



日本映画祭



Japanese Film Festival 2019

Canberra 16-20 Oct
Brisbane 23-27 Oct
Perth 30 Oct-03 Nov

JAPANFOUNDATION 
BRINGING JAPAN TO YOU

About

Welcome to the 23rd Japanese Film Festival (JFF) in Australia!

We're excited to bring you the best Japanese cinema of 2019! This year's program brings new perspectives in Japanese film, reviving the old and giving lesser-known stories a chance in the spotlight. From sensitive portrayals of modern everyday life to wild and vibrant alternate worlds, JFF 2019 celebrates the multifaceted landscape of Japanese cinema.

The JFF is presented by The Japan Foundation, Sydney and tours major cities and regional centres across Australia. Thank you to our delightful audiences, generous sponsors, and wonderful volunteers for 23 years of celebrating Japanese film!

Japanese Film Festival Programmers
Yurika Sugie, Susan Bui, Simonne Goran, Anne Lee, Aurora Newton and Jessica Chow

Assisted by
Mai Le



JFF is part of the Japanese Film Festival Asia Pacific Gateway.

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 japanesefilmfestival.net

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A-Z Guide to JFF 2019 Films

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 Everyone at this hotel wears a mask of some kind... And anyone could be a killer
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 Scrubbing tiles and tubs is murderous work
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- SAINT☆YOUNG MEN 2nd Century** ● 06
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- Samurai Shifters** ● 08
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 Moving house is always stressful, but moving your whole town?!
- Sea of Revival** ● 07
 凧待ち
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- The Legend of the Stardust Brothers** ● 11
 星くず兄弟の伝説
 80s boy band madness—the cult classic you didn't know you wanted

Opening Film



Masquerade Hotel マスカレード・ホテル

Director: Masayuki Suzuki
2019 • 132mins
Screening: All cities

Unclassified: all ages

Everyone at this hotel wears a mask of some kind... And anyone could be a killer

In this adaptation of Keigo Higashino's best-selling novel, Detective Kosuke Nitta (Takuya Kimura) goes undercover in a high-end Tokyo hotel after a code of numbers found at three seemingly unrelated murders lead him to believe the next murder will take place there. When he's assigned the front desk, hotel employee Naomi Yamagishi (Masami Nagasawa; *Your Name*) is not happy. She's dedicated to upholding the highest standards for guests of the hotel, and Kosuke's scruffy appearance and single-minded focus on his detective work are not exactly front desk material. Will the two be able to learn to work together before the killer strikes again?

Closing Film



Dance With Me ダンスウィズミー

Director: Shinobu Yaguchi
2019 • 103mins
Screening: All cities

Unclassified: all ages

Is it weird if you're the only one dancing?

Musical meets road trip in this lighthearted comedy with an outstanding performance by Ayaka Miyoshi! Shizuka is climbing the corporate ladder while trying to keep her crush on her charming boss a secret. Envious of her lucky-in-love friends, she decides to visit a fortune teller to see if she'll ever get married. On the way, she meets with a girl going to see a hypnotist (Akira Takarada), desperate to cure her shyness so she can star in a musical. When they arrive, the hypnotist confuses the two, cursing Shizuka to dance whenever she hears music! Shizuka, desperate to break the curse, embarks on a hunt for the shifty hypnotist, dancing the whole way.



Ride Your Wave きみと、波にのれたら

Director: Masaaki Yuasa
2019 • 95mins
Screening: Brisbane, Perth

Unclassified: all ages (contains mild themes)

Diving fearlessly into the flames of love!

Surf's up every day for free-spirited Hinako after she moves to the seaside! When her apartment block catches ablaze and courageous firefighter Minato comes to the rescue, sparks of romance fly and soon the two are blissfully catching waves together and singing into the sunset. Their happiness is cut tragically short when Minato runs into trouble while rescuing a stranger at the beach, leaving Hinako heartbroken, singing their song and clinging to precious memories. The sun-drenched, vivid spectacle of Masaaki Yuasa's animation shines in this imaginative and heartfelt story of bravery and love.



Fantasia International Film Festival
2019 - Satoshi Kon Award Winner
(Best Animated Feature)



Detective Conan: The Fist of Blue Sapphire

名探偵コナン 紺青の拳 (フィスト)

Director: Tomoka Nagaoka
2019 • 110mins
Screening: Brisbane, Perth

Unclassified: all ages

Conan takes his detective skills to Singapore in his first overseas film adventure!

When Conan's friends travel to Singapore, he's forced to stay back in Japan because he doesn't have a passport. But there's no rest for this detective, as he's transported to Singapore against his will by his nemesis, the charismatic thief Kaitō Kid. The two begrudgingly agree on a temporary truce and soon find themselves embroiled in a case involving a martial arts tournament and a mysterious blue sapphire. When Kaitō Kid is framed for stealing the blue sapphire and women are turning up dead, suddenly Conan's lack of a passport is the least of his problems!



My Dad is a Heel Wrestler
パパはわるものチャンピオン

Director: Kyohei Fujimura
2018 • 111mins
Screening: All cities

Unclassified: all ages

A tenacious nine-year-old grapples with his father's villainous wrestling alter ego

Takashi Omura's career as a professional wrestling champion takes a hard knock when his dramatic final move, the Fly High Slam, results in a knee injury. Ten years later, he hasn't told his son, Shota, about his new persona as a heel wrestler—the despicable Cockroach (*Gokiburi*) Mask. Their relationship is strained when Shota uncovers his father's secret, but opportunity calls when Takashi gets a second chance at the Z1 Climax tournament. Will Takashi overcome his injuries and regain the respect of his son?

© 2018 MY DAD IS A HEEL WRESTLER Film Partners



Fly Me to the Saitama
翔んで埼玉

Director: Hideki Takeuchi
2019 • 107mins
Screening: Brisbane

Unclassified: all ages

If you're not from Tokyo, you can't sit with us!

In a reality where people from neighbouring prefectures are persecuted for entering Tokyo without a visa, Rei Asami (*GACKT*), a transfer student and secret Saitama revolutionist, is on a mission to abolish the laws perpetrated against residents of Saitama. Upon entering his new high school, Rei becomes the new favourite among his elite Tokyo classmates, much to the dismay of Momomi Dannoura (*Fumi Nikaido; Himizu*), son of the governor of Tokyo and student council president. It isn't long before Momomi finds out about Rei's secret, and in an unexpected turn of events, Momomi flips from anger to supporting Rei in his quest for equality.

© 2019 "Fly me to the Saitama" Film Partners



SAINT☆YOUNG MEN 2nd Century

聖☆おにいさん 第II紀

Director: Yuichi Fukuda
2019 • 54mins
Screening: Brisbane, Perth

Unclassified: all ages

What if Jesus and Buddha were roommates in modern-day Tokyo?

Based on a popular manga, *SAINT☆YOUNG MEN 2nd Century* imagines a world where Jesus Christ (*Kenichi Matsuyama; Death Note*) and Gautama Buddha (*Shota Sometani; Himizu*) take a vacation on earth and become roommates in an apartment in Tokyo. Hilarity ensues as they attempt to hide their identities and partake in all that modern Japanese society has to offer, including cosplay in the otaku mecca that is Akihabara!

© Nakamura Hikaru, KODANSHA/Jesus and Buddha committee



Melancholic
メランコリック

Director: Seiji Tanaka
2018 • 113mins
Screening: All cities

Unclassified: 15+ (contains strong themes and violence)

Scrubbing tiles and tubs is murderous work

Despite having a degree from a prestigious university, Kazuhiko is unemployed and living with his parents with no plans for the future. Having no work experience and a lacklustre attitude toward life, the strange, awkward and socially inept Kazuhiko eventually finds a job scrubbing tiles at the local bathhouse. While the job makes his days rosier (and his wallet fuller), interactions between his boss and coworker make him suspicious about his workplace outside of hours. One night, he witnesses a yakuza execution in the bathhouse. What begins as a film about a lonely ill-fitting man drifting along the outskirts of society quickly develops a cross-genre edginess that is viscerally thrilling, darkly funny, and heartwarming.

Tokyo International Film Festival
2018 - Japanese Cinema Splash
Winner (Best Director)

© One Goose



Sea of Revival
凧待ち

Director: Kazuya Shiraishi
2019 • 125mins
Screening: Perth

Unclassified: 15+

The chains of addiction are not easily broken

Ikou is a 40-year-old punter living with his kind-hearted partner Ayumi and her angsty teenage daughter from a former relationship. When Ayumi's father is diagnosed with stage IV cancer the trio decide to relocate to her small coastal hometown in Miyagi to help him. They finally have an opportunity to start afresh, but their struggles follow them. When a shocking death brings Ikou to the attention of the police, the pressure drags him deeper into the underworld of his illegal sports gambling addiction.

© 2018 "Sea of Revival" Film Partners



Kingdom キングダム

Director: Shinsuke Sato
2019 • 134mins
Screening: All cities
Unclassified: 15+

An action-packed take on a tumultuous period of Chinese history

Based on the bestselling manga series of the same name, director Shinsuke Sato's live-action adaptation is a historical adventure about the warring states of China during 475-221 BC. The tale follows two boys orphaned by war, Shin (Kento Yamazaki) and Hyou (Ryo Yoshizawa; *Gintama*). They're determined to become the greatest army generals the world has ever seen! They're working towards their dream, but the young men are suddenly separated when Hyou is summoned to protect the king. After a series of tragic events, Shin is faced with a treacherous journey to restore justice and fulfil his destiny.

©Yasuhisa Hara/SHUEISHA
©2019 "KINGDOM" Film Partners



Samurai Shifters 引っ越し大名!

Director: Isshin Inudo
2019 • 120mins
Screening: All cities
Unclassified: all ages

Moving house is always stressful, but moving your whole town?!

Socially awkward Katagiri Harunosuke (Gen Hoshino) is a samurai bookworm who is stuck between a rock and the entire samurai clan. Threatened with *harakiri*, he is forced to take charge of a large-scale mission to relocate his whole town across the water and over 500 kilometres away. Thankfully Oran Itakura (Mitsuki Takahata), daughter of the former relocation chief, understands the difficulties ahead and offers to help the pitiful Katagiri. Now, with the assistance of Oran and a very tight budget to work with, Katagiri must come up with ingenious ways to fund the move and persuade fellow civilians to pack light—including a decluttering approach Marie Kondo would adore.

© 2019 "Samurai Shifters" Film Partners



Born Bone Born 洗骨

Director: Toshiyuki Teruya
2018 • 111mins
Screening: All cities
Unclassified: 15+

A dysfunctional family comes together for an unorthodox Okinawan tradition

Four years after Emiko's death, her family reunites for an Okinawan funerary ritual known as a *senkotsu* (bone washing) ceremony. Since her death, her husband has become an alcoholic and her daughter is heavily pregnant and single. Nothing's been easy for this family, and now they are forced to deal with each other's problems too. *Born Bone Born* is beautifully strange and universally human, taking a melancholic story and spinning it into a light-hearted, comedic drama about how family will always be there for you—even if they have to be dragged, kicking and screaming.

JAPAN CUTS 2018 -
Audience Award Winner

© 2018 "Senkotsu" Production Committee



Riding Uphill ガチ星

Director: Kan Eguchi
2018 • 106mins
Screening: Perth
Unclassified: 15+
(contains mild gore)

Get into gear for Tokyo 2020 with this story of perseverance

Pro baseballer Hamajima is kicked out of the league for his wavering performance, and after he wastes away the family savings with his gambling addiction, his marriage crumbles and he loses his family. The only way out of his downward spiral is a total change of pace: a new life as a professional cyclist—at the age of 39. But when you're starting from rock bottom, there's a long climb ahead, and learning to give it your best is the challenge of a lifetime.

© Koo-Ki/ Pylon



Brave Father Online - our story of FINAL FANTASY XIV

劇場版 ファイナルファンタジー
-XIV 光のお父さん

Directors: Teruo Noguchi
Kiyoshi Yamamoto
2019 • 114mins
Screening: Brisbane, Perth

Unclassified: all ages

A heartwarming story that proves you're never too old to play video games

For Akio (Kentarō Sakaguchi), interacting with strangers in online multiplayer games is far easier than talking to his own father, Akira. But when his father (Kotaro Yoshida) announces his retirement, Akio realises it's the perfect opportunity to rekindle his bond with the emotionally-distant Akira. Remembering the fun times he had with his father playing the original *Final Fantasy* video game as a child, he gifts Akira a copy of *Final Fantasy XIV: A Realm Reborn* with a quest in mind—anonymously befriend his father in the virtual world!

© 2019 "Brave Father Online - our story of FINAL FANTASY XIV" Project
© Maily/SQUARE ENIX



A Banana? At This Time of Night?

こんな夜更けにバナナかよ
愛しき実話

Director: Tetsu Maeda
2018 • 120mins
Screening: All cities

Unclassified: 15+

Based on a true story about the importance of friends, laughter, and hope

Yasuaki Shikano (Yo Oizumi; *YAKINIKU DRAGON*) suffers from muscular dystrophy and is confined to a wheelchair. Rather than heeding the advice of his concerned doctor to remain in hospital, he chooses a more radical lifestyle in his one bedroom apartment, one where he is surrounded by a cohort of volunteer carers who are at his every beck and call. When beautiful stranger Misaki (Mitsuki Takahata) turns up out of nowhere, Yasuaki becomes smitten, but little does he know that she is the girlfriend of one of his carers!

© 2018 "A Banana? At This Time of Night?"
Film Partners



Little Nights, Little Love アイネクライネナハトムジーク

Director: Rikiya Imaizumi
2019 • 119mins
Screening: Brisbane, Perth
Unclassified: 15+

Love is the one thing we all have in common, and it ties us together

Sato is hopelessly single, waiting for that perfect meet-cute moment with the girl of his dreams. Minako is seeing a client's brother, but they only talk on the phone, never meeting in person—until she discovers that he'll ask her to be his official girlfriend if the world boxing contender from Japan wins the championship. The problem is, Minako doesn't even like boxing! Based on the collected short stories of Kotaro Isaka, *Little Nights, Little Love* follows Sato, Minako and those around them over a 10 year period, showing how love, hope and friendship bring together the most unlikely of people.

© 2019 "LITTLE NIGHTS, LITTLE LOVE"
FILM PARTNERS



Rent a Friend 月極オトコトモダチ

Director: Mayu Akiyama
2018 • 78mins
Screening: Canberra, Brisbane
Unclassified: all ages

You can't buy love—but you can rent friendship

A chance encounter with Sota, a charming rental friend, offers columnist Nasa a saucy new article series—testing the romantic boundaries of platonic friendship between a man and a woman. When Nasa's roommate also finds an easy connection with Sota through their shared passion for music, a messy triangle of blurred friendship and love emerges. Nasa begins to question how much of Sota's hired friendship is authentic and how much is the performance of a professional. Most importantly, who in the friendship group will be the first to 'cross the line'?

© 2018 MAYU AKIYAMA / MOOSIC LAB



NOISE ノイズ

Director: Yusaku Matsumoto
2018 • 115mins
Screening: Brisbane, Perth
Unclassified: 15+

Akihabara's dark side shown in a new light

A playground for anime, gaming and idol subcultures, Akihabara is also home to a shady underbelly riddled with exploitation and isolation out of tourists' view. Eight years after the Akihabara massacre, the ripple effects of trauma manifest in the lives of three young adults: Misa, (whose mother was killed in the incident) an underground idol and JK masseuse; Rie, who secretly dropped out of school to hang with the wrong crowd; and Ken, a young man dragged into debt by his own mother, with a festering violent streak waiting to be unleashed.

© movie "Noise" production committee
© 2019 Makotoya Co., Ltd. / movie "Noise" production committee



The Legend of the Stardust Brothers

星くず兄弟の伝説

Director: Macoto Tezka
Original 1985 / Remastered
Director's Cut 2018 • 100mins
Screening: All cities
Unclassified: 15+

80s boy band madness—the cult classic you didn't know you wanted

The corporate pop music machine sucks in wide-eyed rival wannabes Kan and Shingo and spits out the bedazzled and fabulous Stardust Brothers. Propelled to instant fame, their catchy lyrics 'once you reach No. 1, you can only go down' soon take on a new meaning. At only 23, director Macoto Tezka (son of manga and anime legend Osamu Tezuka) crafted the film around an existing soundtrack. Resurrected from obscurity, this 8mm cult classic is an invitation to embrace the cringe and creativity, marvel at low budget 80s special effects and costuming, and tally the endless celebrity cameos.

© Kinema Junpo DD



Kakegurui
映画 賭ケグルイ

Director: Tsutomu Hanabusa
2019 • 119mins
Screening: Brisbane
Unclassified: 15+

Winning is everything—
nothing else matters!

Forget grades at Hyakkaou Private Academy, an elite school for the rich. Here, gambling is the only way to succeed. Blackjack, poker, rock-paper-scissors—as long as you bet, it doesn't matter! This year, the ultimate prize is up for grabs: a 'blank future' that allows the winner to do whatever they want after graduation, rather than have their life's path decided for them. Everyone knows the student council president will win—that is, until transfer student Yumeko Jabami enters the equation. She seems to love nothing more than taking risks, but can she topple the president?

© 2019 Homura Kawamoto,
Toru Naomura / SQUARE ENIX
"KAKEGURUI MOVIE" Project



Little Love Song
小さな恋のうた

Director: Kojiro Hashimoto
2019 • 123mins
Screening: All cities
Unclassified: 15+

There's no such thing as
a *little* love song

An Okinawan high school band is on the precipice of getting their big break in Tokyo when one of the members is tragically killed in a hit-and-run accident. The band dissolves, political tensions on the island rise, and grief-stricken loved ones are left behind, until one day Mai Fukumura uncovers a never-before-heard song by the deceased band member. The band gets back together to play it, allowing his spirit to live on through the melody. Inspired by the songs of MONGOL800, this coming of age film will make you believe in the power of music.

© 2019 LITTLE LOVE SONG Film Partners



JK Rock
JK☆ROCK

Director: Shunji Muguruma
2019 • 92mins
Screening: All cities
Unclassified: all ages

Has-been heartthrobs
and rookie girl rockers

On the cusp of fame, the rock band the JoKers mysteriously splits up. One year later, vocalist Jyo Koduki has debuted in the U.S., while guitarist Jyo Kaieda is a miserable, entitled, handsome university student with only a purple sports car to show for his former glory days. When begged by an eccentric rock café owner to mentor the new all-girl high-schooler rock band Drop Doll, Jyo Kaieda begrudgingly starts training the rookie rockers. As they master their sound, the girls start to love playing together—and their passion for rock is simply infectious!

© 2019 "JK☆ROCK" Business Partners

Venues and Ticketing

Festival Dates and Venues

Canberra	Brisbane	Perth
16-20 October	23-27 October	30 October - 03 November
Dendy, Canberra Centre 148 Bunda St Canberra ACT Box office open 9:30am-10pm (02) 6221 8900	Event Cinemas Brisbane City Level 3 Myer Centre 91 Queen St Brisbane City QLD Box office open 10am-10pm (07) 3027 9999	Event Cinemas Innaloo 57 Liege St Innaloo WA Box office open 10am-10pm (08) 9446 8222

Ticket Prices

Adult	\$18.50
Concession	\$16.50
5 Film Pass*	\$75
Group Bookings (10+)*	\$14

5 Film Pass

Save money when you book 5 tickets in one transaction. Share with friends or mix and match film sessions for yourself.*

*Excludes Opening Film and Special Events. Available only via box office and all sessions/tickets must be purchased in one transaction.

Buy your tickets

Online
japanesefilmfestival.net
(Booking fees apply)

Box Office
Please call the box office first
to confirm if tickets are on sale

The JFF also tours:
Sydney 14-24 November
Melbourne 21 November - 1 December

Festival enquiries

The Japan Foundation, Sydney
(02) 8239 0055
japanesefilmfestival@jpf.org.au

Dendy, Canberra Centre Canberra 16-20 October

Date	Time	English Title	Japanese Title	Genre
16 Oct • Wed	18:15	Masquerade Hotel	マスカレード・ホテル	MYSTERY
17 Oct • Thu	18:30	Born Bone Born	洗骨	DRAMA
17 Oct • Thu	20:00	Kingdom	キングダム	PERIOD DRAMA
18 Oct • Fri	18:00	Rent a Friend	月極オトコトモダチ	ROMANCE
18 Oct • Fri	21:00	Melancholic	メランコリック	CRIME & SUSPENSE
19 Oct • Sat	12:00	JK Rock	JK☆ROCK	YOUTH
19 Oct • Sat	14:30	A Banana? At This Time of Night?	こんな夜更けにバナナかよ 愛しき実話	DRAMA
19 Oct • Sat	18:00	Samurai Shifters	引越し大名!	PERIOD DRAMA
19 Oct • Sat	20:30	The Legend of the Stardust Brothers	星くず兄弟の伝説	CULT
20 Oct • Sun	12:00	My Dad is a Heel Wrestler	パパはわるものチャンピオン	COMEDY
20 Oct • Sun	14:15	Little Love Song	小さな恋のうた	YOUTH
20 Oct • Sun	18:00	Dance With Me	ダンスウィズミー	MUSICAL

Event Cinemas Brisbane City Myer Centre Brisbane 23-27 October

Date	Time	English Title	Japanese Title	Genre
23 Oct • Wed	19:00	Masquerade Hotel	マスカレード・ホテル	MYSTERY
24 Oct • Thu	18:00	Born Bone Born	洗骨	DRAMA
24 Oct • Thu	20:30	Kingdom	キングダム	PERIOD DRAMA
25 Oct • Fri	18:00	Samurai Shifters	引越し大名!	PERIOD DRAMA
25 Oct • Fri	20:30	Rent a Friend	月極オトコトモダチ	ROMANCE
25 Oct • Fri	20:45	Melancholic	メランコリック	CRIME & SUSPENSE
26 Oct • Sat	11:15	My Dad is a Heel Wrestler	パパはわるものチャンピオン	COMEDY
26 Oct • Sat	13:45	JK Rock	JK☆ROCK	YOUTH
26 Oct • Sat	16:00	A Banana? At This Time of Night?	こんな夜更けにバナナかよ 愛しき実話	DRAMA
26 Oct • Sat	16:15	SAINT☆YOUNG MEN 2nd Century	聖☆おにいさん 第II紀	COMEDY
26 Oct • Sat	18:30	Ride Your Wave	きみと、波にのれたら	ANIME
26 Oct • Sat	18:30	Fly Me to the Saitama	翔んで埼玉	COMEDY
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27 Oct • Sun	10:30	Little Love Song	小さな恋のうた	YOUTH
27 Oct • Sun	12:15	Detective Conan: The Fist of Blue Sapphire	名探偵コナン 紺青の拳 (フィスト)	ANIME
27 Oct • Sun	12:50	Little Nights, Little Love	アイネクライネナハトムジーク	ROMANCE
27 Oct • Sun	15:00	Kakegurui	映画 賭ケグルイ	YOUTH
27 Oct • Sun	17:30	Brave Father Online - our story of FFXIV	劇場版 ファイナルファンタジーXIV 光のお父さん	DRAMA
27 Oct • Sun	19:00	Dance With Me	ダンスウィズミー	MUSICAL

Event Cinemas Innaloo Perth 30 October-03 November

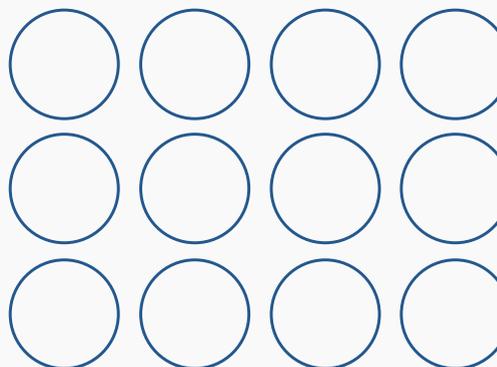
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03 Nov • Sun	10:30	Little Love Song	小さな恋のうた	YOUTH
03 Nov • Sun	12:00	Brave Father Online - our story of FFXIV	劇場版 ファイナルファンタジーXIV 光のお父さん	DRAMA
03 Nov • Sun	14:15	Detective Conan: The Fist of Blue Sapphire	名探偵コナン 紺青の拳 (フィスト)	ANIME
03 Nov • Sun	15:40	Little Nights, Little Love	アイネクライネナハトムジーク	ROMANCE
03 Nov • Sun	16:30	SAINT☆YOUNG MEN 2nd Century	聖☆おにいさん 第II紀	COMEDY
03 Nov • Sun	18:30	Dance With Me	ダンスウィズミー	MUSICAL

● OPENING / CLOSING

All films are in Japanese with English subtitles.

Schedules may be subject to change. For the most updated schedule, visit japanesefilmfestival.net

Stamp Rally (スタンプラリー)



Present your JFF cinema ticket* (paid sessions only) at the Festival Info Desk on the day of the screening session and collect stamps to win prizes**! Prizes must be redeemed during the festival period.

Prizes

- 3 stamps - Win a JFF drawstring bag
- 6 stamps - Win a JFF notepad
- 9 stamps - Win JFF chopsticks
- 12 stamps - Win a JFF T-Shirt

*Only one ticket will be honoured per booklet for each screening session. Stamps must be collected on the day of the screening.

**Prizes are subject to availability.



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