

JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL _ _ Watch Japan Unfold _ _ _



Kiki's Delivery Service



Patema Inverted

Sydney: 13-23 November 2014

The Japanese Film Festival organised by the Japan Foundation Sydney is becoming an oak-tree of an event. From its acorn beginnings of three films shown in North Sydney, the 18th Japanese Film Festival is in all capital cities of Australia and a growing number of regional centres, and it has crossed the ditch to New Zealand.

And great news for Sydneysiders, the JFF is now running a second location in Parramatta.

Get ready to laugh, have your world turned upside down, go back in time, lose yourself in a thriller, or admire the simple telling of everyday human dramas. The 18th Japanese Film Festival in Sydney will be screening a wide variety of films at two locations, the Sydney CBD and in Parramatta.

The line-up showcases the latest Japanese releases. As many as 56 films will be shown in Sydney, so a visit to the JFF website is a must to decide which movies you want to see (there is a 5-film pass again this year).

JFF also presents festival-goers with the chance to see several of the latest films together with the original. Thermae Romae II is the sequel to the hilarious hit Thermae Romae about an ancient Roman architect who gains new inspiration to design a bathhouse from today's Japanese onsen (yes, some time travel is involved).

A more common J-film theme is samurai epics and there are multiple samurai or historical films in this year's JFF. All three Rurouni Kenshin films are being shown; they can be seen on separate days, or fans can opt for a Rurouni Kenshin marathon of all three films on one Saturday. The first film in the series was a Japanese blockbuster and grossed \$7million over the first five days of its release in 2012. Interestingly the last two films were released in the same year, 2014.

The Rurouni Kenshin films are based on the highly successful manga and anime series of the same name—an epic samurai romance. Thermae Romae is based on a hit manga series. In Japanese contemporary culture, there is an ongoing crossover between various formats and its common for to have live-action films retelling hit animated TV series or films, and vice versa.

In the case of Kiki's Delivery Service, many people will know it as a hit Hayao Miyazaki anime. Kiki is a young witch serving a one-year apprenticeship in the real world. The Miyazaki film and the liveaction version showing at JFF were both inspired by a children's novel. (JFF says to forget the Studio Ghibli version and you'll be pleasantly surprised.)

No Japanese film festival would be complete without anime, and six will screen in Sydney, including Patema Inverted, a beautifully drawn story of girl who goes to a forbidden upsidedown world and meets a boy.

Like any other country, thrillers make for some great plots. The who-dunnit Snow White Murder Case is a mystery that also comments on the role of social media as people rush to judge Miki who is accused of murdering a female co-worker.

Family and social dramas are also well represented in the Sydney line-up. One is Leaving on the 15th Spring, a coming of age story set on a remote island in Okinawa-Yuna, like all 15 year olds, must go to the Okinawan mainland 360km away to attend senior high school, and she experiences mixed emotions as she prepares to leave home.

And who would have thought! A Japanese musical comedy loosely based on My Fair Lady-that's Lady Maiko, written and directed by Masayuki Suo. He directed the Japanese hit Shall we DANCE?, which was later made into a film of the same name starring Richard Gere and Jennifer Lopez. His latest film Lady Maiko is about Haruko and how she strives to change her strong country dialect into ladylike speech in six months, with the help of Professor Kyono, so that she can achieve her dream of becoming a maiko or an apprentice geisha.

Lady Maiko will open the festival and is a JFF special event. The Sunday 16 November screening will feature two special guests: film director Masayuki Suo and the lead actress Mone Kamishiraishi during an interview and Q&A session after the

See the JFF website and don't miss out!



Event Cinemas—George Street, Sydney Event Cinemas—Parramatta

http://japanesefilmfestival.net

See the website for ticketing and rating details.



Lady Maiko



Snow White Murder Case



Japan Foundation, Sydney—doors open!

The Japan Foundation Sydney is open again to the public. You'll find it at its exciting new premises in Central Park across the road from UTS on Broadway.

borrowing.

Having relocated to their new office, the Japan Foundation is now surrounded by a growing inner-city community of residents, university students and small art galleries. It's hoped that long-term Japan

The Library with its great selection of Foundation members will enjoy the books and media on Japan is open for different environment and that many new members will discover the Japan Foundation Sydney and what it has to offer.

> Catch up on the latest news on their website, and if you haven't already, subscribe to their e-newsletter for upcoming events.



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> > www.jpf.org.au



JFF special school screening

Time Trip App

10am, 14 November

It's 2014, but Mikako-sensei and her history class students suddenly find themselves back in 1868, the final tumultuous year of the Edo period-and Mikakosensei is taken prisoner! Can they ensure history is not rewritten and make it safely back to the present?

Sounds interesting? Unfortunately it's only for schools!

Japanese teachers interested in booking for their students should see details and get the booking form

http://japanesefilmfestival.net/jff_movie/time-trip-app/

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