

## Consul-General's Commendations

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Earthquake) represented by Ms Junko Stratton [front, far left], **Matsuri in Sydney Inc** (group hosting Japanese festival in Sydney) represented by Ms Kazuko Chalker [front, second left], **Wadaiko Rindo Sydney Branch** (Wadaiko drum group) represented by Mr Koji Yura [back, far left].



On 19 July, a Farewell Reception was held for the forty-four new participants from New South Wales heading off to Japan on the **2016 Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program**. This year also happens to be the thirtieth anniversary of the JET Program.

Mr Takaoka awarded Consul-General's Commendations to two individuals and a group who have provided distinguished service in contributing to the deepening of mutual understanding and friendship between Japan and Australia, including support to the JET programme and promotion of Japanese language education in Australia.

The individual awardees were Japanese academics **Dr Emi Otsuji** (UTS) [above, second left] and **Dr Rowena Ward** (Wollongong) [far right]. **NSW JET Alumni Association** (JETAA NSW)'s commendation was accepted by President, Mr Eden Law [far left].

On 7 October, the 10th **Inoue Yasushi Award** was held at the University of Sydney. The Inoue Yasushi Award was established to support and encourage research into Japanese literature in Australia, and later also in New Zealand. **Mr Masanori Ohtani** was the driving force behind establishing the Award and in the decade since has worked hard to ensure its continuation and organised the annual ceremonies. He received the Consul-General's Commendation in recognition of this contribution.



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Ms Tomoko Koyama also received a commendation (see p.6).

Several further commendations are still to be presented.



JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL

The 20th Japanese Film Festival in Sydney 17 - 27 November 2016

The **JFF**, the largest festival of Japanese film outside Japan, is on now around Australia. Last year's **JFF** had an audience of approximately 26,300 Australia-wide.

Another great line-up of the very latest films from Japan, the main Sydney program will feature 40 films.

### Opening & Closing Films

The 20th **JFF** kicks off in Sydney on 17 November with the opening film *After the Storm* 海よりもまだ深く by director Hirokazu Kore-eda (*Like Father, Like Son*—2013 Cannes Jury Film Prize) and closes on 27 November with *The Long Excuse* 永い言い訳 which will be followed by a special guest Q&A session with director Miwa Nishikawa and lead actor Masahiro Motoki (*Departures, The Emperor in August*).



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*The Long Excuse* 永い言い訳 is a touching drama about celebrity author Sachio's attempts to come to terms with the loss of his wife.

With so many films to choose from, we have picked up just a few to give an idea of the variety. This is a film festival that has everything from beloved cartoon character Chibi Maruko-chan's latest film to two documentaries to whet the interest of foodies, *Kampai! For the Love of Sake* and *Tsukiji Wonderland*. And not forgetting this year's remastered classic – the original 1954 Japanese *Godzilla*.

Visit [www.japanesefestival.net](http://www.japanesefestival.net) for synopses, classifications, ticket information and trailers.

## The 20th Japanese Film Festival in Sydney

Event Cinemas  
George Street  
Sydney

[japanesefilmfestival.net](http://japanesefilmfestival.net)

**Assassination Classroom: Graduation** 暗殺教室 卒業編  
2016

The last chapter is here and class 3-E must decide about their futures and defeat Koro-sensei. Class harmony begins to fracture. Will 3-E be able to work together?



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**Sing My Life** あやしい彼女  
2016

The lady in the yukata is 73 years old! Grandmother Katsu has worked hard all her life and now finds herself looking after her executive daughter and guitar-loving grandson. In her heart she longs to be free to live her own life. After venturing into a magic photo studio, she comes out as her 20 year old self. Full of energy, she joins her grandson's rock band and fulfils her dream.

**Everest—The Summit of the Gods** エヴェレスト 神々の山嶺  
2016

A perfect movie for 2016, the year of Japan's first Mountain Day public holiday (11 August). Filmed on location in Nepal, the main character is Makoto Fukumachi, a photographer who finds a camera that is supposed to have belonged to George Mallory, a legendary mountaineer. He also runs across an infamous Japanese mountaineer whom he is determined to track down.



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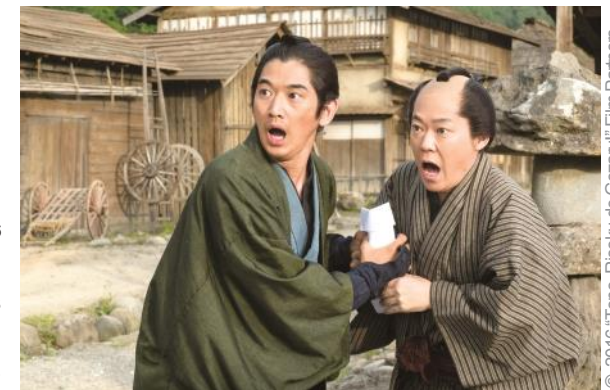
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**Desperate Sunflowers** 嫌な女  
2016

Talented lawyer Tetsuko's ordered life is thrown into chaos when her impulsive cousin, Natsuko, asks for her help in a legal matter with an ex-boyfriend. Reluctantly Tetsuko finds herself drawn into Natsuko's life.

**The Magnificent Nine** 殿、利息でござる!  
2016

It's a Japanese film festival, so there's got to be a samurai or two. This movie sees nine crafty merchants plot to save their town from ruinous taxes being imposed by the feudal lord. Will they succeed or will the samurai class win the day? This comical tale is based on historical accounts.



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