



Embassy of Japan in Ireland

access>CINEMA

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[14-05]

“JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL RETURNS TO VENUES ACROSS IRELAND, 3-17 APRIL 2014”

March 19, 2014 The Japanese Film Festival, now in its 6th edition, returns to bring the best of new Japanese cinema to Irish audiences. The busy screening schedule begins this year in Cork on 3rd April, before touring to Galway, Limerick, Dublin and Waterford. Go to www.jff.ie for screening schedule and updates.

The Festival will this year screen 20 films, almost all of which are Irish premieres. The most acclaimed filmmakers from contemporary Japanese cinema are featured, with a variety of themes, genres and topics to appeal to all audiences.

The Festival's packed programme includes the Irish premieres of ***The Great Passage***, Japan's official submission to the Academy Awards Best Foreign Language Film category, and the visually stunning ***Unforgiven***, a remake of the classic Clint Eastwood western starring the Oscar nominated Ken Watanabe.

As ever, the anime programme of JFF continues to be popular with audiences. Highlights this year include the anticipated ***Patema Inverted***, a beautifully animated tale which sees gravity obstructing the course of true love as boy meets girl from another world, and the Academy Award nominated ***The Wind Rises*** from legendary director Hayao Miyazaki (***Spirited Away***). As this is reported to be the master animator's final film, it is not to be missed.

Venue and ticket sales information will be available at www.jff.ie from Wednesday 19th March.

The Embassy of Japan, access>CINEMA and the Ireland Japan Association are the co-organisers of the Festival, with the support of the Japan Foundation.

Previous Festivals have boasted sell-out screenings in all locations, and the organisers expect this year to be no different, with a carefully selected programme designed to intrigue, educate and entertain.

Mr. Chihiro Atsumi, Ambassador of Japan to Ireland said, “Thanks to the efforts of the organisers, I am very happy to say that this year's Japanese Film Festival in Ireland will offer expanded screenings of a total of 20 films covering a wide range of themes and genres. I hope that everyone will enjoy the variety of films on offer this year”, and continued, “Through

our experience of watching films, we can gain an insight into the culture and history of other countries, and also share other people's emotions. I hope all Irish people will enjoy the festival".

"We're aware of the appetite around the country for world cinema through our day-to-day work with film clubs," commented Maeve Cooke, Director of access>CINEMA. "Japan has always been known as a country that boasts great filmmakers, and this year's JFF programme proves that Japanese cinema is every bit as exciting now as it ever has been. We're delighted to have the opportunity to once again organise a festival which can bring this quality international cinema to Irish audiences who have always been supportive of JFF activities. If you're not familiar with Japanese cinema, we encourage you to experience some of the unique and diverse films from this extraordinary country."

The rich heritage of Japan's cinematic culture is represented through a rare screening of the classic psychological drama ***Woman of the Dunes***. This opportunity to see Hiroshi Teshigahara's 1964 masterpiece on vintage 35mm will be a treat for cineastes.

The Festival also caters for viewers in search of pure escapism and entertainment. Box office hit ***Library Wars*** is set in the near future where libraries have become battlegrounds, whilst ***The Story of Yonosuke*** is a comedy about an unassuming student who changes the lives of those around him. Horror aficionados will savour ***Lesson of the Evil***, the latest from the dazzlingly prolific and inventive director Takashi Miike (***Audition***; ***Ace Attorney***).

JFF Screening Schedule:

Cork - Gate Multiplex and Triskel Christchurch: April 3-9

Galway - EYE Cinema: April 6-10

Limerick - UL: April 7-8

Dublin - Light House Cinema: April 9-17

Waterford - Garter Lane Arts Centre: April 15-17

Press information / Publicity

David O Mahony

T - 353 1 679 4420

E - domahony@accesscinema.ie

Social

F - [facebook.com/JapaneseFilmFestivalIreland](https://www.facebook.com/JapaneseFilmFestivalIreland)

T - [@JFF_Ireland](https://www.instagram.com/JFF_Ireland)

co-organisers access>CINEMA are the resource organisation for regional cultural cinema exhibition in Ireland, and acknowledge the financial support of The Arts Council.

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