

A woman with dark hair tied back is looking out a window. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the window. A red circle with the number 25 is overlaid on the text.

# JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL

25

CORK  
MAYO  
SLIGO  
LOUTH  
DUBLIN  
GALWAY  
WICKLOW  
WEXFORD  
WATERFORD

APRIL 1—26 [JFF.IE](http://JFF.IE)



# JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL 2025

WELCOME

The Embassy of Japan in Ireland and access>CINEMA are delighted to bring the Japanese Film Festival back to cinemas across Ireland. Now in its 16th year, the festival aims to bring audiences a wide variety of Japanese films - from award-winning dramas and anime hits to delightful comedies and indie gems.

JFF is a truly national film festival, and this year audiences in Ballina, Bray, Cork, Dublin, Dundalk, Galway, Sligo, Waterford and Wexford will be able to enjoy films from the 2025 programme.

What can audiences expect from this year's programme? Fresh from its Best Film win at the recent Japan Academy Prize ceremony, *A Samurai in Time* is a wonderful time-travel comedy-drama sure to charm audiences. The deeply-affecting drama *Cottontail* features a powerful central performance from Lily Franky, alongside Ireland's own Ciarán Hinds. Anime fans can enjoy new titles like *Ghost Cat Anzu* and *Totto-chan: The Little Girl at the Window*, alongside a rare opportunity to see Hayao Miyazaki's beloved first feature film *The Castle of Cagliostro* on the big screen. There's much more to discover, so read on to find out more about the full selection.

The JFF team is looking forward to welcoming newcomers and regulars alike to these screenings across the country. We hope that everyone will enjoy discovering this year's films and getting to know more about Japanese life and culture.

**Enjoy & Arigato!**

Embassy of Japan & access>CINEMA

## 夜明けのすべて



### ALL THE LONG NIGHTS

**DIRECTOR** Sho Miyake • 2024 • 119 mins

**STARRING** Mone Kamishiraishi, Hokuto Matsumura, Ken Mitsuishi, Ryo

Misa and Takatoshi are each living with an often debilitating condition: Misa with intense monthly PMS, and Takatoshi with frequent panic attacks. Both have found it hard to hold down a job and relationships due to their intense mood swings. When they both wind up working in a small company that creates science toys and events for children, they strike up an unlikely but formative friendship. Together, they navigate through the often harsh social realities of living with their respective conditions. Director Sho Miyake's [*Small, Slow But Steady*] latest film is a profound, heartfelt character study about belonging and companionship.

## 劇場版シティーハンター 天使の涙



### CITY HUNTER: ANGEL DUST

**DIRECTORS** Kenji Kodama, Kazuyoshi Takeuchi • 2023 • 94 mins

**VOICE CAST** Akira Kamiya, Kazue Ikura, Miyuki Sawashiro

Ryo Saeba is known as City Hunter, the top "sweeper" within the underworld. Based in Shinjuku as a private detective, he and his partner Kaoru Makimura take on a variety of clients. Their latest case is provided by Angie, a filmmaker, with a simple request – to find her missing cat. Meanwhile, Saeko Nogami of the Metropolitan Police investigates an invention of the biotech company Zoltech. Can these two cases possibly be linked? There's clearly more to Angie's request than she's willing to share...

## クラウド



### CLOUD

**DIRECTOR** Kiyoshi Kurosawa • 2024 • 124 mins

**STARRING** Masaki Suda, Kotone Furukawa, Daiken Okudaira

Yoshii is determined to make his fortune 'reselling' in-demand goods such as electronics, anime figurines and video games. After a few successful deals, he quits his job to become a full-time reseller. He also starts making riskier bets – including buying & selling counterfeit goods and pressuring some producers into taking disadvantageous deals. However, it isn't long before his actions come back to haunt him, as familiar faces and strangers alike start ominously lurking around his home... Kiyoshi Kurosawa's [*Cure, Tokyo Sonata*] new thriller is a bold and unpredictable film that artfully crosses and blurs genre lines.

## コットンテール



### COTTONTAIL

**DIRECTOR** Patrick Dickinson • 2023 • 96 mins • 12A

**STARRING** Lily Franky, Ryo Nishikido, Tae Kimura, Ciarán Hinds, Aoife Hinds

Following the death of his wife Akiko, devastated Kenzaburo is presented with a letter from her requesting that her ashes be scattered at Lake Windermere in England, a place that held precious memories from her childhood. Kenzaburo reluctantly agrees that his estranged son Toshi may accompany him to England to fulfil Akiko's final wish. Director Patrick Dickinson draws influence from the gentle dramas of Hirokazu Koreeda for his debut feature about family and reconciliation. This connection is strengthened with the central, moving performance from Koreeda regular Lily Franky.

化け猫あんずちゃん



## GHOST CAT ANZU

**DIRECTORS** Yoko Kuno, Nobuhiro Yamashita • 2024 • 97 mins

**VOICE CAST** Mirai Moriyama, Noa Goto, Munetaka Aoki

Karin, a young girl who has recently lost her mother, is left in the care of her grandfather while her father attempts to pay off his debts. Now living in the scenic grounds of a temple, Karin encounters Anzu – a giant walking and talking cat who lives his life just like a human. When they embark on an adventure to Tokyo together, Anzu and Karin encounter magical creatures, gods and demons – and they're even offered an opportunity to bring Karin's mother back to life. *Ghost Cat Anzu* is a vibrant new anime film that boldly stands out from the crowd through its unique visual style and freewheeling story.

かなさんどー



## KANASANDO

**DIRECTOR** Toshiyuki Teruya • 2024 • 87 mins

**STARRING** Ruka Matsuda, Keiko Horiuchi, Tadanobu Asano

After growing up on the Ryukyu Islands in the south of Japan, Mika – traumatised by her father's infidelity and her mother's death – left her island home, intending to never return. However, when her father is diagnosed with a serious illness, she travels home for a difficult and emotional reunion. *Kanasando* is the beautiful new film from *Born Bone Born* (JFF 19) filmmaker Toshiyuki Teruya, featuring a cast including award-winning *Shogun* star Tadanobu Asano. Interweaving Okinawan scenery and traditional Ryukyuan music, this is a heartwarming human comedy.

怪獣8号



## KAIJU NO. 8: MISSION RECON

**DIRECTORS** Tomomi Kamiya, Shigeyuki Miya • 2025 • 120 mins • 15A

**VOICE CAST** Ai Fairouz, Masaya Fukunishi, Tesho Genda

In a Kaiju-filled Japan, Kafka Hibino works in monster disposal. After reuniting with his childhood friend Mina Ashiro, a rising star in the anti-Kaiju Defense Force, he decides to pursue his abandoned dream of joining the Force... when he suddenly transforms into the powerful "Kaiju No. 8." The omnibus film *Kaiju No. 8: Mission Recon* features an action-packed recap of season one and a new original episode, *Hoshina's Day Off*.

ぼくが生きてる、ふたつの世界



## LIVING IN TWO WORLDS

**DIRECTOR** Mipo O • 2024 • 105 mins

**STARRING** Ryo Yoshizawa, Akiko Oshidari, Akito Imai, Denden

Dai Igarashi is a CODA (Child of Deaf Adults). Growing up with his loving parents and grandparents, young Dai has a particularly close relationship with his mother Akiko. However, as he grows older, he becomes frustrated at how his family differs from those around him. As a young adult, he moves to Tokyo to pursue his dream of becoming a writer. But his experiences there force him to reassess his own upbringing - and, in particular, his relationship with Akiko. In this beautiful and heartwarming drama, director Mipo O takes great care in sensitively portraying both the Deaf and CODA experiences.



ルパン三世 カリオストロの城



LUPIN III: THE CASTLE OF CAGLIOSTRO

© MONKEY PUNCH/TMS

**DIRECTOR** Hayao Miyazaki • 1979 • 100 mins • PG

**VOICE CAST** Yasuo Yamada, Eiko Masuyama, Kiyoshi Kobayashi, Sumi Shimamoto

JFF is delighted to present the great Hayao Miyazaki's first feature film on the big screen. Released in 1979 – six years before the foundation of Studio Ghibli – this is the second animated film based on the beloved *Lupin III* manga series. It follows the titular master thief's adventures in the Grand Duchy of Cagliostro, as he gets embroiled in a mission to rescue Princess Clarisse from a forced marriage to the cruel, power-hungry Count Lazare. Overflowing with exciting set pieces and expressive animation, *The Castle of Cagliostro* remains a triumphant debut from perhaps the greatest of all animation directors.

小学校～それは小さな社会～



THE MAKING OF A JAPANESE

**DIRECTOR** Ema Ryan Yamazaki • 2023 • 99 mins

Ema Ryan Yamazaki's delightful documentary follows two sets of students – first graders and sixth graders – over the course of a year in a Tokyo public elementary school. Filmed during the peak of the pandemic, this is a rich portrait of the ups and downs of a formative time in the lives of these young kids and their teachers. For Irish audiences, Ryan Yamazaki's focus on the ethos of school life in Japan will be of particular interest – while many of the experiences portrayed are universal, this offers an invaluable glimpse into what sets the Japanese approach to education apart.

侍タイムスリッパ



A SAMURAI IN TIME

**DIRECTOR** Junichi Yasuda • 2024 • 131 mins

**STARRING** Makiya Yamaguchi, Norimasa Fuke, Yoshiharu Fukuda

Near the end of the Edo period in 19th century Japan, Kosaka Shinzaemon is a samurai preparing for a duel with a rival. However, a freak burst of lightning hits and transports Kosaka to a modern-day *jidaigeki* (period film) set. After a series of on-set hijinks, Kosaka realises he isn't in the Edo period anymore. As he adjusts to modern life, his talented swordsmanship draws the attention of one of the country's biggest movie stars... Junichi Yasuda's delightful fish-out-of-water comedy has been a box office smash in Japan, and won Best Film at this year's Japan Academy Film Awards.

怪談雪女郎



THE SNOW WOMAN + INTRO

**DIRECTOR** Tokuzo Tanaka • 1968 • 80 mins

**STARRING** Shiho Fujimura, Akira Ishihama, Machiko Hasegawa

Dublin-raised writer Lafcadio Hearn (1850-1904) is best known for his work in Japan, collecting classic Japanese ghost stories and folk tales. To mark the 175th anniversary of his birth, we're pleased to screen 1968's *The Snow Woman*, based on a story from Hearn's famed *Kwaidan* collection. When a sculptor is spared from death in a blizzard by a mysterious, ghostly woman, she warns him of dire consequences if he ever tells anyone about their encounter. Years later, he is happily married with a young son – but the snow woman will soon return to haunt the family and those around them.

## 高野豆腐店の春



### TAKANO TOFU

**DIRECTOR** Mitsuhiro Mihara • 2023 • 119 mins

**STARRING** Tatsuya Fuji, Kumiko Aso, Kumi Nakamura

Tatsuo is a dedicated tofu maker who still makes tofu the traditional way. As well as supplying bigger stores, he runs a small shop with his daughter Haru. Facing serious health issues, Tatsuo is deeply worried about his daughter's future. He embarks on a secret matchmaking mission to set her up with a partner – though it isn't long before Haru realises her father is up to something. *Takano Tofu* is a real crowd pleaser: it's a charming study of a father-daughter relationship; a showcase for veteran actor Tatsuya Fuji; and a celebration of the art of making a good block of tofu.

## 鉄コン筋クリート



### TEKKONKINKREET

**DIRECTOR** Michael Arias • 2006 • 110 mins • 12A

**VOICE CAST** Kazunari Ninomiya, Yu Aoi, Yusuke Iseya

JFF is delighted to present screenings of this 2006 anime classic *Tekkonkinkreet*. In Treasure Town, where the moon smiles and young boys can fly, life can be both gentle and brutal. This is never truer than for Black and White, two street urchins who watch over the city, doing battle with an array of old-world Yakuza and alien assassins vying to rule the decaying metropolis. From the creators of *The Animatrix*, this visually-stunning anime film is based on a popular Japanese manga written by Taiyo Matsumoto (*Ping Pong*).

## 敵



### TEKI COMETH

**DIRECTOR** Daihachi Yoshida • 2023 • 108 mins

**STARRING** Kyozo Nagatsuka, Kumi Takiuchi, Asuka Kurosawa

Retired academic Gisuke lives a quiet life in a traditional Japanese house. His daily routine is interrupted only by visits from old colleagues and the occasional odd job. One day, Gisuke starts receiving cryptic emails warning that an 'enemy' is approaching Japan. At the same time, he is having increasingly vivid and unsettling dreams. As the warnings and dreams escalate in intensity, Gisuke has trouble separating reality from fantasy. This deliciously wry and darkly comic drama from Daihachi Yoshida (*The Kirishima Thing*, JFF 13) won three of the top prizes at the 2024 Tokyo International Film Festival.

## 窓ぎわのトットちゃん



### TOTTO-CHAN: THE LITTLE GIRL AT THE WINDOW

**DIRECTOR** Shinnosuke Yakuwa • 2023 • 114 mins

**VOICE CAST** Liliana Ohno, Koji Yakusho, Shun Oguri, Anne Watanabe

In Tokyo, just before World War II, one school combines learning with fun and freedom. This unusual school has old railroad cars for classrooms. It is run by an extraordinary man – Sosaku Kobayashi, a firm believer in freedom of expression and activity. One day, the school welcomes new student Totto-chan – a lively little girl who didn't fit in at her original school. Totto-chan will meet unique students and learn new things, even as Japan descends into war. This anime adaptation of Tetsuko Kuroyanagi's beloved and best-selling memoir is certain to make audiences laugh and cry.

**The GATE Screen @ The Arc Cinema Cork** **CORK**

|              |  |       |
|--------------|--|-------|
| FRI APRIL 11 | <b>A Samurai in Time</b>                         | 18.00 |
| SAT APRIL 12 | <b>Totto-chan: The Little Girl at the Window</b> | 18.00 |
| SUN APRIL 13 | <b>Living in Two Worlds</b>                      | 18.00 |
| MON APRIL 14 | <b>Cottontail</b>                                | 18.00 |
| TUE APRIL 15 | <b>Lupin III: The Castle of Cagliostro</b>       | 18.00 |
| WED APRIL 16 | <b>Takano Tofu</b>                               | 18.00 |
| THU APRIL 17 | <b>All the Long Nights</b>                       | 18.00 |

**Triskel Arts Centre**

|              |                       |       |
|--------------|-----------------------|-------|
| MON APRIL 21 | <b>Cloud</b>          | 17.45 |
| TUE APRIL 22 | <b>Teki Cometh</b>    | 18.00 |
| WED APRIL 23 | <b>Ghost Cat Anzu</b> | 18.15 |

**Light House Cinema** **DUBLIN**

|              |  |       |
|--------------|--|-------|
| THU APRIL 10 | <b>The Making of a Japanese</b>                  | 20.30 |
| FRI APRIL 11 | <b>Teki Cometh</b>                               | 18.15 |
|              | <b>Cloud</b>                                     | 20.45 |
| SAT APRIL 12 | <b>Totto-chan: The Little Girl at the Window</b> | 15.00 |
|              | <b>Ghost Cat Anzu</b>                            | 17.30 |
|              | <b>A Samurai in Time</b>                         | 20.00 |
| SUN APRIL 13 | <b>Lupin III: The Castle of Cagliostro</b>       | 13.00 |
|              | <b>Cottontail</b>                                | 15.30 |
|              | <b>Living in Two Worlds</b>                      | 18.00 |
| MON APRIL 14 | <b>All the Long Nights</b>                       | 18.00 |
| TUE APRIL 15 | <b>The Snow Woman</b>                            | 18.00 |
| WED APRIL 16 | <b>Takano Tofu</b>                               | 18.00 |
| THU APRIL 17 | <b>Kanasando</b>                                 | 18.00 |
|              | <b>Kaiju No 8: Mission Recon</b>                 | 20.00 |

**EYE Cinema** **GALWAY**

|              |  |       |
|--------------|--|-------|
| WED APRIL 9  | <b>Cottontail</b>                                | 19.00 |
| THU APRIL 10 | <b>Totto-chan: The Little Girl at the Window</b> | 19.00 |
| FRI APRIL 11 | <b>A Samurai in Time</b>                         | 19.00 |
| SAT APRIL 12 | <b>Ghost Cat Anzu</b>                            | 19.00 |

**An Tain Arts Centre** **LOUTH**

|              |                                |       |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| FRI APRIL 18 | <b>City Hunter: Angel Dust</b> | 18.00 |
|              | <b>Tekkonkinkreet</b>          | 20.00 |

**Ballina Arts Centre** **MAYO**

|              |                                |       |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-------|
| TUE APRIL 15 | <b>City Hunter: Angel Dust</b> | 19.30 |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-------|

**Sligo Film Society @ The Model** **SLIGO**

|              |                   |       |
|--------------|-------------------|-------|
| THU APRIL 10 | <b>Cottontail</b> | 20.00 |
|--------------|-------------------|-------|

**Garter Lane Arts Centre** **WATERFORD**

|              |                          |       |
|--------------|--------------------------|-------|
| TUE APRIL 22 | <b>Cottontail</b>        | 19.30 |
| FRI APRIL 25 | <b>A Samurai in Time</b> | 19.30 |
| SAT APRIL 26 | <b>Ghost Cat Anzu</b>    | 16.00 |

**Wexford Arts Centre** **WEXFORD**

|             |                       |       |
|-------------|-----------------------|-------|
| TUE APRIL 1 | <b>Cottontail</b>     | 20.00 |
| TUE APRIL 8 | <b>Tekkonkinkreet</b> | 20.00 |

**Mermaid Arts Centre** **WICKLOW**

|              |                   |       |
|--------------|-------------------|-------|
| MON APRIL 14 | <b>Cottontail</b> | 20.00 |
|--------------|-------------------|-------|

**CORK**

**The ARC Cinema**  
North Main Street, Cork  
(021) 427 9595 • cork.arccinema.ie

**Triskel Arts Centre**

Tobin Street, Cork  
(021) 427 2022  
triskelartscentre.ie

**DUBLIN**

**Light House Cinema**  
Market Sq., Smithfield, Dublin 7  
(01) 872 8006  
lighthousecinema.ie

**GALWAY**

**Eye Cinema**  
Wellpark Retail Park,  
Wellpark, Galway  
(091) 780 0782 • eyecinema.ie

**LOUTH**

**An Tain Arts Centre**  
Crowe Street, Dundalk  
(042) 933 2332 • antain.ie

**MAYO**

**Ballina Arts Centre**  
Barrett St., Ballina, Co. Mayo  
(096) 73593  
ballinaartscentre.com

**SLIGO**

**Sligo Film Society at The Model**  
The Mall, Sligo  
(071) 914 1405  
sligofilmsociety.org

**WATERFORD**

**Garter Lane Arts Centre**  
O'Connell Street, Waterford  
(051) 855 038 • garterlane.ie

**WEXFORD**

**Wexford Arts Centre**  
Cornmarket, Wexford,  
Y35 X5HF (053) 912 3764  
wexfordartscentre.ie

**WICKLOW**

**Mermaid Arts Centre**  
Main St, Bray, Co. Wicklow  
(01) 272 4030  
mermaidartscentre.ie

**PLEASE NOTE:**

- All films are in Japanese with English subtitles
- All films, except where a classification is indicated e.g. PG, are unclassified
- Unclassified films are subject to club conditions, i.e. open to over 18 years only

**ADVANCE BOOKING & TICKET PRICES:**

- [www.jff.ie](http://www.jff.ie)
- See individual venues for detailed ticket prices
- Concession available for students, unemployed & OAPs

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK  
THE FOLLOWING FOR  
THEIR SUPPORT:





access>CINEMA

Embassy of Japan in Ireland  
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日本映画祭 25

JFF.IE APRIL 1—26 #JFF