

FESTIVAL FAVOURITES 2012 - 2019 (THE LIGHTER SIDE)



and

SHISEIDO present
GINZA TOKYO



TORONTO JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL



JULY - AUGUST 2020

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JAPANESE CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTRE • 6 GARAMOND COURT • TORONTO • 416.441.2345

BEST OF THE TORONTO JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL (THE LIGHTER SIDE)

As we await the post-crisis reopening and the commencement of our rescheduled TJFF 2020 in October, we thought it appropriate to use Japanese film to lift everyone's spirits at this very confusing time. We are delighted to announce a special series representing some of the most popular - and light-hearted - films from the past 8 years of festivals and film programming. These films (with subtitles) are not available domestically so it is a special treat and a rare opportunity to see them. Please enjoy and see you in October!

ABOUT THE JAPANESE CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

Now in its 57th 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 offers a wide variety of Japanese cultural programs for its 5,000 members and 210,000 annual visitors: 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, Sayaka Music Studio, Kiai Acupuncture Clinic, the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and one of North America's finest Japanese restaurants, Kaiseki Yu-zen Hashimoto.

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. The JCCC is also home to the Discover Japan Educational Program which hosts 15,000 school children annually. Among the many guests we have welcomed in these 50-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.

Now approaching its 60th year, 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 the Japanese Canadians, and connecting all Canadians to the exciting richness of Japanese culture, both traditional and contemporary.





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LADY MAIKO

舞妓はレディ

Available on Demand: Friday July 17 @ 9:00am – Sunday July 19 @ 9:00pm
135 min / 2014 • Director: Masayuki Suo • In Japanese with English Subtitles

RENT-A-CAT

レンタネコ

Available on Demand: Friday July 24 @ 9:00am – Sunday July 26 @ 9:00pm
110min/2012 • Director: Naoko Oigami • In Japanese with English Subtitles

A delightful geisha version of Audrey Hepburn's *My Fair Lady* from the director of *Shall We Dance?* For as long as she can remember, Haruko has wanted to be a geisha. Approaching a teahouse in Kyoto's famous geisha district to become an apprentice geisha, or *maiko*, she is rejected due to her country bumpkin dialect and uncultivated demeanor. By chance, her accent catches the interest of Professor Kyono, a linguistics specialist and regular patron at the teahouse. He strikes a deal with the teahouse proprietor, promising to transform Haruko's strong dialect into lady-like speech within 6 months.

Starring: Mone Kamishiraishi, Hiroki Hasegawa, Sumiko Fuji, Eri Watanabe, Tamiyo Kusakari.

This gentle, whimsical comedy by director Naoko Oigami (Kamome Shokudo, Megane) celebrates self-discovery and explores the importance of finding companionship, both human and otherwise. Sayoko defies the stereotypical "cat lady." Young, single, tallish and attractive, she befriends any and all stray cats. In turn, she rents out cats to lonely hearts of all kinds. Pushing her handcart of cats along the riverbank, she announces from a megaphone, "Cats for rent! If you're lonely, rent a cat!" Finding customers is not a problem: an old lady would like to buy a pet but fears that it will outlive her; a henpecked father; a rental company employee hoping a cat will ease her loneliness. But ever since her grandmother's death, Sayoko is lonely too. Until one day, when a mysterious young man from her past appears on the riverbank...

Both touching and hilarious, *Rent-a-Cat* premiered at the 2012 Berlin Film Festival and has become a festival favourite internationally..

『Shall we ダンス?』の周防正行監督が、舞妓をテーマに撮り上げた本格エンターテインメント大作。京都を舞台に舞妓に憧れる少女・春子が、古いしきたりや言葉遣いといった様々な困難を乗り越えて、一人前の舞妓になろうと奮闘する姿を描いたミュージカル仕立てのお茶屋ファンタジー。

監督: 周防正行

出演: 上白石萌音、長谷川博己、富司純子、草刈民代、渡辺えり、竹中直人

監督: 荻上直子 出演: 市川実和子 草村礼子 光石研『

かめめ食堂』『めがね』の荻上直子監督最新作。「レンタ〜ネコ。寂しいヒトに、ネコ、貸します」と拡声器で呼びかけながら、猫たちをリヤカーで引っ張るヒロイン、サヨコ。猫の貸し出し業を営むサヨコと、彼女が会おう心の寂しい人々が繰り広げる心温まる物語。2012年のベルリン国際映画祭パノラマ部門正式出品作品。

Co-presented by:





CHEF OF THE SOUTH POLE 南極料理人

Available on Demand: Friday July 31 @ 9:00am – Sunday August 2 @ 9:00pm
125min / 2009 • Director: Shuchi Okita • In Japanese with English Subtitles

A heart-warming comedy, based on the poignant essays of Nishimura Jun, who in real life served as a Japan Coast Guard cook for 8 team members at an Antarctic scientific observation team. Meals are the only source of pleasure in their lives, so the responsibility of the cook is a heavy one. But, without being able to procure fresh supplies, maintaining variety in the daily menu is a herculean task. While longing for his wife Miyuki and two children back in Japan, Nishimura goes to great lengths to keep the table filled with delectable meals. From full-course French cuisine to hand-made “ramen” noodles, the meals that fill the team members’ bellies and hearts are unforgettable.

Starring Masato Sakai, Katsuhisa Namase, Naomi Nishida, Kitano.

南極観測隊に料理人として参加した、西村淳原作のエッセー「面白南極料理人」を映画化した。南極の基地内で単身赴任生活を送る8人の男性たちの喜怒哀楽を、堺雅人演じる料理人の作るおいしそうな料理とともに見せる。西村（堺雅人）は南極の昭和基地からも遠く離れた陸の孤島、南極ドームふじ基地に料理人として派遣される。基地では雪氷学者（生瀬勝久）をはじめ、雪氷サポート隊員（高良健吾）らが彼の料理を心待ちにしている。



SURVIVAL FAMILY サバイバルファミリー

Available on Demand: Friday August 7 @ 9:00am – Sunday August 9 @ 9:00pm
117min / 2017 • Director: Shinobu Yaguchi • In Japanese with English Subtitles

When an extended global electrical blackout occurs, the world grinds to a halt. Salaryman Yoshiyuki Suzuki decides to escape from Tokyo with his wife and two kids. Their hilarious and heartfelt journey teaches them independence and cooperation as the kids grow up and the parents learn the error of their rigid paternalistic ways. They must also face an array of challenges including furious rainstorms, rabid dogs and runaway poultry!

This feel-good family-friendly, disaster comedy – the latest from the director of Wood Job!, Swing Girls and Water Boys – is guaranteed to please.

Starring: Fumiyo Kohinata, Eri Fukatsu, Yuki Izumisawa, Wakana Aoi.

『ウォーターボーイズ』『ハッピーフライト』などの矢口史靖が原案、脚本、監督を務めて放つサバイバルドラマ。ある日突然電気が消滅し人々の生活が危機を迎えた世界を舞台に、生き残りを懸けて東京脱出を試みるバラバラだった一家が、過酷な生活を通して、絆を取り戻していく姿を描く。鈴木家は、父・義之（小日向文世）、母・光恵（深津絵里）、息子の賢司（泉澤祐希）、娘の結衣（葵わかな）の4人家族。ある朝、目を覚ますと突然全ての電化製品が停止しており、さらに電車も車もガスも水道も止まってしまい、家族全員途方に暮れる。ついに父は東京脱出を決断。生き残りを賭けたサバイバルライフがはじまる……。

監督: 矢口史靖

出演: 小日向文世、深津絵里、泉澤祐希、葵わかな





©2012 "Key of Life" Film Partners

KEY OF LIFE

鍵泥棒のメソッド

Available on Demand: Friday August 14@ 9:00am – Sunday August 16 @ 9:00pm
128min/2012 • Director: Kenji Uchida • In Japanese with English Subtitles

Kenji Uchida's screwball comedy about a failed actor who switches identities with a stranger in bath house accident — only to find himself filling the shoes of a ruthless underworld assassin. The killer, suffering amnesia from the encounter, applies himself to learning the actor's method. Named one of the best 10 films of 2012 by The Japan Times and Kinema Junpo, winner of best screenplay at the Shanghai International Film Festival and a favourite at the 2012 Toronto International Film Festival, Key of Life definitely deserves an encore screening.

Touching, brilliantly plotted and simply hilarious, Key of Life features Masato Sakai, Teruyuki Kagawa and Ryoko Hirose..

監督:内田けんじ 出演:堺雅人 香川照之 広末涼子

売れない貧乏役者と記憶を失った殺し屋。二人の人生が入れ替わり、悲喜劇が幕を開ける!銭湯で頭を強打し、記憶を失った羽振りのいい男。居合わせた売れない貧乏役者・桜井は、出来心からロッカーの鍵をすり替え、彼になります。が、その男は誰も顔を見たことがない伝説の殺し屋コンドウだった!

2013年度日本アカデミー賞で最優秀脚本賞受賞、キネマ旬報読者選出日本映画ベスト・テンで1位に選ばれた他、ハワイ映画祭で最優秀作品賞、第15回上海国際映画祭において脚本賞を受賞など、国内外で数々の賞を受賞した本作は、昨年のトロント国際映画祭でも高い支持を得た。

Co-presented by:



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FLY ME TO SAITAMA

翔んで埼玉

Available on Demand: Friday August 21@ 9:00am – Sunday August 23 @ 9:00pm
107min / 2019 • Director: Hideki Takeuchi • In Japanese with English Subtitles

From the director of *Thermae Romae* and *Color Me True* comes a wild comic fantasy based on Mineo May's popular manga. In a luxurious, kingdom-like Tokyo lives Momomi, son of the corrupt governor and possessor of striking feminine beauty. He, like all Tokyoites, looks down on the unsophisticated neighboring prefectures, especially Saitama. When mysterious student Rei transfers into the same private academy, the spark of attraction soon ignites the fuse for a war between the prefectures. A lunatic satire of the universal tensions between urban and rural; overflowing with energy, hilarity, opulent design and over-the-top action.

Starring Fumi Nikaido, GACKT, Yusuke Iseya, Kumiko Aso, Ryo Narita, Naoto Takenakai.

「パタリロ!」の作者、魔夜峰央x「テルマエ・ロマエ」シリーズの武内英樹監督による愛と爆笑の「埼玉ディズニー映画」!!かつて東京都民からひどい迫害を受けた埼玉県民は、身を潜めるように暮らしていた。ある日、東京屈指の高校・白鷗堂学院の生徒会長で東京都知事の息子・壇ノ浦百美(二階堂ふみ)は、容姿端麗なアメリカ帰りの謎の転校生・麻美麗(GACKT)と出会い、互いに惹かれ合う。しかし、麗が実は埼玉出身だったことが発覚し、二人は東京と埼玉の県境で引き裂かれてしまう……。

監督:武内英樹

出演:二階堂ふみ、GACKT、伊勢谷友介、麻生久美子、成田凌、竹中直人

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The Japan Foundation, Toronto is Celebrating 30 years in Canada



Dear patrons of the **BEST OF TORONTO JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL 2020**,

The Japan Foundation, Toronto is thrilled to support this special series, the **Best of Toronto Japanese Film Festival**, which features great Japanese films that have graced the big screen during the past eight years of TJFF programming.

As Toronto and the rest of Canada gradually recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, **The Japan Foundation, Toronto** believes that access to culture can lend power to people and strengthen community ties. Together with our partners like the JCCC, we continue to engage, motivate, and stimulate our patrons and community through online activities: language classes for Japanese language learners and teachers, JFT Book Club, co-presentations of Japanese cinema, exhibitions, as well as our weekly newsletter and regular social media posts that provide interesting content about Japanese culture.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Japan Foundation in Canada, and in celebration of this landmark year, we have put together a number of activities, including the online Fellow Gallery to commemorate past years of valuable intellectual exchange between Canada and Japan, as well as the Digital Exhibit: 30th Anniversary Logo Contest, which attracted over 40 entries from across Canada. Over these three decades, we are proud to have partnered with many organizations, and want to express our gratitude to the JCCC and community at large.

Thank you for your support, and please stay safe. We look forward to celebrating the next 30 years of cultural exchange between Japan and Canada!

Yuko Shimizu
Executive Director, The Japan Foundation, Toronto



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