

JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL

26

日本映画祭

8-30 APRIL

JFF.IE



CORK
DUBLIN
GALWAY
LIMERICK
LOUTH
MAYO
SLIGO
WATERFORD
WEXFORD
WICKLOW

The Embassy of Japan in Ireland and access>CINEMA are excited to welcome audiences across Ireland to this year's Japanese Film Festival. Now in its 17th year, this year's line-up offers a wide variety covering the best of Japanese film, from Irish premieres to beloved classics.

JFF is a truly national film festival, and this year will include screenings in Cork, Dublin, Galway, Limerick, Louth, Mayo, Sligo, Waterford, Wexford and Wicklow between April 8th and 30th.

There are lots of great films to discover across the programme. Recent Japan Academy Film Prize winners *Kokuho*, *Tokyo Taxi* and *Suzuki=Bakudan* are screening, alongside excellent new dramas such as *How Dare You?* and *A Pale View of Hills*. Horror and genre film fans will find plenty to enjoy in exciting new films *Exit 8*, *The Curse* and *Transcending Dimensions*. On the anime front, we have recent titles *ChaO* and *The Colors Within* alongside special screenings of *Millennium Actress* and *Akira*.

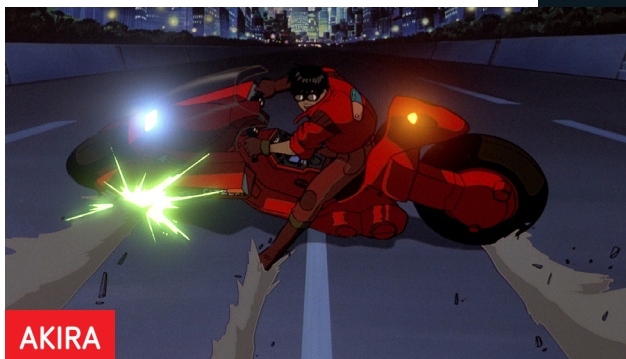
We don't want to ruin all the surprises, however, so turn the page to discover what else is on offer this April!

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

アキラ



AKIRA

DIRECTOR Katsuhiro Otomo • 1988 • 124 mins • 15A

VOICE CAST Mitsuo Iwata, Nozomu Sasaki, Mami Koyama, Tessho Genda

Katsuhiro Otomo's cyberpunk classic *Akira* makes its welcome return to the big screen. In a dystopian neo-Tokyo, Kaneda and Tetsuo are members of a vigilante biker gang. When his best friend Tetsuo is captured by the authorities after an accident, they discover he has powerful telekinetic abilities. As Tetsuo struggles with his newfound abilities, he uncovers the dark secrets of Akira – the subject of previous catastrophic experiments by the government. As Tetsuo's newfound powers spiral out of control, Kaneda must save his best friend to prevent a new cataclysm.

秋刀魚の味



AN AUTUMN AFTERNOON

DIRECTOR Yasujiro Ozu • 1962 • 113 mins

STARRING Shima Iwashita, Chishu Ryu, Keiji Sada, Mariko Okada

Yasujiro Ozu's final film is one of the great director's finest works. Revisiting the themes and story of Ozu's earlier classic *Late Spring* (1949), *An Autumn Afternoon* stars his regular collaborator Chishu Ryu as Hirayama – an ageing widower under social pressure to marry off his youngest daughter Michiko (Shima Iwashita). Shining a spotlight on changing societal norms and the resulting sidelining of older generations, this is one of Ozu's most perceptive works. It is both melancholic and humorous, but always with the deep sense of empathy and humanity that ensures the director's work remains beloved to this day.

チャオ



CHAO

DIRECTOR Yasuhiro Aoki • 2025 • 90 mins

VOICE CAST Ujii Suzuka, Anna Yamada, Yuichiro Umehara, Ryota Yamasato

In the future, merpeople and humans co-exist but live in largely separate societies. In Shanghai, a rare opportunity for both sides arises when office worker Stephan is rescued by mermaid princess Chao. Chao is clearly smitten with Stephan and wants to get married. There's one big problem: Chao can only appear in her fish form, as she doesn't yet trust humanity enough to adopt a human form. As both merpeople and humans pressure Stephan to marry Chao as a step towards unification, Stephan is frustrated and conflicted – until revelations from the past cast Chao in a whole new light.

ザ・カース



THE CURSE

DIRECTOR Kenichi Ugana • 2025 • 95 mins

STARRING Kaizu Yukino, Yu, Fan Jui-Chun

When Riko spots some odd, disturbing online posts from her Taiwanese friend Shufen, she attempts to intervene. She's shocked to discover her friend actually died in mysterious, violent circumstances several months earlier. Determined to find out what happened and why Shufen's social media feeds are still active, Riko starts her own investigation. It isn't long before strange, supernatural events soon start plaguing Riko and those around her...

きみの色



THE COLORS WITHIN

DIRECTOR Naoko Yamada • 2024 • 100 mins • G

VOICE CAST Sayu Suzukawa, Akari Takaishi, Taisei Kido

Totsuko is a high school student with the ability to see the 'colours' of others. Colours of bliss, excitement, and serenity. Kimi, a classmate at her school, gives off the most beautiful colour of all. Although she doesn't play an instrument, Totsuko forms a band with Kimi and Rui, a quiet music enthusiast they meet at a used bookstore in a far corner of town. As they practise at an old church on a remote island, music brings them together, forming friendships and stirring affections. Will they discover their true 'colours'?

8番出口



EXIT 8

DIRECTOR Genki Kawamura • 2025 • 95 mins • 12A

STARRING Kazunari Ninomiya, Yamato Kochi, Naru Asanuma

During his subway commute, a man receives some unexpected news from his ex-girlfriend. Overcome with panic and uncertainty, the man wanders away from the crowds and winds up in a strange underground corridor. When he follows the sign to the exit, however, he ends up back where he started. It becomes apparent he's stuck in a loop, and he must spot strange 'anomalies' in the corridor to escape. Some anomalies are much easier to spot than others, however, and it transpires the man is not alone in his quest through this unsettling space...

ふつうの子ども



HOW DARE YOU?

DIRECTOR Mipo O • 2025 • 96 mins

STARRING Tetta Shimada, Ruri, Youta Minami, Yu Aoi

Elementary school pupil Yuishi is immediately smitten by his classmate Kokoa when she stands up in class to give an impassioned speech about the environment. The pair start spending more time together and are soon joined by mischievous Haruto. Together, the trio make it their mission to get the adults around them to take climate change seriously, devising a series of anonymous pranks to make their point. As their climate actions become more radical and the school attempts to find those responsible, the three children's own friendships and resolve are tested.

猫を放つ



LEAVE THE CAT ALONE

DIRECTOR Daisuke Shigaya • 2025 • 102 mins

STARRING Soma Fujii, Yukino Murakami, Ran Taniguchi

Mori finds himself unable to bridge the quiet distance growing between him and his photographer wife, Maiko. A chance reunion with an old friend, Asako, awakens in him a long-forgotten affection. Asako also remembers being drawn to Mori. Yet their memories don't align. Their recollections blur and distort – shaped by personal desires and expectations. After a long walk together, they discover new perspectives on their relationships. Two lives – once intertwined – now subtly out of orbit.

国宝



KOKUHO

DIRECTOR Lee Sang-il • 2025 • 175 mins • 15A

STARRING Ryo Yoshizawa, Ryusei Yokohama, Ken Watanabe

Aspiring teenage actor Kikuo Tachibana's life is turned upside down when his yakuza father is killed in a raid by a rival gang. Initially hungry for revenge, Kikuo sets down a different path when he is taken under the wing of iconic kabuki actor Hanai Hanjiro II as an apprentice. Together with Hanai's own son Shunsuke, Kikuo begins the rigorous, gruelling training to become an onnagata (a male kabuki actor who plays female characters). Kikuo and Shunsuke become inseparable, but over the years their fates diverge and their friendship is severely tested as they each navigate the cutthroat world of elite kabuki theatre.

千年女優



MILLENNIUM ACTRESS

DIRECTOR Satoshi Kon • 2001 • 87 mins • PG

VOICE CAST Miyoko Shoji, Mami Koyama, Fumiko Orikasa

JFF is delighted to present 25th anniversary screenings of *Millennium Actress*, directed by the late, great Satoshi Kon (*Perfect Blue*, *Tokyo Godfathers*). The modern anime classic tells the life story of famed film actress Chiyoko Fujiwara, loosely based on legendary Japanese film actresses Setsuko Hara and Hideko Takamine. When two documentarians travel to interview an ageing, long-retired Chiyoko for a wide-ranging retrospective, she opens up about her life and career. Gradually, she reveals the deeply personal meaning of a key found by one of the documentary makers years earlier – and the reasons why she vanished from the limelight.



THE OZU DIARIES

© 2025 ADAMA FILMS

DIRECTOR Daniel Raim • 2025 • 139 mins

Legendary filmmaker Yasujiro Ozu remains one of the most acclaimed directors of all time, with several of his films such as *Tokyo Story* and *Late Spring* regularly featuring near the top of 'greatest films of all time' lists. In this fascinating documentary, director Daniel Raim explores the life and work of Ozu through his own words – focusing on the detailed diaries he kept throughout his life, encompassing everything from his film work through to his experiences in the Japanese army during World War II.

遠い山なみの光



A PALE VIEW OF HILLS

DIRECTOR Kei Ishikawa • 2025 • 123 mins • 12A

STARRING Suzu Hirose, Fumi Nikaido, Yoh Yoshida, Camilla Aiko

1980's England. Niki, an aspiring journalist, wants to write a book based on her Japanese mother Etsuko's post-war experiences in Nagasaki. As Etsuko reluctantly begins to recall her memories, she slowly reveals some long-hidden truths. Based on Nobel Prize winner Kazuo Ishiguro's first novel, *A Pale View of Hills* is an elegant and moving account of war, loss and memory.

リライト



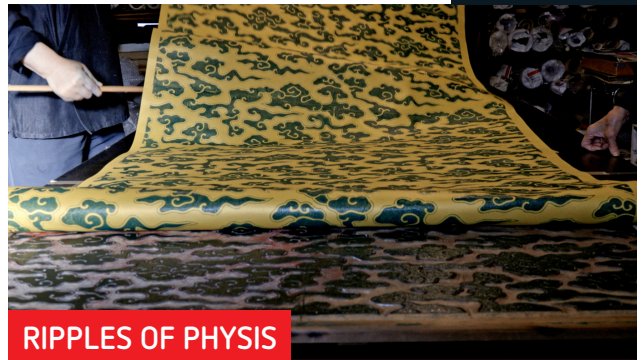
REWRITE

DIRECTOR Daigo Matsui • 2025 • 127 mins

STARRING Elaiza Ikeda, Kei Adachi, Ai Hashimoto

High school student Miyuki falls for new transfer student Yasuhiko, who it transpires has actually arrived from 300 years in the future. After a whirlwind summer romance, Yasuhiko returns home. A heartbroken Miyuki is visited by her future self, who encourages her to write a novel about her unusual romance. A decade later, Miyuki prepares for the day when she will encounter her younger self. When things don't play out as expected, Miyuki discovers Yasuhiko's summer ten years ago was a lot more eventful than he ever let on...

フィシスの波文



RIPPLES OF PHYSIS

DIRECTOR Ayako Mogi • 2024 • 85 mins

With producer Sanae Kawai in attendance

Opening in a centuries-old karakami decorative paper printing workshop in Kyoto, the intriguing and illuminating documentary *Ripples of Physis* explores recurring patterns and spirals throughout art, history and the environment itself. From the lively Gion Matsuri festival to quiet tea ceremonies, and from Celtic art through to contemporary fashion, this is a journey through time and across the world. It reflects on the patterns and spirals that recur across continents and through millennia, but also the human desire to find order in nature.

爆弾



SUZUKI=BAKUDAN

DIRECTOR Akira Nagari • 2025 • 137 mins

STARRING Yuki Yamada, Jiro Sato, Sairi Ito, Shota Sometani

When a bomb explodes in Tokyo's Akihabara district, it seems police have an important head start in the investigation: they already have a suspect, Tagosaku Suzuki, in custody. As they question him, they learn there are other bombs planted across the city. However, Tagosaku refuses to speak in anything other than mysterious riddles. As officers desperately attempt to save civilians from further bombings, detective Ruike works at interpreting Tagosaku's cryptic clues and unravelling the truth about what is unfolding.

次元を超える



TRANSCENDING DIMENSIONS

DIRECTOR Toshiaki Toyoda • 2025 • 97 mins

STARRING Masahiro Higashide, Danko Iida, Haruka Imō

When a monk named Rosuke disappears, his girlfriend Nonoka hires hitman Shinno to investigate. Shinno's search leads him to a mountain temple overseen by Rosuke's mysterious, sinister teacher – Master Hanzo. In the temple, Shinno witnesses strange, violent rituals, but also the promise of the opportunity to transcend space, time and consciousness. Soon, he is plunged into a multi-dimensional supernatural war as powerful sorcerers and monks battle for supremacy.

TOKYOタクシー



TOKYO TAXI

DIRECTOR Yoji Yamada • 2025 • 91 mins

STARRING Chieko Baisho, Takuya Kimura, Yu Aoi

Tokyo taxi driver Koji works long hours as he tries to make ends meet for his family. One day, he picks up a passenger – the elderly Takano Sumire – who is moving to a nursing home outside the city. Before the drive to her new home, Takano asks Koji to take her on a tour of some of her favourite spots in Tokyo. Along the way, the pair share their life stories – including about Takano's extraordinary yet dark past.

Triskel Arts Centre **CORK**

THU APRIL 09	Cha0	20.15
FRI APRIL 10	The Ozu Diaries	17.30
	An Autumn Afternoon	20.15

The GATE Screen @ The ARC Cinema

FRI APRIL 17	Millennium Actress	18.00
SAT APRIL 18	Suzuki=Bakudan	18.00
SUN APRIL 19	How Dare You?	18.00
MON APRIL 20	The Curse	18.00
	A Pale View of Hills	20.00
TUE APRIL 21	A Pale View of Hills	15.00
	Exit 8	18.00
WED APRIL 22	Rewrite	18.00
THU APRIL 23	Leave the Cat Alone	18.00

Chester Beatty Library **DUBLIN**

WED APRIL 8	Ripples of Physis	18.00
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Light House Cinema

THU APRIL 9	How Dare You?	20.30
FRI APRIL 10	Suzuki=Bakudan	18.30
	Transcending Dimensions	21.15
SAT APRIL 11	Cha0	14.15
	Millennium Actress	17.00
	Exit 8	19.00
	The Curse	21.15
SUN APRIL 12	Kokuho	13.45
	Tokyo Taxi	18.00
MON APRIL 13	The Ozu Diaries	18.00
TUE APRIL 14	An Autumn Afternoon	18.00
WED APRIL 15	Rewrite	18.00
THU APRIL 16	Leave the Cat Alone	18.00

EYE Cinema **GALWAY**

WED APRIL 15	How Dare You?	19.00
THU APRIL 16	Cha0	19.00
FRI APRIL 17	A Pale View of Hills	12.00
	Exit 8	19.00
SAT APRIL 18	Akira	19.00

Belltable **LIMERICK**

SAT APRIL 11	Millennium Actress	14.30
	A Pale View of Hills	17.00
	How Dare You?	20.00

An Táin Arts Centre **LOUTH**

SAT APRIL 11	The Colors Within	18.00
	Millennium Actress	20.00

Ballina Arts Centre **MAYO**

THU APRIL 23	Akira	20.00
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Sligo Film Society @ The Model **SLIGO**

THU APRIL 16	A Pale View of Hills	20.00
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Garter Lane Arts Centre **WATERFORD**

TUE APRIL 28	Kokuho	19.30
WED APRIL 29	The Curse	19.30
THU APRIL 30	Akira	19.30

Wexford Arts Centre **WEXFORD**

TUE APRIL 28	An Autumn Afternoon	20.00
WED APRIL 29	The Colors Within	20.00

Mermaid Arts Centre **WICKLOW**

MON APRIL 13	A Pale View of Hills	20.00
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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
	Chester Beatty Library Dublin Castle, Dublin 2 (01) 407 0750 chesterbeatty.ie
GALWAY	EYE Cinema Wellpark Retail Park, Wellpark, Galway (091) 780 0782 eyecinema.ie
LIMERICK	Belltable 69 O'Connell St, Limerick, V94 FK0H (061) 953 4002 limetreetheatre.ie/belltable-x
LOUTH	An Táin 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

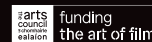
PLEASE NOTE:

- 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
- See individual venues for detailed ticket prices
- Concession available for students, unemployed and OAPs

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR SUPPORT:



JFF.IE APRIL 8-30 #JFF

