

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: FREE JAPANESE MOVIE SCREENINGS AT THE BLOOR HOT DOCS CINEMA
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TORONTO, DECEMBER 3, 2015: The Japan Foundation, Toronto and the Consulate-General of Japan in Toronto will hold four free Japanese film screenings at the Bloor Hot Docs Cinema in January, 2016. Presented in partnership with local Japanese cultural organizations, this year's eclectic program includes a samurai action comedy, a coming-of-age drama set on a remote island near Okinawa, a fish-out-of-water forestry comedy, and an indie comedy-drama about college friendships.

All films are in Japanese with English subtitles. Admission is free; no reservations are required. Doors open 30 minutes before screening time.

Sunday, January 10, 1:00 pm (doors open 12:30 pm)

The Floating Castle

Dir. Isshin Inudo, Shinji Higuchi, 2012, 145 min, STC (historical action comedy)

In this historical action comedy set near the end of Japan's long civil war, Toyotomi Hideyoshi must defeat Oshi Castle, ruled by a popular leader known as "Nobou-sama," or "blockhead." Based on an actual historical event in which the greatest strategist of his age met his match.

Community Partner: Toronto Japanese Language School

Sunday, January 17, 12:30 pm (doors open 12:00 pm)

Leaving on the 15th Spring

Dir. Yasuhiro Yoshida, 2013, 114 min, STC (drama)

Yuna's home island is too small to have a high school, so students typically move to Okinawa to continue their studies. As Yuna prepares to leave her tight-knit community, she becomes pen pals with a handsome student on another island, while becoming aware of rifts in her own family's relationships.

Community Partner: Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre/Toronto Japanese Film Festival

Sunday, January 17, 3:00 pm (doors open 2:30 pm)

Wood Job!

Dir. Shinobu Yaguchi, 2014, 116 min, STC (comedy)

Yuki has failed his university entrance exams and been dumped by his girlfriend. On a whim, he signs up for a year of forestry training deep in the wooded mountains of rural Japan, where there's no cell phone reception and the population is outnumbered by deer and pit vipers.

Winner, Kobayashi Audience Choice Award, 2015 Toronto Japanese Film Festival

Community Partner: Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre/Toronto Japanese Film Festival

Sunday, January 24, 2:00 pm (doors open 1:30 pm)

A Story of Yonosuke

Directed by: Shuichi Okita, 2013, 160 min, STC (comedy/drama)

In 1987, Yonosuke leaves his hometown for university in Tokyo. Awkward but charming, he quickly makes friends. Despite being "so normal, it's funny," Yonosuke's sweet nature lingers in the memories of everyone he meets. Cutting between university days and the present, the film shows the lasting effects of pure friendship.

Community Partner: Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival

About the film screenings:

Each year, The Japan Foundation's Japanese Film Screenings Overseas program selects recent popular Japanese feature and documentary films for screening abroad, with aim to introduce Japanese culture and society through the medium of film. Screenings of these films are organized around the world by local Japan Foundation offices, in cooperation with Consulates-General and Embassies of Japan.

About The Japan Foundation, Toronto:

The Japan Foundation, Toronto (JFT) is one of 22 overseas offices of The Japan Foundation, a semi-governmental Japanese organization with a mandate to promote international exchange and broaden awareness of Japanese arts, culture, language and society.

Located at 2 Bloor Street East, on the third floor of the Hudson's Bay Centre, JFT houses a free public lending library, gallery, seminar room and administrative offices. Throughout the year, JFT hosts lectures, language classes, film screenings, workshops and other events, and organizes events across Canada in cooperation with the Consulates-General and Embassy of Japan.

www.jftor.org

Our community partners:

Toronto Japanese Language School

www.tjls.ca/

Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre/Toronto Japanese Film Festival

www.jccc.on.ca

Toronto Reel Asian International Film Festival

www.reelasian.com/