

**MEDIA RELEASE: MONDAY 15 OCTOBER, 2018**

## **JFF ANNOUNCES EXCLUSIVE GUEST FOR MELBOURNE**

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The **Japanese Film Festival** today announced debuting feature film director, **Kosai Sekine** as a Melbourne-exclusive festival guest. Sekine will introduce his complex love story *Love At Least*, and take audience questions post-screening at **ACMI** on **24 November 2018**.

The Tokyo-based director is beloved for his sophisticated and witty sensibility. Best-known for his *Cannes Lions* award-winning commercial campaigns for brands like Nike and Adidas, Sekine moved from advertising to filmmaking, where his debut short, *Right Place*, won several awards at global film festivals.

“Sekine is a masterful storyteller, who paints a poetic portrait by using moody hues that draw you into his dark, romantic world. We are delighted to bring him as a special guest to Melbourne,” said **Japanese Film Festival Programmer, Alison Groves**. “Don’t miss this opportunity to catch unique insights from one of the industry’s most talented filmmakers.”

Nominated for Best International Film at the 26<sup>th</sup> Raindance Film Festival, *Love At Least* is the story of a hypersomniac recluse and her boyfriend, whose lives are turned upside down by a scheming ex-girlfriend, starring Masaki Suda (*Wilderness*). Offering a captivating perspective on mental health, Sekine’s stylish debut captures the nuances of love for oneself, and for others.

The Festival will open in Melbourne with viral microbudget genre-bender *One Cut of the Dead*. Direct from sold-out screenings across Japan, this action-packed spectacle is a brilliantly-disguised low-budget, high-concept take on the zombie-comedy genre.

Not to be missed is *Oh Lucy!*, starring Golden Globe-nominated actress Megan Mullally (*Will & Grace*), Josh Hartnett (*Pearl Harbour*) and rising-star Shioli Kutsuna, in the full-length adaptation of director Atsuko Hirayanagi’s Sundance Short Film Jury Prize-winning short about a lonely Japanese woman who awakens her alter-ego in an English class.

Other highlights include: *The Third Murder*, a probing courtroom drama by master filmmaker Hirokazu Kore-eda (Cannes Palme d’Or winner *Shoplifters*); *Yakiniku Dragon*, featuring a star-studded cast including Jeong-eun Lee (*Okja*), Yoko Maki (*The Grudge*); and Japanese box office smash hits *Colour Me True* and *Mixed Doubles*.

The Festival will also presents a FREE classic film program in Melbourne from 22 November – 2 December. Featuring works adapted from novels by celebrated authors such as Junichiro Tanizaki and Kyoka Izumi, the program showcases influential works from cinematic masters from the Japanese Golden Age and New Wave.

**What:** 2018 Japanese Film Festival - Melbourne

**Dates:** 22 November - 2 December

**Locations:** Melbourne Australian Centre for the Moving Image (ACMI) & Hoyts Melbourne Central

Tickets are available at [www.japanesefilmfestival.net](http://www.japanesefilmfestival.net) or at venue box offices.

The full Melbourne film schedule can be found [HERE](#).

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