanese films. It was a wonderful, dream-like experience for me."

Takumi Saitoh (Director: blank 13; Actor: Bushido, Shin Ultraman, The Gambler's Odessey, The Projects, Kodai Family)

"I think what makes the Toronto Japanese Film Festival so special is the wonderful job it does in capturing the current state of the Japanese film industry. The programming conveys a sense of what is really happening in the world of Japanese cinema. By including popular films, we can get a better understanding of the country. These choices ensure Toronto audiences can experience a true sense of contemporary Japan."

Takashi Yamazaki (Academy Award-winning Director, Godzilla Minus One, Always: Sunset on 3rd Street, The Eternal Zero)

Now in its 14th year, the Toronto Japanese Film Festival remains one of the largest cinema events of its kind in the world, showcasing the finest Japanese films that have been recognized for excellence by Japanese audiences and critics, international film festival audiences and the Japanese Film Academy. Programming addresses popular genres such as historical (samurai) jidaigeki, contemporary dramas, comedies and action, literary adaptations, children's, art-house and anime films. All films shown are North American, Canadian, or Toronto premieres.

The Toronto Japanese Film Festival's mandate has been carefully aligned with that of the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. In the 62 years since the opening of the JCCC, film has been an important tool in creating friendship, understanding, and exchange between the Japanese and broader Canadian communities. Ticket sales from the festival also help to drive our heritage programming which shares the important lessons of cultural acceptance and human rights, implicit in the Japanese Canadian experience with all Canadians.

The festival continues to attract large crowds representing a broad demographic and generates much positive reaction with viewer surveys consistently indicating that audiences genuinely enjoy and feel challenged by the films. With lectures, receptions, gallery exhibitions, and performances that are part of the two-week festival, our visitors number in the tens of thousands.

For our 2025 festival, we have worked hard to find a wide range of films that represent the broad spectrum of great cinema created in Japan. We have an exciting line-up this year; we invite you to be a part of this stunning festival and enjoy some of the best that Japanese film has to offer.





トロント日本映画祭について



“映画祭は基本的に年に一度の周期なので、実行委員やボランティアスタッフの方々は本業や学業の傍ら映画祭の時期になると尽力されている。トロント日本映画祭も同じくで現地空港での出迎えから移動・宿・食事・取材・登壇・観光・見送りまで我々guest対応を笑顔でして下さった。もちろんお客さんもそうだけれどそんな彼等の印象こそが映画祭の印象だと思った。また映画大国カナダにて素晴らしい環境下にて邦画を観て頂ける貴重な模様に沢山の方々が集まって下さると言う邦画にとって幸せなこの祭典にまた作品を持って戻って来たい。カナダ及びトロントが特別な場所になる夢の様な時間でした。心から感謝致します。”

齋藤工監督『Blank 13』2018年上映作品

“トロント日本映画祭の素晴らしいところは日本映画を取り巻く今現在の状況を見事に切り取っていることにあります。今の日本の映画界がどうなっているかを肌で感じる事が出来るのです。映画という物、特に商業映画に内包されるその国の情報という物は想像以上に豊かな物です。この取り組みは、実は今の“日本そのもの”をトロントの皆さんに紹介してくれているのだと思います。”

山崎貴監督（『海賊とよばれた男』2017年上映作品『ゴジラ-1.0』第96回アカデミー賞視覚効果賞）

トロント日本映画祭(TJFF)は今年で第14回目を迎えます。お陰様で世界でも最大規模の日本映画祭の一つとして認識され、その存在は確固としたものとなっています。TJFFでは、子供からお年寄りまで楽しめるように、時代劇、現代ドラマ、コメディ、アクション、アートハウス系、アニメーションなど幅広い分野を網羅したラインナップを心がけています。いずれも日本で多くの支持を得た作品や、国内外の映画祭などで受賞するなどの話題の作品ばかりです。そして作品の殆どが 北米、カナダあるいはトロント初公開となります。

TJFFでは最新の日本映画を皆様を紹介するだけでなく、作品を通して日本文化に触れてもらい、友好を広げるきっかけになればと願っています。それはTJFFを主催するカナダ日系文化会館(JCCC)の使命と重なります。創立して62年となるJCCCですが、日本映画の上映はJCCCがその使命を遂行するうえで重要なツールとなっています。映画祭の売り上げは、日系カナダ人の歴史や文化的遺産を後世に伝える為のヘリテージプログラム運営の一助となっています。

TJFFは今や完全に地域に定着し、熱心なファンの数も年々増え、ファン層も多岐にわたっています。上映後のアンケートの回答を見ると、いかに皆様が純粋に映画を楽しんでいるのかがよくわかります。約2週間の開催期間中は、監督や出演俳優の登壇、オープニング/クロージングのイベント、上映作品関連の展示や音楽などのパフォーマンス等々、様々なプログラムを用意して観客の皆様喜んで頂いています。



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PHOTOGRAPHY BY TED BELTON

ABOUT THE JAPANESE CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

Now in its 63rd year, the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC) serves as the gathering point for the Japanese Canadian community and for those of non-Japanese ancestry who have an interest in things Japanese.

The JCCC Vision is to enrich lives globally through the celebration of Japanese culture and Japanese Canadian heritage and our Mission is to promote understanding, inclusion, and friendship by sharing the Japanese Canadian experience and traditional and contemporary Japanese culture.

Serving the interests of the 50,000 Japanese Canadians in the GTA and welcoming 250,000 annual visitors and members of all heritages, the JCCC's programs, festivals, and events reach far beyond the Japanese Canadian community. The JCCC is an international cultural hub, presenting Japanese cultural experiences to one of the most consistently diverse audiences of any cultural centre in the world. The JCCC offers a broad spectrum of Japanese cultural programs including film screenings, traditional and contemporary Japanese performances, festivals, art and history exhibitions, Japanese language classes and a wide range of courses and workshops in traditional Japanese cultural arts and music. The JCCC also boasts a state-of-the-art Dojo where over 600 members pursue 8 different martial arts disciplines. The JCCC houses the Ikebata Nursery School, Japanese Social Services, Nikkei Voice, Tokyo Beauty Studio, Kiai Acupuncture Clinic, the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and one of North America's finest Japanese restaurants, the Michelin-starred Kaiseki Yu-zen Hashimoto.

Our facility is surrounded by 100 Sakura cherry trees and the name of the street was appropriately renamed Sakura Way in 2023.

While the majority of Japanese Canadians are born in Canada, the past 10 years has seen a large influx of new Japanese immigrants. The JCCC helps these new Canadians connect to a larger community network and facilitates friendship with Canadians from all segments of society. The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre is truly a multicultural centre which, in the spirit of its motto 'Friendship through Culture', also hosts numerous events in collaboration with cultural groups that do not have cultural facilities of their own.

The JCCC model is based on inclusion - in fact, almost half of the Centre's members are of non-Japanese ancestry. Among the many guests we have welcomed in these 60-plus years were Their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress of Japan, who graced us with a visit in the summer of 2009 and Her Imperial Highness Princess Takamado in 2019.

In the past six decades, the Centre has evolved into one of the largest and most vibrant Japanese cultural centres in the world. Through our ever-expanding facility and programming, of which the Toronto Japanese Film Festival plays an important role, we look forward to continuing to share the story of Japanese Canadians and connecting all Canadians to the exciting richness of Japanese culture, both traditional and contemporary.



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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It is my pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending the Toronto Japanese Film Festival hosted by the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre (JCCC).

The Toronto Japanese Film Festival, now in its 14th year, is one of the largest cinematic events of its kind in the world. It showcases the finest Japanese films that have been critically acclaimed by Japanese audiences and critics, international film festival audiences, and the Japanese Film Academy. I am pleased that this festival celebrating Japanese culture and Japanese Canadian heritage, is taking place in our city.

I would like to thank the JCCC for its valued work in promoting understanding, inclusion, human rights and friendship, by sharing the Japanese Canadian experience and traditional and contemporary Japanese culture.

The City of Toronto's vibrant Japanese Canadian community makes valued cultural, economic, political and social contributions to our city, and forms an important part of the City of Toronto's motto: Diversity Our Strength.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my best wishes for a memorable and enjoyable event.

Yours truly,

Olivia Chow
Mayor of Toronto

City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, 2nd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N2
416-397-CITY (2489) mayor_chow@toronto.ca

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Services and Programs

- Library
- Gallery Exhibitions
- Lectures & Talks
- Film Screenings
- Language Education
- Grant Programs
- Partnerships

Library & Gallery Opening Hours

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	11:30 am to 4:30 pm
Wednesday	Closed
Thursday	11:30 am to 6:30 pm
Friday	11:30 am to 4:30 pm
Saturday	11:30 am to 4:30 pm*
Sunday	Closed

*Closed on select Saturdays



The Japan Foundation, Toronto



<https://tr.jpf.go.jp>

2 Bloor Street East, Suite 300, Toronto ON
North-East corner of Yonge and Bloor (above the RBC).

Connect with us



The Japan Foundation is Japan's only Institution dedicated to carrying out comprehensive international cultural exchange programs throughout the world.
独立行政法人国際交流基金（The Japan Foundation, JF）は世界の全地域において、総合的に国際文化交流を実施する日本で唯一の専門機関です。

TICKETS チケット

Non-member	一般	(\$17.70+HST) \$20
Member - JCCC	会員	(\$12.39+HST) \$14

Family Films (\$5.31+HST) **\$6**
Tickets for aged 14 and under for anime screenings
(GIVE IT ALL and NINTAMA RANTARO)

ファミリー映画『がんばっていきまっしょい』と『忍たま乱太郎 ドクタケ忍者隊最強の軍師』: 14歳以下の子供料金は (\$5.31+HST) **\$6**

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Non-member	一般	(\$22.12+HST) \$25
Member - JCCC	会員	(\$17.70+HST) \$20

5 FILM PASS 5枚パス 100 passes are available

Non-member	一般	(\$79.65+HST) \$90
Member - JCCC	会員	(\$53.10+HST) \$60

DELUXE 10 FILM PASS 10枚パス 100 passes are available

Non-member	一般	(\$154.87+HST) \$175
Member - JCCC	会員	(\$106.19+HST) \$120

Pass holders can watch any 5 or 10 films at the Toronto Japanese Film Festival. One pass cannot be exchanged for more than one ticket for the same film. All passes include a BONUS SHISEIDO GIFT and access to Opening and Closing night festivities.

All films are presented in Japanese with English subtitles. THE VOW FROM HIROSHIMA and BETWEEN PICTURES: THE LENS OF TAMIO WAKAYAMA are presented in English.

From May 7, 2025, all tickets and passes can be purchased at JCCC reception or by calling (416) 441-2345.

Also available online through Ticketweb at www.ticketweb.ca or www.jccc.on.ca.

作品は日本語 (英語字幕付き) 上映となります。ただし『ヒロシマへの誓い サロー節子とともに』は英語上映となります。チケットとパスは5月7日に発売開始となり、映画祭期間中はJCCC受付で直接、あるいは電話 (416-441-2345) でご購入いただけます。またオンラインでの購入をご希望の方はTicketweb (www.ticketweb.ca) をご利用ください。JCCCのウェブサイト (www.jccc.on.ca) からアクセスできます。全ての料金にHSTが含まれています。

LOCATION 会場

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre 日系文化会館
6 Sakura Way, Toronto, ON • Tel: 416-441-2345

BY TTC 地下鉄とバスでのアクセス

- From Eglinton Station: Take bus 34C.
Get off at Wynford Drive @ Sakura Way
- From Broadview Station: Take bus 100A.
Get off at Wynford Drive @ Sakura Way

BY CAR

From Downtown

Take Don Valley Parkway North to Eglinton – Go west to Gervais Dr. – Turn right on Wynford Dr. then left at Sakura Way.

From the West

Take Eastbound Gardiner Expressway to Don Valley Parkway North to Eglinton – Go west to Gervais Dr. – Turn right on Wynford Dr. then left at Sakura Way.

From the East

Take Highway 401 West to Don Valley Parkway South – Go south to Wynford Dr. – Turn right on Wynford Dr. then right at Sakura Way.

From the North

Take Highway 404/ Don Valley Parkway South to Wynford Dr. – Turn right on Wynford Dr. then right at Sakura Way.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

DATE		START TIME	RUN TIME
THURSDAY JUNE 12	6月12日(木)		
Opening Night Reception	はたらく細胞	6:30 pm	110 min
Cells at Work! – Director Hideki Takeuchi in Attendance		7:30 pm	
FRIDAY JUNE 13	6月13日(金)		
Hakkenden: Fiction and Reality	八犬伝	7:00 pm	149 min
SATURDAY JUNE 14	6月14日(土)		
The 35-Year Promise	35年目のラブレター	1:00 pm	119 min
Cloud	クラウド	4:00 pm	118 min
She Taught Me Serendipity	今日の空が一番好き、とまだ言えない僕は	7:00 pm	127 min
– Director Akiko Ohku in Attendance			
SUNDAY JUNE 15	6月15日(日)		
Give It All	がんばっていきまっしょい	1:00 pm	95 min
Between Pictures: The Lens of Tamio Wakayama		4:00 pm	71 min
Angry Squad: Civil Servants and Seven Swindlers	アングリースクワッド 公務員と7人の詐欺師	7:00 pm	120 min
MONDAY JUNE 16	6月16日(月)		
Aimitagai	アイミタガイ	7:00 pm	106 min
TUESDAY JUNE 17	6月17日(火)		
Teki Cometh	敵	7:00 pm	108 min
WEDNESDAY JUNE 18	6月18日(水)		
Let's Go Karaoke!	カラオケ行こ!	7:00 pm	107 min
THURSDAY JUNE 19	6月19日(木)		
Last Mile	ラストマイル	7:00 pm	128 min
FRIDAY JUNE 20	6月20日(金)		
Ravens	レイブンズ	7:00 pm	117 min
SATURDAY JUNE 21	6月21日(土)		
Living in Two Worlds	ぼくが生きてる、ふたつの世界	1:00 pm	108 min
90 Years Old – So What!	九十歳。何がめでたい	4:00 pm	99 min
River Returns – Director Masakazu Kaneko in Attendance	光る川	7:00 pm	108 min
SUNDAY JUNE 22	6月22日(日)		
Nintama Rantaro:	劇場版 忍たま乱太郎 ドクタケ忍者隊最強の軍師	1:00 pm	90 min
Invincible Master of Dokutake Ninja			
Grand Maison Paris	グランメゾン・パリ	4:00 pm	111 min
Muromachi Outsiders (Samurai Fury)	室町無頼	7:00 pm	135 min
MONDAY JUNE 23	6月23日(月)		
Petals and Memories	花まんま	7:00 pm	123 min
TUESDAY JUNE 24	6月24日(火)		
The Vow from Hiroshima	ヒロシマへの誓い サーロー節子とともに	7:00 pm	78 min
– Director and Cast in Attendance			
WEDNESDAY JUNE 25	6月25日(水)		
Bushido (Gobangiri) – Preceded by a Performance by JCCC Kyowa Taiko	碁盤斬り	7:00 pm	129 min
THURSDAY JUNE 26	6月26日(木)		
Sunset Sunrise	サンセット・サンライズ	7:00 pm	139 min
Closing Night Reception			
THURSDAY JULY 17 - SUMMER SHOWCASE SCREENING	7月17日(木)		
Seppuku: The Sun Goes Down – Director and Cast in Attendance	陽が落ちる	7:00 pm	133 min

OPENING NIGHT SCREENING



© AKANE SHIMIZU/KODANSHA © SHIGEMITSU HARADA, ISSEY HATSUYOSHIYA, AKANE SHIMIZU/KODANSHA © 2024 "CELLS AT WORK!" FILM PARTNERS

CELLS AT WORK!

はたらく細胞

Thursday June 12 • 7:30pm • 110min • 2024 • Director: Hideki Takeuchi
CANADIAN PREMIERE • In Japanese with English Subtitles



Special Guest

Director Hideki Takeuchi in attendance to introduce his film and take audience questions

The director of *Thermae Romae* and *Fly Me to Saitama* introduces the “smallest” heroes in movie history... The blood cells! The body contains 37 trillion of these tiny fighters. Niko is a high school student with a healthy lifestyle; therefore, the cells in her body are always working happily. However, her beloved father Shigeru lives an erratic, unhealthy lifestyle, steadily breaking down the morale of his blood cells. Father and daughter are close and live a lively daily life; however, the bacteria that are trying to invade their bodies begin to move... The greatest battle in history is about to take place inside the human body, with the future of the Urushizaki family at stake! Fast paced, endlessly inventive and ultimately quite moving, the film is a perfect transfer of manga to live-action!

Starring Mei Nagano, Takeru Satoh, Mana Ashida, Sadao Abe, Koji Yamamoto, Riisa Naka.

大人気漫画の実写映画化。高校生・漆崎日胡は、父親の茂と二人暮らし。健康的な生活を送る日胡の体内の細胞たちは、いつも楽しくはたらかっている。一方、不規則不摂生に日々を過ごす茂の体内では、ブラックな労働環境に疲れ果てた細胞たちがいつも文句を言っている。しかし、その体内への侵入を狙う病原体たちが動き始める…。漆崎親子の未来をかけた、細胞たちの「体内史上最大の戦い」が幕を開ける!?

監督: 武内英樹
出演: 永野芽郁、佐藤健、芦田愛菜、阿部サダヲ、山本耕史、仲里依紗



© 2024 "Hakkenden: Fiction and Reality" Film Partners

HAKKENDEN: FICTION AND REALITY 八犬伝

Friday June 13 • 7:00pm • 149min • 2024 • Director: Fumihiko Sori
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE • In Japanese with English Subtitles

During the Edo period, legendary author Takizawa Bakin spends 28 years writing his masterpiece *Nanso Hatomi Hakkenden*, one of Japan's greatest works. In it, a group of warriors, each carrying a magical prayer orb, embark on a harsh journey to fight the curse laid upon a powerful clan. He recounts his fantasy epic to his dear friend, the artist Hokusai but as the story finally approaches its climax, he begins to lose his sight. His devoted daughter must step in to help. The film blends an intimate story of an artist and his family with the spectacular tale of action and adventure he struggles to put on the page. Hakkenden features delicate performances from a cast of some of Japan's finest actors as well as dizzyingly huge special effects battles.

Starring Koji Yakusho, Seiyo Uchino, Tao Tsuchiya, Keisuke Watanabe, Shinobu Terajima.

世界に誇る日本ファンタジーの原点「八犬伝」の実写化!江戸時代の人気作家・滝沢馬琴は、友人の絵師・葛飾北斎に、構想中の物語「八犬伝」を語り始める。里見家にかけられた呪いを解くため、八つの珠を持つ八人の剣士が、運命に導かれるように集結し、壮絶な戦いに挑むという壮大にして奇怪な物語だ。北斎はたちまち夢中になる。そして、続きが気になり、度々訪れては馬琴の創作の刺激となる下絵を描いた。北斎も魅了した物語は人気を集め、異例の長期連載へと突入していくが、クライマックスに差しかった時、馬琴は失明してしまう。完成が絶望的な中、義理の娘から「手伝わせてほしい」と申し出を受ける――。

監督: 曾利文彦
出演: 役所広司、内野聖陽、土屋太鳳、渡邊圭祐、寺島しのぶ

Screening Partners



Pretty HEROES



© 2025 THE 35-YEAR PROMISE Film Partners

THE 35-YEAR PROMISE 35年目のラブレター

Saturday June 14 • 1:00pm • 119min • 2025 • Director: Renpei Tsukamoto
INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE • In Japanese with English Subtitles

“Do you remember the promise that I would write you a love letter?”

Tamotsu grew up in difficult circumstances with few opportunities to attend school. He meets Kyoko, the woman of his dreams and they marry. He tries to conceal that he is unable to read and fears divorce if she finds out. But instead, she gently takes his hand and says warmly: “I’ll be your ‘hand’ from today”. Tamotsu decides he must learn so he can write her a love letter to express his gratitude for always being by his side. Once retired, he struggles to master the pen but remains resolute in his efforts as their 35th anniversary approaches.

A heartwarming true story about a husband and the wife who taught him the meaning of happiness.

Starring Tsurube Shofukutei, Tomoyo Harada, Daiki Shigeoka, Mone Kamishiraishi.

過酷な幼少時代を過ごしてきたゆえに、読み書きができないまま大人になってしまった主人公・西畑保。保を支え続けたしっかり者の妻・餃子。仲良く寄り添うように生きてきた2人。定年退職を機に、保はあることを決意する。最愛の妻にこれまでの感謝を込めた“ラブレター”を書く――。60歳を超えた保の長い奮闘の日々が始まった。これは実在する西畑夫妻の、本当にあったお話。夜間中学にコツコツと通い、イチから文字を学んだ保さんの感動的なエピソードは各メディアで取り上げられ、創作落語になるほどの広がりを見た。

監督: 塚本連平
出演: 笑福亭鶴瓶、原田知世、重岡大毅、上白石萌音

Screening Partner



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CLOUD クラウド

Saturday June 14 • 4:00pm • 123min • 2024 • Director: Kiyoshi Kurosawa
TIFF ENCORE PRESENTATION • In Japanese with English Subtitles

Yoshii is a factory worker with a lucrative side hustle as an online reseller dealing in medical devices, handbags...essentially anything he can flip to make a profit. After a successful stint, he quits his job and relocates to a countryside lake house with his girlfriend, hiring a local young man to help with his reselling business. His schemes continue to flourish until unsettling incidents begin occurring around him. His once idyllic life is shattered as an unknown mob of killers descend onto the lake house. All hell is about to break loose!

Unpredictable, shocking and often very funny, the master filmmaker's latest psychological thriller was selected as the Japanese entry for Best International Film at the 97th Academy Awards.

Starring Masaki Suda, Kotone Furukawa, Daiken Okudaira, Amane Okayama, Yoshiyoshi Arakawa, Masataka Kubota.

第97回米国アカデミー賞国際長編映画賞日本代表作品。世間から忌み嫌われる“転売ヤー”として働く主人公・吉井。彼がバラまいた憎悪の粒はネット社会の闇を吸って成長し、実体をもった不特定多数の集団へと姿を変え、暴走をはじめる。やがて彼らがはじめた“狩りゲーム”の標的となった吉井の「日常」は、急速に破壊されていく……。

監督: 黒沢清
出演: 菅田将暉、古川琴音、奥平大兼、岡山天音、荒川良々、窪田正孝

Screening Partner





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SHE TAUGHT ME SERENDIPITY 今日の空が一番好き、とまだ言えない僕は

Saturday June 14 • 7:00pm • 127min • 2024 • Director: Akiko Ohku
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE • In Japanese with English Subtitles

From the director of TJFF favourites *Tremble All You Want* and *Hold Me Back*, comes a magical blend of comedy, drama and romance.

Konishi is a college student working part-time in a traditional bathhouse. He meets the elegant Sakurada who seems connected through a series of serendipitous coincidences. She casually mentions that she wants to enjoy every single day of her life and always thinks: "Today's sky is my favorite." Exactly the same words Konishi's beloved grandmother used to say before she passed away six months earlier... All is sunny until a shocking event takes place, altering Konishi and Sakurada's destinies forever. This delicate dance of vulnerability and connection will move you deeply. It was nominated for Best Film at the Tokyo International Film Festival and named *One of the Best Asian films of the Year* by Asian Movie Pulse.

Starring Riku Hagiwara, Yuumi Kawai, Aoi Ito.



Special Guest

Director Akiko Ohku in attendance to introduce her film and take audience questions.

ジャルジャルの福徳秀介によるデビュー小説の映画化。思い描いていた大学生活とはほど遠い、冴えない毎日を送る小西。学内唯一の友人・山根や銭湯のバイト仲間・さっちゃんとは、他愛もないことでふざけあう日々。ある日の授業終わり、お団子頭の桜田の凜々しい姿に目を奪われ、恋に落ちる。ようやく自分を取り巻く世界を少しでも愛せそうになった矢先、運命を変える衝撃の出来事が二人を襲う。

監督：大九明子
出演：萩原利久、河合優実、伊東蒼、浅香航大、古田新太



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GIVE IT ALL がんばっていきまっしょい

Sunday June 15 • 1:00pm • 95min • 2024 • Director: Yuuhei Sakuragi
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE • In Japanese with English Subtitles

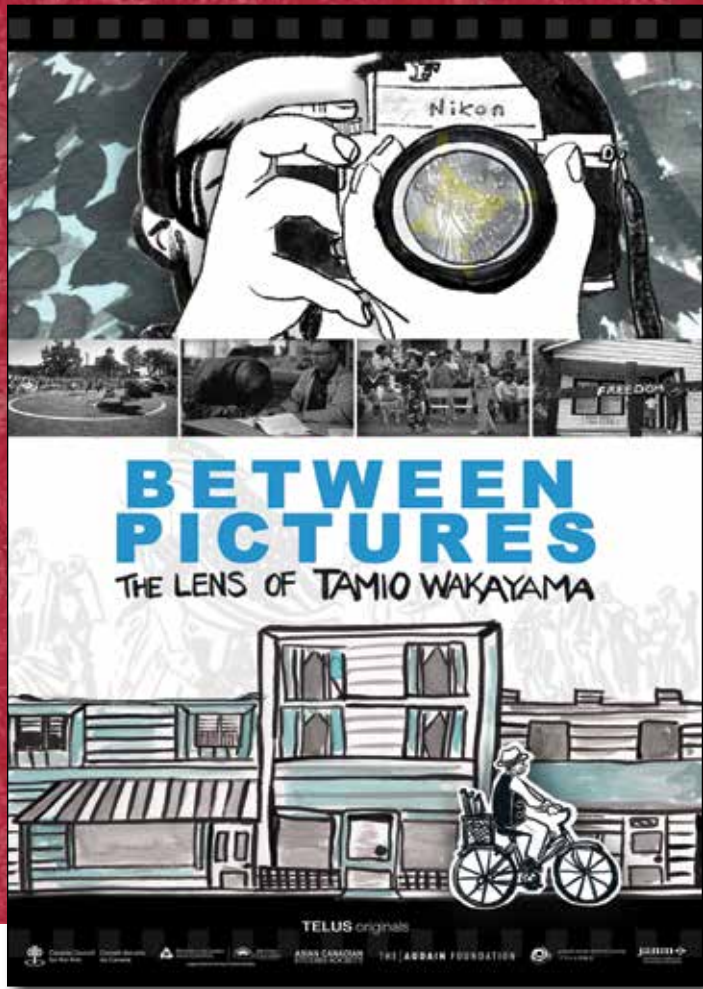
In Ehime, Mitsuhighashi High School is holding a class-wide rowing competition. Everyone is competing with all their might, but second-year student Etsuko seems disinterested. "What's the point of trying hard when you don't have talent?" But when transfer student Riina arrives, she decides to revive the struggling team with the help of Etsuko and her friend Hime. The new 5-girl team thrives and reluctantly decides to participate in their first tournament. Trouble raises its head on the day of the race but just when everyone is about to give up, Etsuko grips the oars again. "I want to get better," she says, and the five of them become one in spirit!

Gorgeous animation, thrilling races and the indomitable "gambare spirit" make for an uplifting and exciting film. Nominated for the Japanese Academy Award for Best Animated Feature.

Starring the voices of Sora Amemiya, Rie Takahashi, Ikumi Hasegawa, Akari Kitou.

『坊ちゃん文学賞』を受賞した同名の青春小説が初の劇場アニメーション化！学校をあげてボートのクラスマッチを行っている三津東高校。誰もが全力で競技に挑む中、2年生の村上悦子はひとり冷めた表情。才能もないのに頑張ったって仕方ない…と、勝負をあきらめてばかりいる。そんなある日、悦子のクラスに高橋梨衣奈という転入生がやってきた。クラスマッチのボートに感動した梨衣奈は、悦子と幼なじみの佐伯姫を巻き込み、廃部状態だったボート部の復活に奔走する。名義貸しのつもりだった悦子も渋々、初の大会に出場することに。

監督：櫻木優平
声の出演：雨宮天、伊藤美来、高橋李依、鬼頭明里



BETWEEN PICTURES: THE LENS OF TAMIO WAKAYAMA

Sunday June 15 • 4:00pm • 71min • 2024 • Director: Cindy Mochizuki
TORONTO PREMIERE • In English

"The film beautifully illustrates through interviews, animation, as well as the beautiful photographs Wakayama took, we see how Wakayama reconciles his early experiences with the internment, and his own cultural and political identity back in Canada." - Joseph Plant, The Commentary

Combining live action and animation, Cindy Mochizuki's documentary tells the epic journey of the late Japanese Canadian photographer Tamio Wakayama who decided to join the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the deep south during the 1960's American civil rights movement. Learning the art of dark room photography along the way, this transformative moment in time allows him to confront his own identity and return 'home' to the west coast of Canada to begin a body of photographic work that continues to celebrate, re-present and document the spirit of Japanese Canadians who resided in the former Paueru Gai/Powell Street neighborhoods.

実写とアニメで、日系カナダ人写真家の故若山民夫の壮大な旅を描くシンディモチツキのドキュメンタリー。60年代にアメリカ南部での公民権運動に関わる過程で写真を習得する。その後、1942年の大量強制排除で破壊されたバンクーバーの歴史的な日本人街、パウエル・ストリートへの日系カナダ人の帰還を象徴すパウエル・ストリート・フェスティバルに関わるようになる。

THE SCREENING WILL BE PRECEDED BY
"THE SHAPES IN BETWEEN: NORMAN TAKEUCHI",
A SHORT FILM BY AKI TAKABATABE

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ANGRY SQUAD: CIVIL SERVANTS AND SEVEN SWINDLERS

アングリースクワッド 公務員と7人の詐欺師

Sunday June 15 • 7:00pm • 120min • 2024 • Director: Shinichiro Ueda
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE • In Japanese with English Subtitles

The director of "One Cut of the Dead" is back with an hilarious and compelling crime comedy.

Kumazawa, a dedicated tax office employee, is scammed out of a large amount of money by genius con artist Himuro. With the help of his best friend detective, Kumazawa tracks Himuro down. Himuro gives him a proposition: "let me go and I'll scam the most powerful people you're chasing and collect 1 billion yen in evaded taxes". The two team up and gather a group of eccentric outlaws to form the Angry Squad. They take on a grand tax collection mission against one of Japan's most egregious con men, the charming but corrupt property developer, Tachibana.

Starring Seiyo Uchino, Masaki Okada, Rina Kawaei, Aoi Morikawa.

「カメラを止めるな!」の上田慎一郎監督の待望の最新作。税務署に努めるマジメな公務員・熊沢二郎。ある日、熊沢は天才詐欺師・氷室マコトが企てた巧妙な詐欺に引っかかり、大金をだまし取られてしまう。親友の刑事の助けで氷室を突き止める熊沢だったが、観念した氷室から「おじさんが追ってる権力者を詐欺にかけ、脱税した10億円を徴収してあげる。だから見逃して」ともちかけられる。犯罪の片棒は担げないと葛藤する熊沢だったが、自らが抱える「ある復讐」のためにも氷室と手を組み、クセ者揃いのアウトロー達を集め詐欺師集団を結成する。

監督：上田慎一郎
出演：内野聖陽、岡田将生、川栄李奈、森川葵

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AIMITAGAI アイミタガイ

Monday June 16 • 7:00pm • 106min • 2024 • Director: Shogo Kusano
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE • In Japanese with English Subtitles

Some moments in life are decided in a flash. Life and death can be separated by a few seconds, and a stranger's actions can change the present of another's life. Azusa and Kanami have been best friends since high school. After Kanami dies in an unexpected accident, Azusa despairs yet finds comfort in sending text messages to Kanami's cellphone. Kanami's parents wonder about Azusa's identity, and upon visiting the orphanage that their dead daughter cared about, are moved by Azusa's good deeds. The dead do not come back to life, but their traces shake people's hearts in various ways, and small, good deeds come together to make the world a place worth living. A gentle but ultimately impactful drama that focuses on the chain reactions of fate.

Starring Haru Kuroki, Aoi Nakamura, Sawako Fujima, Jun Fubuki, Mitsuko Kusabue.

ウェディングプランナーとして働く梓のもとに、ある日突然届いたのは、親友の叶海が命を落としたという知らせだった。交際相手の澄人との結婚に踏み出せず、生前の叶海と交わっていたトーク画面に、変わらずメッセージを送り続ける。同じ頃、叶海の両親の朋子と優作は、とある児童養護施設から娘宛てのカードを受け取っていた。そして遺品のスマホには、溜まっていたメッセージの存在を知らせる新たな通知も。なぜ彼女は、亡くなった親友にメッセージを送り続けたのか？誰かを想ったやさしい「秘密」が、立ち止まっていた人々の心を灯す。

監督：草野翔吾
出演：黒木華、中村蒼、西田尚美、田口トモロヲ、風吹ジュン、草笛光子



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TEKI COMETH 敵

Tuesday June 17 • 7:00pm • 108min • 2024 • Director: Daihachi Yoshida
TORONTO PREMIERE • In Japanese with English Subtitles

Tokyo International Film Festival – Winner: Best Film, Best Director, Best Actor

Gisuke is a retired French literature professor and a widower. He spends his days tending to his house and garden and enjoying visits from former students, especially Yasuko, for whom he cooks elaborate meals. With only six or so years of savings left, he quietly plans to eventually take his own life, leaving just enough money for his funeral. One day, Gisuke finds a post on the internet stating, “An enemy is coming from the north.” He ignores it but the more he sees it, the more he feels an ominous feeling growing.

“Not a film about dementia, but rather the active choice to indulge in one’s desires, dreams and fantasies, and the relationship we have with our own past as we age. With a sly sense of humour and arresting visuals, Teki Cometh is an impressive adaptation and a poignant character study that defies easy definition.”

Starring Kyoza Nagatsuka, Kumi Takiuchi, Asuka Kurosawa, Yuumi Kawai, Satoru Matsuo, Takashi Matsuo.

第37回東京国際映画祭 3 冠受賞作品。渡辺儀助、77歳はフランス近代演劇史を専門とする元大学教授。20年前に妻・信子に先立たれ、講演や執筆でわずかな収入を得ながら、都内にある実家の古民家で一人慎ましく暮らしている。そんなある日、パソコンの画面に「敵がやって来る」と不穏なメッセージが流れてくる。「敵」とは何か。逃げるべきなのか。逃げる事が出来るのか。

監督：吉田大八
出演：長塚京三、瀧内公美、黒沢あすか、河合優実、松尾諭、松尾貴史



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LET'S GO KARAOKE! カラオケ行こ！

Wednesday June 18 • 7:00pm • 107min • 2024
Director: Nobuhiro Yamashita • TORONTO PREMIERE
In Japanese with English Subtitles

In this smart, heartwarming and often hilarious comedy-drama based on Yama Wayama's popular manga, Yakuza lieutenant Narita is desperate to improve his karaoke skills. His boss, a karaoke aficionado, has his mob underlings compete in an annual singing contest and the prize for the worst singer is a tattoo, wretchedly executed by the boss himself. On “business” in Osaka, Narita happens upon the nerdy Satomi, the lead male soprano of a high school choir and enlists him to become his singing teacher. The two bond as the gangster reveals more of his troubled past and vulnerable real self and the soprano's voice begins to change as the big school choral concert approaches.

Nobuhiro Yamashita's crowd-pleaser won the Audience Award at the Camera Japan Festival and has proved a big hit with both Japanese audiences and critics.

Starring Go Ayano, Jun Saito, Kyoko Yoshine, Jun Hashimoto, Kyosuke Yabe.

変声期に悩む合唱部の男子中学生と、歌がうまくなりたいヤクザの交流をコミカルに描いた和山やまの人気コミックの実写映画化。中学校で合唱部の部長を務める岡聡実はある日突然、見知らぬヤクザの成田狂児からカラオケに誘われる。戸惑う聡実には、狂児は歌のレッスンをしてほしいと依頼。組長が主催するカラオケ大会で最下位になった者に待ち受ける恐怖の罰ゲームを免れるため、どうしても歌がうまくなければならないのだという。狂児の勝負曲は、X JAPANの「紅」。嫌々ながらも歌唱指導を引き受ける羽目になった聡実、カラオケを通じて少しずつ狂児と親しくなっていくが……。

監督：山下敦弘
出演：綾野剛、齋藤潤、芳根京子、橋本じゅん、やべきょうすけ



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LAST MILE ラストマイル

Thursday June 19 • 7:00pm • 128min • 2024 • Director: Ayuko Tsukahara
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE • In Japanese with English Subtitles

Set against the backdrop of the biggest event in the logistics industry, “Black Friday,” the story kicks off with a shocking incident: a package delivered from a global shopping site explodes, triggering a series of mysterious bombings across Japan. Elena Funato, the new head of a major logistics center where the bombs originated, must deal with the unprecedented crisis. Who planted the bombs? For what purpose? How many bombs are left? As characters race against time to halt the bombings without stopping the lifeblood of global infrastructure, the hidden truths of their world begin to surface, presenting a gripping exploration of societal veins intertwined with danger and suspense. This edge-of-your-seat thriller with a stellar cast ruled the Japanese box office in 2024! Winner of the Kinema Jumbo Award for Best Screenplay.

Starring Hikari Mitsushima, Masaki Okada, Dean Fujioka, Sadao Abe.

11 月、流通業界最大のイベントのひとつ“ブラックフライデー”の前夜、世界規模のショッピングサイトから配送された段ボール箱が爆発する事件が発生。やがてそれは日本中を恐怖に陥れる謎の連続爆破事件へと発展していく——。巨大物流倉庫のセンター長に着任したばかりの舟渡エレナは、チームマネージャーの梨本孔と共に、未曾有の事態の収拾にあたる。誰が、何のために爆弾を仕掛けたのか？残りの爆弾は幾つで、今どこにあるのか？決して止めることのできない現代社会の生命線―世界に張り巡らされたこの血管を止めずに、いかにして、連続爆破を止めることができるのか？すべての謎が解き明かされるとき、この世界の隠された姿が浮かび上がる。「アンナチュラル」「MIU404」と繋がるシェアード・ユニバース・ムービー。

監督：塚原あゆ子 脚本：野木亜紀子
出演：満島ひかり、岡田将生、ディーン・フジオカ、阿部サダヲ



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RAVENS

レイブンス

Friday June 20 • 7:00pm • 117min • 2025 • Director: Mark Gill
CANADIAN PREMIERE • In Japanese with English Subtitles

“Shogun star Tadanobu Asano stars in a fascinating depiction of Fukase’s turbulent life and brilliant work... inventively told and lovingly packaged.” - Variety

Set in post-war Japan and New York, Ravens tells the tragic love story about legendary photographer Masahisa Fukase and his tumultuous and doomed relationship with wife and model, Yoko. Known for his striking, emotionally resonant imagery, Fukase’s relationship with Yoko is depicted with raw authenticity while his inner turmoil is explored through surreal conversations with Tsukuyomi, a huge raven who questions his motives and desires. (Fukase’s collection Solitude of Ravens is considered one of the most important works in the history of the medium). Asano and Takeuchi offer intense performances in this deeply emotional exploration of art, and the beauty and tragedy of human connection. Winner of the Audience Choice Award at the Austin Film Festival.

Starring Tadanobu Asano, Kumi Takiuchi, Kanji Furutachi, Sosuke Ikematsu, Saki Takaoka.

ハリウッド製作ドラマ「SHOGUN 将軍」で、ゴールデングローブ賞助演男優賞（テレビドラマ部門）を受賞し、世界が注目する国際派俳優・浅野忠信が伝説の写真家・深瀬昌久を演じる最新主演作。

北海道の高校を卒業した深瀬は、父の写真館を継ぐことを拒んで上京する。天賦の才の一方で、闇を抱えていた深瀬の闇は異形の“鴉の化身”となり、彼を翻弄する。1950年代の北海道、70年代のNY、1992年東京までの天才写真家の軌跡を描いたダークでシュールなラブストーリー。

監督：マーク・ギル

出演：浅野忠信、瀧内公美、
古館寛治、池松壮亮、高岡早紀

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LIVING IN TWO WORLDS

ぼくが生きてる、ふたつの世界

Saturday June 21 • 1:00pm • 108min • 2024 • Director: Mipo O
CANADIAN PREMIERE • In Japanese with English Subtitles

Dai was born to deaf parents and was raised with deep love in rural Japan. As he grows older, he becomes troubled by his differences from others and begins to blame his deaf mother for his daily frustrations. At 20, Dai leaves for Tokyo to escape. Life is lonely at first, but when Dai starts working as a magazine reporter, he finds fulfilment. Eight years later Dai returns home for the first time. Spending time with his mother, a repressed memory is reawakened and his perspective on life and family begin to change... Filled with empathy and hope, O’s sensitively observed drama subtly portrays a unique worldview without ever resorting to condescension or pity. Based on an autobiographical essay by writer Dai Igarashi.

Starring Ryo Yoshizawa, Akiko Oshidari, Yusuke Santamaria, Karasuma Setsuko, Denden.

宮城県の小さな港町。耳のきこえない両親のもとで愛情を受けて育った五十嵐大にとって、幼い頃は母の“通訳”をすることもふつうの日常だった。しかし次第に、周りから特別視されることに戸惑い、苛立ち、母の明るささえ疎ましくなる。心を持って余したまま20歳になり、逃げるように東京へ旅立つ大だったが…。母・明子役には、ろう者俳優として活躍する忍足亜希子。原作は作家五十嵐大の自伝的エッセイ。

監督：呉美保

出演：吉沢亮、忍足亜希子、今井彰人、ユースケ・サンタマリア、烏丸せつこ、でんでん

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Physically Disabled Persons



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90 YEARS OLD - SO WHAT? 九十歳。何がめでたい

Saturday June 21 • 4:00pm • 99min • 2024 • Director: Tetsu Maeda
CANADIAN PREMIERE • In Japanese with English Subtitles

Aiko Sato is one of Japan’s most lauded authors. Among her many award-winning books is “Battle and Sunset,” vividly portraying her struggles with her “useless” husband which led to the Naoki Prize in 1969, as well as her second divorce. Today, Aiko is 90 years old and living in peaceful retirement. That is, until a persistent editor convinces her to un-retire, arguing the public needs the wisdom from a nonagenarian. The resulting smash hit seals an unlikely friendship between writer and editor. With an extraordinarily deft and understated performance by 90-year-old actress Mitsuko Kusabue as Aiko (who’s now 100 and *still* publishing), this dramedy is as hilarious as it is life-affirming.

Starring Mitsuko Kusabue, Toshiaki Karasawa, Sawako Fujima, Tae Kimura, Miki Maya.

歯に衣着せぬ物言いで人気の直木賞作家・佐藤愛子。一昨年100歳を迎えた彼女のベストセラー・エッセイ集『九十歳。何がめでたい』『九十八歳。戦いやまず日は暮れず』を原作に、90歳を迎えた草笛光子が、エネルギーあふつチャーミングに等身大の佐藤愛子を熟演し、映画化！

断筆宣言をした90歳の作家・佐藤愛子は、新聞やテレビをぼうっと眺める鬱々とした日々を過ごしていた。同じ頃、大手出版社に勤める中年編集者・吉川真也（唐沢寿明）は、昭和気質なコミュニケーションがパワハラ、セクハラだと問題となり、謹慎処分に、妻や娘にも愛想を尽かされ、仕事にプライベートに悶々とする日々。そんなある日、吉川の所属する編集部では愛子の連載エッセイ企画が持ち上がり、吉川が愛子を口説き落として、晴れて担当編集に！このふたりの出会いが、新たな人生を切り開く――？！

監督：前田哲

演：草笛光子 唐沢寿明 藤間爽子
木村多江 真矢ミキ

Screening Partner

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RIVER RETURNS

光る川

Saturday June 21 • 7:00pm • 108min • 2025 • Director: Masakazu Kaneko
CANADIAN PREMIERE • In Japanese with English Subtitles

It's the summer of 1958. A young boy named Yucha lives in a riverside village constantly threatened by typhoons. He hears the local legend of Oyo, a broken-hearted girl who drowned herself in a river pool deep in the mountains. It is said that her grief has been causing great floods every few decades ever since. As a deadly typhoon approaches, Yucha embarks on a perilous journey to a haunted mountain pool, determined to calm her sorrowful spirit in order to save his village. A gentle and gorgeously photographed fantasy drama on the themes of spirituality, humanity and the natural world. Winner of the Youth Jury Award for Best Feature Film at Spain's Gijón International Film Festival 2024.

Starring Asuka Hanamura, Yo Aoi, Sanetoshi Ariyama, Tomomitsu Adachi, Kinuo Yamada, Keisuke Horibe, Toshie Negishi, Tetsu Watanabe, Ken Yasuda.

日本の高度経済成長が始まった1958年。大きな川の上流、山間の集落で暮らす少年ユウチャ。森林伐採の影響もあるのか、家族は年々深刻化していく台風による洪水の被害に脅かされている。夏休みの終わり、集落に紙芝居がやってきた。演目は土地にずっと伝わる里の娘・お葉と山の民である木地屋の青年・朔の悲恋。お葉の涙が溢れかえるように数十年に一度、恐ろしい洪水が起きるといふ。紙芝居の物語との不思議なシンクロを体験したユウチャは、現実でも家族を脅かす洪水を防ぎ、悲しみに囚われたままのお葉の魂を開放したいと願い、古くからの言い伝えに従って川をさかのぼり、山奥の淵へ向かう…

監督：金子雅和

出演：華村あすか、葵揚、
有山実俊、足立智充

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NINTAMA RANTARO: INVINCIBLE MASTER OF DOKUTAKE NINJA 劇場版 忍たま乱太郎 ドクタケ忍者隊最強の軍師

Sunday June 22 • 1:00pm • 90min • 2024 • Director: Masaya Fujimori
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE • In Japanese with English Subtitles

The wildly popular Nintama Rantaro anime is based on the Rakudai Ninja Rantaro manga by Soubee Amako. Rantaro, Kirimaru, and Shinbei are far from being excellent ninjas. Training at an elite ninjutsu academy in historical Japan, they are accompanied by their tongue-in-cheek friends, ninja masters, and idol senior ninja trainees. Rantaro and his ninja-in-training pals are called “nintama” – a combination of “ninja” and “tamago” (“egg”). The story of the film begins when Doi-sensei disappears after being challenged to a duel by Moroizumi Sonnamon, a tasogaredoki ninja. While Yamada-sensei and the 6th graders of the Ninjutsu Academy search for Doi-sensei, a man dressed in white suddenly appears at the Academy! Based on the 2013 spin-off novel written by Kazuhisa Sakaguchi, Nintama Rantaro is lively, colourful and great fun for families, anime and manga fans and aspiring ninja kids!

Voiced by Minami Takayama, Mayumi Tanaka, Teiyuu Ichiryusai, Toshihiko Seki.

タソガレドキ忍者・諸泉尊奈門との決闘に向かった後、消息を絶てしまったタソガレドキ忍者・諸泉尊奈門との決闘に向かった後、消息を絶てしまった土井先生ー 山田先生と六年生による土井先生の捜索が始まる中、担任不在の一年は組では、タソガレドキ忍軍の忍び組頭・雑渡昆奈門と、尊奈門が教壇に立つことに!そんな中、きり丸は偶然、土井先生が置かれた状況を知ってしまう。忍たま達に立ちはだかる最強の敵を前に、今、強き「絆」が試される。果たして乱太郎、きり丸、しんべえたちは、土井先生を取り戻すことができるのかー!?

監督:藤森雅也
声の出演:高山みなみ、田中真弓、一龍齋貞友、関俊彦、大塚明夫

Screening Partners



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GRAND MAISON PARIS グランメゾン・パリ

Sunday June 22 • 4:00pm • 111min • 2025 • Director: Ayuko Tsukahara
CANADIAN PREMIERE • In Japanese and French with English Subtitles

Famous Japanese chef Obana opens a new restaurant in Paris in the quest for his elusive third Michelin star. But he finds life as an outsider very difficult, and even has trouble sourcing ingredients. His pride and ambition causes tension with his team, including his headstrong pâtissier Yuan, and loyal sous chef Rinko. When his menu for a gala dinner proves a disaster, Obana promises his former mentor that if he doesn't get three Michelin stars he will quit the restaurant and leave Paris. Can he pull it off? Climaxing in a magnificent banquet scene, showcasing mouthwatering dishes that will satisfy any food lover, the film reinforces the theme that food has the power to bring people together and heal even the deepest wounds. A mega-hit spin-off of the popular series offers an engaging mix of gripping drama, gorgeous food, and international glamour.

Starring Takuya Kimura, Kyōka Suzuki, Ok Taec-yeon, Yoshinori Masakado, Ai Tominaga, Mitsuhiro Oikawa, Kazuki Sawamura.

日曜劇場で放送されたTVドラマ「グランメゾン東京」は、フランス料理シェフ尾花夏樹と、絶対的な味覚を持つシェフ早見倫子を中心に、「グランメゾン東京」のメンバーが世界最高の“三つ星レストラン”を目指し、奮闘するストーリー。そんな「グランメゾン」が、ついにスクリーンへー 世界最高峰と称されるフランス料理の本場・パリを舞台に、尾花たちは、アジア人初となる“三つ星”獲得へと進む。尾花は倫子と、フランス料理の本場・パリで、新店舗「グランメゾン・パリ」を立ち上げ、アジア人初となるミシュラン“三つ星”を獲得するために奮闘していた。かつてカリスマシェフと称された尾花は、挫折や国境の壁を乗り越え、仲間と共に世界最高峰の“三つ星”を手に入れることは出来るのか――!?

監督:塚原あゆ子
出演:木村拓哉、鈴木京香、オク・テギョン、正門良規、及川光博、富永愛、沢村一樹

FOLLOWING THE SCREENING,
FILM-INSPIRED FRENCH DELICACIES
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SAMURAI FURY (MUROMACHI OUTSIDERS) 室町無頼

Sunday June 22 • 7:00pm • 135min • 2025 • Director:Yu Irie
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE • In Japanese with English Subtitles

Kyoto, 1461. A devastating famine and plague simultaneously strike leaving the Kamo River banks strewn with 80,000 dead. The ruling powers remain inept and uncaring, enjoying their wealth. Seeing the hellish landscape of Kyoto, Hasuda Hyoe rallies a motley crew of outlaws – including a young loner skilled in martial arts, a master spearman, a strongman with an iron club, and a Korean female archer – to rise up, spark riots and launch an unprecedented attack against the Shogun's colossal authority. Based on true events and adapted from the award winning novel Muromachi Burai by Ryosuke Itagaki. A vibrant swashbuckler with charismatic performances and plenty of thunderous action.

Starring Yo Oizumi, Kento Nagao, Wakana Matsumoto, Kazuki Kitamura, Akira Emoto, Shinichi Tsutsumi.

時は室町、“応仁の乱”前夜の京――。大飢饉と疫病の連鎖、路上に重なる無数の死骸。そんな混沌の世に風のごとく表れ、巨大な権力に戦いを挑んだ者たちがいた。蓮田兵衛――日本史上、初めて武士階級として一揆をおこした男。本作は彼の元に集結した「アウトロー＝無頼」たちの空前の一揆を巻き起こし、幕府軍に挑む。勝率ゼロに等しい無謀な戦い、その勝機を狙いとは!原作は直木賞を受賞した垣根涼介の「室町無頼」。“リアル”な風と炎と砂塵が舞う中世の暗黒時代を駆け抜ける、エンタメ全開のアクション巨編!!

監督:入江悠
出演:大泉洋、長尾謙杜、松本若菜、北村一輝、柄本明、堤真一

Screening Partner



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PETALS AND MEMORIES 花まんま

Monday June 23 • 7:00pm • 118min • 2025 • Director: Tetsu Maeda
INTERNATIONAL PREMIERE • In Japanese with English Subtitles

Having lost their parents at a young age, siblings Toshiki and Fumiko have lived together in Osaka ever since with older brother, as promised to his deceased father, continuing to protect his younger sister. Now with Fumiko getting married to a colleague at the university where she works, Toshiki is relieved that the burden he has carried is finally being lifted. However, Fumiko has a long-buried secret she has yet to share with him. Based on Minato Shukawa's Naoki Prize-winning novel, Hana Manma is a powerful and mysterious tale about memory and the unbreakable bond that exists between siblings. Bring you handkerchiefs!

Starring Ryohei Suzuki, Kasumi Arimura, Ouji Suzuka.

大切な人を失った家族をつなぐ、記憶の秘密とは一。不思議な記憶を巡る、兄と妹の物語。大阪の下町で暮らす二人きりの兄妹・俊樹とフミ子。死んだ父との約束を胸に、兄として妹のフミ子を守り続けてきた俊樹は、フミ子の結婚が決まり、やっと肩の荷が下りるはずだった。ところが、遠い昔に封印したはずの、フミ子の秘密が今になって蘇り…。

監督:前田哲
出演:鈴木亮平、有村架純、鈴鹿央士、ファーストサマーウイカ、六角精児、キムラ緑子、酒向芳



THE VOW FROM HIROSHIMA – DIRECTORS CUT ヒロシマへの誓い サロー節子とともに

Tuesday June 24 • 7:00pm • 78min • 2019-023 • Director: Susan Strickler
CANADIAN PREMIERE • In English and Japanese with English Subtitles

An intimate portrait of Setsuko Thurlow, a passionate survivor of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima. At 13 years old, Setsuko was miraculously pulled from a fiery building after the bombing but 27 of her classmates perished. She dedicated her life to keeping a pledge she made to her friends -

that no one should ever again experience the same horrible fate. Her story is told through the lens of her friendship with a second-generation survivor, Mitchie Takeuchi and follows Setsuko through decades of activism: to the Nobel Prize stage and ultimately the moment she finally achieves her dream of a Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty.

Starring Setsuko Thurlowe, Mitchie Takeuchi.

13才の時に広島で被爆し、300数名もの学友を瞬時に亡くしたサロー節子。後にカナダ人と結婚しトロントに移住した彼女が全世界に向けて平和活動家を続ける姿を4年間に渡って密着取材したドキュメンタリー。サロー節子はICAN(核兵器廃絶キャンペーン)を代表して被爆者としての体験を世界中で語り続け、2017年にICANがノーベル平和賞を受賞した際には、受賞演説を行なった。ナレーターは、広島出身で被爆二世であるニューヨーク在住の竹内道。2人は偶然にも広島女学院の卒業生同士。本作品のプロデューサーでもある竹内道もまた、祖父や母の語らなかつた体験を少しずつ発見し被爆二世としての自身を見つめなおしていく。

Screening Partner

監督:スーザン・ストリックラー
出演:サロー節子 ナレーション:竹内道



BUSHIDO [GOBANGIRI] 基盤斬り

Wednesday June 25 • 7:00pm • 129min • 2024 • Director: Kazuya Shiraishi
TORONTO PREMIERE • In Japanese with English Subtitles

★★★★ – Japan Times

A ronin, Yanagida, is grieving the recent loss of his wife. Exiled from his hometown in Hikone, he lives with his daughter, Okinu, in a modest tenement in Edo. Despite his circumstances, Yanagida upholds his pride as a samurai. His only solace lies in playing Go, a 2,500-year-old strategy game he approaches with humility—an expression of his true character. Life seems peaceful until a wrongful accusation by an old clan acquaintance shatters his quiet existence, forcing him to take up his sword once more in pursuit of justice. This epic yet elegiac *jidaigeki* is both a call to the sword and the hankie. Inspired by a classic *rakugo* yarn.

Starring Tsuyoshi Kusanagi, Kaya Kiyohara, Taishi Nakagawa, Kyoko Koizumi, Takumi Saitoh.

浪人・柳田格之進は身に覚えのない罪をさせられた上に妻も喪い、故郷の彦根藩を追われ、娘のお絹とふたり、江戸の貧乏長屋で暮らしている。しかし、かねてから嗜む囲碁にもその実直な人柄が表れ、嘘偽りない勝負を心掛けている。ある日、旧知の藩士により、悲劇の冤罪事件の真相を知らされた格之進とお絹は、復讐を決意する。お絹は仇討ち決行のために、自らが犠牲になる道を選び……。父と娘の、誇りをかけた闘いが始まる!

監督:白石和彌
出演:草野剛、清原果耶、中川大志、小泉今日子、國村隼、斎藤工

SCREENING PRECEDED BY
PERFORMANCE BY JCCC KYOWA TAIKO



Screening Sponsor



CLOSING NIGHT SCREENING



SUNSET SUNRISE サンセット・サンライズ

Thursday June 26 • 7:00pm • 139min • 2025 • Director: Yoshiyuki Kishi
CANADIAN PREMIERE • In Japanese with English Subtitles

The year is 2020 and the world is forced into lockdown by the COVID pandemic. Shinsaku, young man from Tokyo, decides to work remotely and moves to the Sanriku Coast in Miyagi Prefecture, which sustained severe damage in the tsunami of 2011. Surrounded by the delicious bounty of the sea and mountains, he spends his days indulging in his favorite hobby, fishing. He rents an empty house from landlord Momoko and wins over the locals with his inherent positivity and initiative. Shinsaku discovers what makes him happiest but must also help Momoko who harbors a painful secret. A favourite at the Tokyo International Film Festival the film features an all-star cast and is moving, heartfelt and often very funny.

Starring Masaki Suda, Mao Inoue, Masatoshi Nakamura, Pistol Takehara, Ken Miyake, Chizuru Ikewaki, Fumiyo Kohinata.

楢周平の原作「サンセット・サンライズ」を宮藤官九郎の脚本で映画化した。新型コロナウイルスのパンデミックで世界中がロックダウンに追い込まれた2020年。リモートワークを機に東京の大企業に勤める釣り好きの晋作は、4LDK・家賃6万円の神物件に一目惚れ。何より海が近くて大好きな釣りが楽しめる三陸の町で気楽な“お試し移住”をスタート。仕事の合間には海へ通って釣り三昧の日々を過ごす。東京から来た〈よそ者〉の晋作に、町の人たちは気がでない。一癖も二癖もある地元民の距離感ゼロの交流にとまどいながらも、持ち前のポジティブな性格と行動力でいつしか溶け込んでいく晋作だったが、その先にはまさかの人生が待っていたー?!

監督:岸善幸
出演:菅田将暉、井上真央、中村雅俊、竹原ピストル、三宅健、池脇千鶴、小日向文世

Screening Sponsor



SUMMER SHOWCASE SCREENING



SEPPUKU: THE SUN GOES DOWN 陽が落ちる

Thursday July 17 • 7:00pm • 133min • 2025 • Director: Yuji Kakizaki
NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE • In Japanese with English Subtitles

A period film unlike any other. While it deals with themes of duty and loyalty, the focus is on the love between a husband, wife and family set against samurai society. Kyuzo, a retainer for the Shogun, is under house arrest for accidentally scratching the Shogun's bow. The film observes the family's inner struggles as Kyuzo awaits the imminent order to perform ritual suicide. His wife Yoshino has 24 hours to prepare for her husband's seppuku but, for the sake of her husband and ancestors' honour, she must maintain the daily life of the household with the calm dignity of a samurai's wife. Winner of 4 awards at the London and Edinburgh International Film Festivals, this subtle, deeply moving study of devotion pitted against duty leads to the final stunning resolution and is built around a quietly devastating central performance by Yuka Takeshima.

Starring Yuka Takeshima, Masayuki Deai, Yasuyuki Maekawa, Ema Fujisawa, Yuka Sasada.

ロンドン国際映画祭2025とエディンバラ国際映画祭2025で最優秀賞監督賞受賞。文政十二年、江戸。江戸幕府の直参旗本で書院番を務める吉田久蔵正成は江戸城在番の際に將軍の弓に不都合が生じた罪で謹慎を命じられる。妻・良乃と1人息子・駒之助とともに暮らす久蔵の元に、久蔵の沙汰が切腹であるという知らせが届く。残された時間で、妻として何ができるのか。久蔵の誇りを守り、息子の未来を繋ぐために一。

監督:柿崎ゆうじ
出演:竹島由夏、出合正幸、前川泰之、藤澤恵麻、笹田 優花

SPECIAL GUESTS AND EVENTS

JCCC KYOWA TAIKO

JCCC KYOWA TAIKO is the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre’s taiko performance troupe and will perform prior to the screening of BUSHIDO (GOBANGIRI) on June 25.

Formed in 2017, the group currently leads the JCCC’s taiko workshops. The name KYOWA combines the character KYO 「響」 meaning echoing or reverberating, with WA 「和」, which expresses both harmony and a sense of “Japanese-ness”. The group has performed at the Emperor’s birthday celebration, JCCC festivals, Washoku Matsuri, store openings and at school and corporate events.

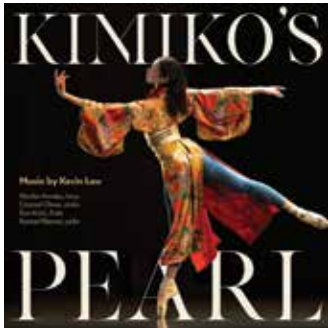


CINDY MOCHIZUKI: DIRECTOR/ANIMATOR/WRITER/PRODUCER, BETWEEN PICTURES: THE LENS OF TAMIO WAKAYAMA

CINDY MOCHIZUKI creates multi-media installation, animation, drawing, audio fiction, performance, and community-engaged projects. She has exhibited her work in Canada, US, Australia, and Japan. Recent exhibitions include the Prince Takamado Gallery at the Canadian Embassy in Tokyo, Japan, Nanaimo Art Gallery, Surrey Art Gallery, Vancouver Art Gallery, Burrard Arts Foundation, Frye Art Museum, and Yonago City Museum. Her artistic projects integrate archival research, oral histories and memory work and consider methodologies of gathering and re-telling stories that are often invisible, excluded, or undocumented.

IN THE JCCC GALLERY: PHASE IN MY JOURNEY

Shin Sugino curates the work of Canadian-born photographer Walter Borchenko representing a profound and singular exploration of the Modernist photographic aesthetic. This 20-year retrospective traces a remarkable journey, beginning with the evocative self-portrait, Self Portrait, Hollywood Florida (2006), and culminating in the integration of infra-red techniques in Grassy Brook - Talbot River Road (2024). Borchenko’s work transcends homage, evolving the Modernist tradition into something new: a “Modernist evolved” aesthetic rather than a postmodern reinterpretation. Phase in My Journey will be on view from April 5th to June 30th.



FESTIVAL SOUNDTRACK: KIMIKO’S PEARL

KIMIKO’S PEARL is a new ballet commissioned and produced by Bravo Niagara! that tells the bittersweet story of one Japanese Canadian family – spanning four generations – set against the turbulent backdrop of World War II. Inspired by the family history of Bravo Niagara!’s founders, Christine Mori and Alexis Spieldenner, the story reflects the tragedies and triumphs of Japanese Canadians before, during, and after internment. Following the ballet’s premiere in 2024, the music by acclaimed Canadian composer Kevin Lau will be released in Summer 2025. The album features Mariko Anraku (harp), Conrad Chow (violin), Ron Korb (Japanese and Western flutes), Rachel Mercer (cello), and immersive sound design by Aaron Tsang. Selections from the album will be played before all festival screenings.

NEW IN THE MORIYAMA NIKKEI HERITAGE CENTRE: THIRD PLACES

Third Places are places that aren’t home and aren’t work, where people gather and find community. The new temporary exhibit in the Moriyama Nikkei Heritage Centre — Third Places: Japanese Canadian Sites of Gathering — shares stories of 12 significant Japanese Canadian gathering places in Toronto. Featuring a large, hand-illustrated map, interactive panels, and audiovisual components, the exhibit reflects the diversity of the community and encourages visitors to think about their own experience of place and community.



SPECIAL GUESTS AND EVENTS



HIDEKI TAKEUCHI: DIRECTOR, CELLS AT WORK!

HIDEKI TAKEUCHI was born in 1966. After completing his studies at Waseda University, he began working at Fuji TV in 1990 and directed numerous successful TV dramas. His big break came in 2012 with *Thermae Romae* (2012). His subsequent films *Thermae Romae 2* (2014) and *Fly Me to The Saitama* (2019/Japan Academy Film Prize 2020 for Best Director) have also achieved great critical and popular success. Mr. Takeuchi is renowned for his brilliant manga to live-action film adaptations and *Cells at Work* is no exception to this rule.

AKIKO OHKU: DIRECTOR, SHE TAUGHT ME SERENDIPITY

Born in Yokohama, AKIKO OHKU graduated from The Film School of Tokyo in 1997. She made her directorial debut with *Tokyo Serendipity* (2007). *Tremble All You Want* (2017) won the Audience Award in Competition at the 30th Tokyo International Film Festival, and Best Film Award at the 27th Japanese Professional Movie Awards. *Hold Me Back* (2020) won the Audience Award at the 33rd Tokyo International Film Festival in the Tokyo 2020 Premiere Section, and Best Director Award at the 30th Japanese Professional Movie Awards. Both *Tremble All You Want* and *Hold Me Back* were popular hits at TorontoJFF. Other directorial works include *My Sweet Grappa Memories* (2020). Her NHK drama series “My Family” also won the intermedia-globe Silver award in the Entertainment: Mini-Series category in Germany at World Media Festivals 2024.



MASAKAZU KANEKO: DIRECTOR, RIVER RETURNS

MASAKAZU KANEKO was born in Tokyo in 1978. After graduating from Aoyama Gakuin University he studied under Director Takahisa Zeze at the Film School of Tokyo. In 2016, his first feature film, *The Albino’s Trees*, was officially screened at the 6th Beijing International Film Festival and won 20 awards at international film festivals. His second feature, *Ring Wandering* (2021) had its world premiere at the 37th Warsaw International Film Festival, and received the Ecumenical Jury Award, Special Mention. It won the Golden Peacock Award (Grand Prix) at the 52nd International Film Festival of India. *River Returns* is his third feature film. It won the Youth Jury Award at the 62nd Gijon International Film Festival, Spain and the Best Film in the Orient Express section at the 45th Porto International Film Festival, Portugal.



THE TEAM BEHIND THE VOW FROM HIROSHIMA

SETSUKO THURLOW, a Japanese Canadian nuclear disarmament campaigner and Hibakusha survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, is known for being a leading figure of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). Setsuko gave the acceptance speech for the organization’s bestowment of the 2017 Nobel Peace prize. SUSAN STRICKLER is an Emmy Award and Director’s Guild of America Award recipient who directed over 750 popular daytime TV shows during her 22-year career. MITCHIE TAKEUCHI, a long time New York City resident, was born in Hiroshima. Her Grandfather, Dr. Ken Takeuchi was the director of the Red Cross Hospital in Hiroshima when the city was bombed. In this film, Mitchie interweaves the story of Hiroshima survivor and activist Setsuko Thurlow with what happened under the mushroom cloud, The film has had a successful year-long run in Japan with Mitchie receiving the 2021 Japan Film Renaissance Conference Peace Film Award.



DIRECTOR AND CAST OF SEPPUKU: THE SUN GOES DOWN

The festival is very excited to welcome award-winning director, writer, producer YUJI KAKIZAKI (*The Usume Boys, Kouin, Even in Another Life, The Second Security Unit*) and cast members YUKA TAKASHIMA (*The Usume Boys, When the Sun Falls, The Lady from Satsuma, Assistant Inspector Daimajin*) MASAYUKI DEAI (*Takashi Miike’s First Love, 47 Ronin, The Usume Boys, Kouin*), and YUKA SASADA (*Light of My Lion and Daburu Chito Ituwari no Keikan*).

Seppuku: The Sun Goes Down won 4 awards at the London and Edinburgh International Film Festivals 2025 including Best Foreign Language Feature, Best Director of a Foreign Language Film and Best Costumes.

HIROSHIMA and NAGASAKI 80TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE SCREENINGS



HIROSHIMA PIANO

おかあさんの被爆ピアノ

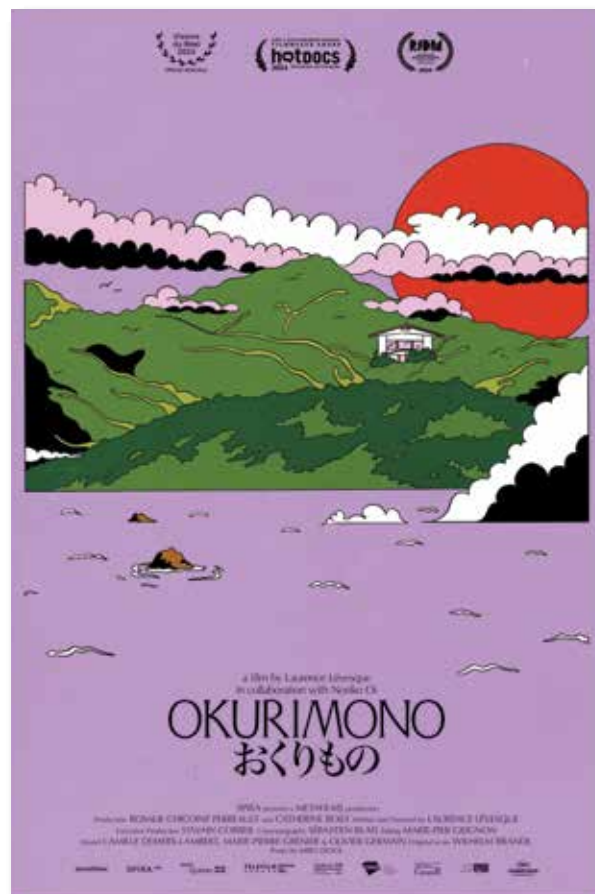
SUNDAY AUGUST 10, 2025 at 1:30PM

"The sound of the piano has not been changed by the atomic bomb"

At 8:15 a.m. on August 6, 1945, a single atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. A piano miraculously survived unscathed amidst the devastation. The film, based on the life of Mitsunori Yagawa, a piano tuner who restored the bombed piano and drove a truck around the country giving concerts, imagines what would have happened if Yagawa had met a certain person or visited a certain place. That person is Nakano, whose grandmother was the original owner of the piano, and together their story brings peace and moves the heart.

Winner of the Peace Prize at the 2022 Japanese Film Festival of Los Angeles.

Directed by Toshihiro Goto and starring Shiro Sano, Tomu Muto, Yoko Moriguchi, Ichirota Miyakawa.



OKURIMONO

おくりもの

SUNDAY AUGUST 10, 2025 at 4:00PM

"Laurence Lévesque presents us with another poetic and graceful work in Okurimono, a reflection on what we leave behind for future generations" - Visions du Réel Film Fest Report

At the age of 60, Japanese Canadian Noriko Oi embarks on an emotionally charged journey back to Nagasaki, her childhood city, to unravel the tightly kept secrets of her family's past. Decades after the death of her mother, Mitsuko, and facing the sale of her ancestral home, Oi seizes a poignant opportunity to piece together a mother's history that was never shared with her.

Sifting through the hidden corners of her family home, engaging with those who shared Mitsuko's history with her, Oi discovers letters and stories that weave a rich tapestry of her mother's life and untold narratives of her native Japan. Through Laurence Lévesque's thoughtful storytelling marked by stunning visuals, Okurimono navigates the delicate realms of unspeakable pain and intergenerational trauma with grace, painting a poignant picture of closure.

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GRAND JURY PRIZE AND KOBAYASHI AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD

The **GRAND JURY PRIZE** is awarded to the feature selected as the best film among this year's festival offerings. Films are reviewed by an Official Jury made up of film makers, film professionals, writers and educators. The winning film-maker is awarded with a certificate and a cash prize of 100,000 Japanese yen. This year's jury is comprised of:

- **DR. SANDRA ANNETT** is an associate professor of Film Studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada, where she teaches courses on Japanese film, animation, and Japanese science fiction. She is the author of the books *Anime Fan Communities: Transcultural Flows and Frictions* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014) and *The Flesh of Animation: Bodily Sensations in Film and Digital Media* (University of Minnesota Press, 2024). She has also published articles in journals such as *Transcultural Studies*, *The Journal of Postcolonial Writing*, and *Mechademia*. Along with Frenchy Lunning, she is Editor-in-Chief of *Mechademia: Second Arc*, a journal on East Asian popular cultures. She is currently working on a book about the career of anime director Yuasa Masaaki.
- **LIZ BRAUN** wrote about film and books for the Postmedia chain of papers in Canada and her film reviews now appear at AWFJ (Alliance of Women Film Journalists) in the U.S. and Original-Cin in Canada. She has worked in print, radio and television for over 30 years. In a previous incarnation she was the manager of publicity for Concert Productions International and CBS Records (Sony) Canada. Braun is a graduate of the University of Toronto.
- **KELLY FLECK** is the managing editor of *Nikkei Voice*, a nationally distributed Japanese Canadian newspaper. Published 10 times a year, the newspaper is an important medium for Japanese Canadian expression and communication—covering news, community, art, and culture. A Yonsei, or fourth-generation Japanese Canadian, Kelly is interested in exploring stories about identity, culture, and community and strives to write and share stories that connect and celebrate the Japanese Canadian community. To learn more about *Nikkei Voice*, visit www.nikkeivoice.ca.
- **HAYLEY SCANLON** is a freelance film writer and editor of East Asian cinema website Windows on Worlds. Her writing can be found at outlets such as BFI Online and Senses of Cinema while



she has also penned liner notes for Blu-ray releases from Arrow, Radiance, and Chameleon Films.

- **MARK SCHILLING** has been reviewing Japanese films for "The Japan Times," Japan's oldest English-language newspaper, since 1989 and has served as a program advisor for the Udine Far East Film Festival in Udine, Italy since 2000. He has curated Udine FEFF retrospectives on Nikkatsu Action films (2005), the Shinto studio (2010) and Japanese SF/fantasy films (2016). Book publications include "The Yakuza Movie Book – A Guide to Japanese Gangster Films" (2003), "No Borders, No Limits: Nikkatsu Action Cinema" (2007) and "Art, Cult and Commerce: Japanese Cinema Since 2000" (2019). He also wrote the original story for "Convenience Story," a film directed by Miki Satoshi that opened in Japan in August, 2022 and screened at festivals worldwide.

The **KOBAYASHI AUDIENCE CHOICE AWARD** is presented to the film chosen as the festival favourite by audiences based on ballots completed at the end of each screening. The award is named in honour of Coby and Yone Kobayashi, a second-generation Nikkei couple whose vision, generosity and tireless efforts over 50 years were essential to the creation and success of the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre.



THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS

The Toronto Japanese Film Festival would like to thank our tireless volunteers and staff without whom the festival, and everything we do at the JCCC, would not be possible.

Festival Directors: James Heron, Chris Hope

Programmer: James Heron

TJFF and TJFF in Hibiya Coordinator:
Aki Takabatake

Administration: Yoko Minoda, Mayako Barringer, Theresa Takasaki, Adrian Wong, Masayo Heron

Technical Coordinator: Constantin Dutescu

Hospitality: Haruko Ishihara

Social Media Promotion:
Samphors Say, Yuko Matsuki

Volunteer Coordinator: Izumi Kusaka

Ticket Sales:
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FESTIVAL FOOD AND DRINK

During the festival there will be two special receptions featuring fine Japanese food and drink from some of Toronto's best loved Japanese establishments.

Opening Reception - June 12 at 6:30pm

Prior to our opening film **CELLS AT WORK!** we will offer Japanese food and tea, as well as Japanese sake, beer and a luxury cocktail bar featuring Suntory Toki Whisky and Roku Gin, for opening night ticket holders. This reception is provided through the generosity of Ozawa Canada, Kado Enterprise, House of Suntory, Kingyo Fisherman's Market and Ito-en.

Closing Reception - June 26 following the screening

Following our closing night film, **SUNSET SUNRISE** we will offer sweets and tea as well as a Japanese sake and a luxury cocktail bar featuring Suntory Toki Whisky and Roku Gin for ticket holders. This reception is provided through the generosity of Kado Enterprise, mon K Patisserie and Ito-en.

Japanese food and snacks will be available for purchase prior to all screenings courtesy of Kingyo Fisherman's Kitchen. Our NAKAMORI kiosk will also feature special film festival offerings.

House of Suntory Pop-up Bars available prior to select screenings.



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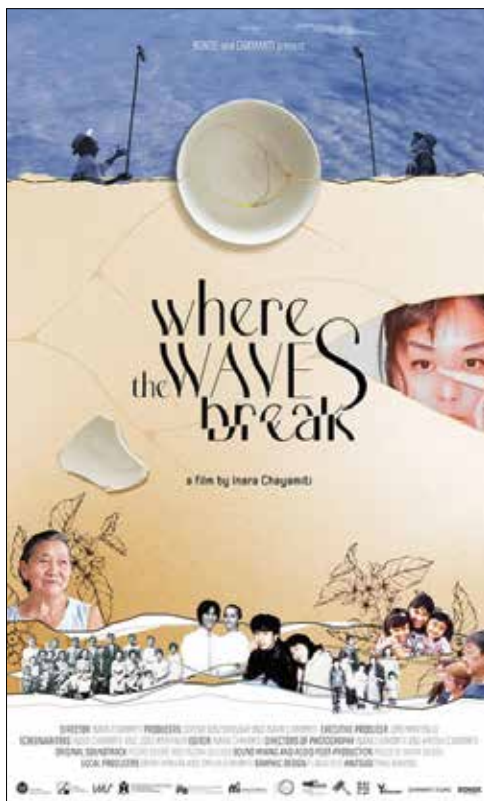
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カナダ日系文化会館

Music by Kevin Lau
Mariko Anraku, harp
Conrad Chow, violin
Ron Korb, flute
Rachel Mercer, cello

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SPECIAL SEPTEMBER FILM PRESENTATION



ONDE AS ONDAS QUEBRAM (WHERE THE WAVES BREAK)

SEPTEMBER 11TH, 2025 @ 7PM | KOBAYASHI HALL

Director: Inara Chayamiti | Portuguese and Japanese with English subtitles

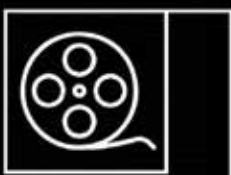
Brazil is home to the largest Nikkei diaspora in the world – sharing similarities with other Japanese diasporas, with key differences. In the essay film “Where the Waves Break”, the Japanese Brazilian documentary filmmaker Inara Chayamiti investigates her fragmented identity by gluing together pieces of her family’s story and the Japanese Brazilian saga, marked by two diasporas between opposite sides of the world: Brazil and Japan.

In this first feature-length documentary directed by a Japanese-Brazilian woman, she builds generational and cultural bridges from an authentic point of view and a curious and affective quest. And by revisiting the past from erased angles, she tells invisible stories from her community. It is historical and current, personal and universal.



What is Sedai?

The Sedai Japanese Canadian Legacy Project is the Oral History portion of the JCCC Collections. Oral histories interview ‘ordinary’ people about their life and experiences. Sedai is committed to collecting and preserving the stories of Japanese Canadians. From 2025-2026, the Sedai project will be busy improving the foundation of the project, supported by a grant from the Japanese Canadian Legacies Foundation.



Activation & Expansion

We’ve opened the door for community members to donate their own interview footage to contribute to the growing Sedai archive. Donations are now open!



SEDAI PROJECT



THE JAPANESE CANADIAN LEGACY PROJECT

jccc.on.ca/sedai-outeach



Preservation

We’re laying the groundwork to ensure the stories we’ve gathered through Sedai are preserved for generations to come. We’re also upgrading our digital and physical storage systems to make sure your stories are kept safe and accessible.

Outreach

One of the pillars of Sedai is community connection. We are developing oral history workshops for individuals and community organizations, providing resources and support for those interested in conducting their own oral histories. Contact us to book a workshop!

