

17th JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL

___Watch Japan Unfold___



Fruits of Faith 奇跡のリンゴ The closing film of JFF17 is based on a true story. The original best-selling novelisation of the story so impressed Yoko Ono that she underwrote the novel's translation into English. Apple farmer Kimura embarks on a decade-long quest to produce perfect organic apples.



The Apology King 謝罪の王様 Yuzuru Kurojima is a professional apologist! In Japan, the dogeza is the ultimate expression of repentance-a deep kneeling bow which sees the apologiser prostrate. But Kurojima's trademark 'supra-dogeza' won't be enough to solve this international conflict. A comedy!

The 17th Japanese Film Festival will be held in Sydney from

14 to 24 November 2013!

Bigger and better than ever

Back in 1997, the first JFF was just three films shown in northern Sydney. From that modest start, JFF has grown to be a truly national festival taking great film around the country. In fact, it is now one of the largest Japanese film festivals outside of Japan.

The two flagship cities are Sydney and Melbourne. The 2013 festival has already visited Broome, Hobart, Townsville, Cairns, Brisbane, Perth and Canberra, with Melbourne and Darwin still to come. With 38 films screening in Sydney, some serious research will be required!

A new logo was revealed this year. Inspired by origami, the JFF logo is built around the concept of "origami" – a craft and symbol universally identified with Japan, strongly representing the country, tradition and culture. The slogan 'Watch Japan Unfold' says it all-JFF is a fantastic way to learn more about Japanese society and creativity, and to enjoy some top cinematic experiences.

The films

So much to choose from! The Sydney line-up includes 32 recent films, a special school screening and 5 free classic films.

The recent films are just that: 30 were released in 2013; the other two, in 2012. They include box office hits and internationally acclaimed films.

Fast-paced action movies, absurd comedies, lovestories, portraits of student days, heart-warming and hard-hitting true stories, and of course anime-Sydneysiders will be spoilt for choice. It seems that a good story will always find strong audiences with many films in this year's festival based on successful novels or based on true stories.

The opening film is *The Great Passage*, based on the best-selling novel of the same name, telling the story of the creation of the best Japanese dictionary. The quest for perfection closes the festival, Fruits of Faith [top left].

One of the best known Japanese horror films in recent years was director Hideo Nakata's The Ring which even inspired a Hollywood version. The director returns with

The Complex which is said to be even more frightening than The Ring. Another thriller is Kiyoshi Kurosawa's Real which has received international recognition.

Dragonball Z: Battle of the Gods is a must-see for anime fans. Not only does it feature the legendary voice of Masakazu Morita, for the first time the original creator of Dragon Ball, Akira Toriyama, has been involved in the script, story and character design. Anime goes liveaction in the film Gatchaman, the 40-year-old TV cartoon that readers might remember as Battle of the Planets or G-Force repeats watched after school.

The school screening is Tug of War. This film is not open to the general public and schools must contact Japan Foundation to book.

The classics are by masters of Japanese film. Post-war films often examined the breakdown of the Japanese family and the difficult living conditions of the time. Lightning by director Mikio Naruse and The Elegant Beast by director Yuzo Kawashima treat these themes. Other classics are The Grand Master by Daisuke Ito, Children Hand in Hand by Hiroshi Inagaki and The Life and Times of Ichi the Masseur by Kenji Misumi. Misumi's film is the original Zatoichi, which inspired a long running TV and film series character of the blind swordsman, including Takeshi Kitano's 2003 internationally acclaimed remake Zatoichi.

Discover synopses to all these and many more great Japanese films on the JFF website.

Special Events & Cultural Ambassador

Veteran actress Kaoru Yachigusa stars



in *Don't Lose Heart*, the story of poet Toyo Shibata who began writing poems at the age of 90. Both Yachigusa and director Yoshihiro Fukagawa will attend the screening on 23 November as Shinji Ono special guests.

Australian Ken Isaacs is an associate producer on the film *Blindly in Love*, a romantic comedy-drama, and Isaacs will attend the 16 November screening.

JFF is excited to announce Western Sydney Wanderers star Shinji Ono as this year's Cultural Ambassador!

17th Japanese Film Festival

Event Cinemas—George Street, Sydney

http://japanesefilmfestival.net

See the website for ticketing details.

Classic movies are free admission-tickets are available on the day of screening on a first-come first-served basis.



IN DARWIN! 21-23 November

Three great films will be shown in Darwin: A Ghost of a Chance 21 Nov. (Thu) 6pm, A Boy and His Samurai 22 Nov. (Fri) 6pm & Arriety 23 Nov. (Sat) 3pm. Check the JFF website for more details.



Lightning 稲妻 A portrayal of a flawed family which is in danger of falling apart when the youngest of the four siblings resists pressure to marry for the sake of financial security. Each of the four siblings has a different father. This 1952 film is by one of Japan's masters of classic cinema, director Mikio Naruse.



Reunion 遺体~明日への十日間 Starring one of Japan's most famous actors, Toshiyuki Nishida, this film is based on a journalist's account of a small town's attempt to deal with the overwhelming number of victims during the first 10 days after the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.



Complex クロユリ団地 Hideo Nakata's first J-horror film in more than a decade is said to be even more frightening than his famous Ring. A nursing student Asuka moves into a new apartment complex and becomes entangled in a web of supernatural happenings. What secrets lurk within the complex?