

WELCOME TO THE 21ST JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RAINBOW NATION - OCTOBER 2014 -



The 21st Japanese Film Festival aims to celebrate the Journey Japan has taken alongside the Republic of South Africa up to the year 2014, which is significant as it marks the 20 year anniversary of South Africa's Democracy.

Japan has always endeavoured to maintain a close association with the people of South Africa. As you may well know, Japan has worked hard to contribute to the reconstruction and development of this country in a wide range of areas including the exchange of people skills.

To date, about 600 South Africans have worked or studied in Japan through the Japan Exchange Teaching (JET) Programme or The MEXT Scholarship.

We sincerely hope that the 21st Japanese Film Festival will broaden your understanding of Japan and the Japanese people as we look forward to further strengthening the relations between our two countries in the years to come.



South African JET Programme Participants teaching in Japanese Schools

SCHEDULE

BROOKLYN NOUVEAU		PRETORIA	
DATE	12:00	14:30	17:00
3 Oct (Fri)		Tokyo Oshichi* 19:00	
4 Oct (Sat)	Akiko Chan: The Movie	Fly, Dakota, Fly!	Tug Of War!
5 Oct (Sun)	Leaving On The 15 th Spring	Renta-cat	

V&A NOUVEAU		CAPE TOWN	
DATE	12:00	14:30	17:00
10 Oct (Fri)		Tokyo Oshichi* 19:00	
11 Oct (Sat)	Akiko Chan: The Movie	Fly, Dakota, Fly!	Tug Of War!
12 Oct (Sun)	Leaving On The 15 th Spring	Renta-cat	

ROSEBANK NOUVEAU		JOHANNESBURG	
DATE	12:00	14:30	17:00
17 Oct (Fri)		Tokyo Oshichi* 19:00	
18 Oct (Sat)	Akiko Chan: The Movie	Fly, Dakota, Fly!	Tug Of War!
19 Oct (Sun)	Leaving On The 15 th Spring	Renta-cat	

CONTACT INFO
 Embassy of Japan
 012 452 1500
 Consular Office
 021 425 1695
www.sterkinetkor.com

Embassy of Japan



21ST JAPANESE FILM FESTIVAL



FREE ENTRANCE
 Movie tickets will be available at the box office one hour before the start of each show

Co-organised by the Embassy of Japan in South Africa and the Japan Foundation

V E N U E S

3, 4 & 5 October
 BROOKLYN NOUVEAU (PTA)

10, 11 & 12 October
 V&A NOUVEAU (CT)

17, 18 & 19 October
 ROSEBANK NOUVEAU (JHB)

RENT-A-CAT

Title
Rent-a-Cat

Cast
Mikako Ichikawa,
Reiko Kusunura,
Ken Mitsuishi,
Maho Yamada,
Kei Tanaka,
Katsuya Kobayashi,
Naoko Oigigami

Director
Naoko Oigigami

Running time
110 min

Release date
2011

Genre
Comedy

PG:
All Ages

S Y N O P S I S

Sayoko rents out cats to help lonely people fill the emptiness in their hearts. She walks along the banks of the river with a megaphone promoting her service and her animals in a handcart. It turns out that Sayoko is lonely too, ever since the death of her

grandmother. All she has left is her cats. However, one day a young man shows up from Sayoko's past. He follows her home and suddenly Sayoko's life seems to completely fall apart.



© 2012 Rent-a-Cat EP

AKKO CHAN: THE MOVIE

Title
Akkō Chan: The Movie

Cast
Haruka Ayase,
Masaki Okada,
Shosuke Tanihara,
Yasuhito Kawamura

Director
Yasuhito Kawamura

Running time
120 min

Release date
2011

Genre
Comedy/Romance

PG:

S Y N O P S I S

Atsuko Kagami - known as "Akkō Chan" - is a 10-year-old girl in elementary school. One day, a magical spirit appears to her and gives her a magical compact. Akko uses it to become a 22-year-old, and has a blast wearing makeup that she adores and many fashionable outfits. And if that wasn't enough, she even meets the man of her dreams! Her crush is Naoto Hayase, an elite manager at a famous cosmetics company. But his company faces a corporate buyout and is about to be taken over. As he strives to turn his company around by developing an innovative new product, Akko comes up with totally unexpected ideas to take on the crisis. Will she be able to save the man she loves? And what will happen to their relationship?



© 2012 WAKO-CUING, the Akko Chan Movie. Toku-Motion Picture

TUG OF WAR!

Title
Tug of War!

Cast
Map Irizue,
Keiko Matsuzaka,
Tetsuji Tamayama,
Yoko Asaji,
Nobuo Mizuta

Director
Nobuo Mizuta

Running time
111 min

Release date
2012

Genre
Human Drama / Comedy

PG:

S Y N O P S I S

Inspired by a true story, Tug of War! is the "heart-warming tale" of how eight ordinary women banded together to try and revitalize their local community. Chiaki Nishikawa (Mao Inoue) works at the public relations department for the city of Oita. In the past, the city had won the tug-of-war world championship three times and Chiaki is also an enthusiast for the tug-of-war game. To promote the city of Oita, the mayor instructs Chiaki to form a female tug-of-war team.

Full of laughter and tears, this heart-warming human drama depicts the everyday challenges of women, as they face the world head-on as daughters, wives and mothers and how just tugging on a rope brings them together!



© 2012 Tug of War! Film Partners

FLY, DAKOTA, FLY!

Title
Fly, Dakota, Fly!

Cast
Misumi Higa,
Mitsutaka Kubota,
Akira Emoto,
Seiji Akutani

Director
Seiji Akutani

Running time
109 min

Release date
2013

Genre
Historical Drama

PG:

S Y N O P S I S

January 1946 - A British military transport plane departs from Shanghai on its way to Tokyo, Japan. During the flight the airplane makes an emergency landing on Sado Island (located in the Chubu region of Niigata Prefecture, Japan). The residents on the island have hijacked about stereotypes of the British soldiers and have mixed feelings about their new "guests". Nevertheless, for the next 40 days the islanders take care of the crew members until the plane can take off once again. This includes Chayoko Morimoto (Misumi Higa) who is the daughter of the inn owner where some of the British crew members stay. Based on a true story and filmed on location on Sado Island with support from the local community, including some who witnessed the event back in 1946.



© FLY, DAKOTA, FLY! Partners



JET Programme

A scholarship program to study in Japan
Application forms available in April 2015
http://www.za-emb-japan.go.jp/en/japan_SAKMEXT_application2016.html

TOKYO OASIS

Title
Tokyo Oasis

Cast
Satomi Kobayashi,
Ryo Kase, Haru Kuroki,
Tomoyo Harada,
Kana Matsumoto,
Nakamura Kayo

Director
Human Drama

Running time
83 min

Release date
2011

Genre
Human Drama

PG:

S Y N O P S I S

Touko seems to have lost her grip on reality. Along her journey soul searching, she becomes acquainted with people who carry similar issues as she does. A midnight truck driver, NAGANO, who happens to give Touko a ride, is grappling with the discovery of his soul and is unable to move forward. His escape from reality is to continually move from place to place. A movie theater manager KIKUCHI is uncertain of her life.

She has moved to new surroundings but feels more lost than ever. A young job seeker at the zoo YASUJIKO has no faith in her future. She thinks that her luck is slipping away from her. During the extraordinary time they spend together, Touko and the 3 characters start to feel a new awareness growing and discover a new found sense of freedom, an oasis within. Together they feel change taking place. Finally, Touko begins to walk again with lightened steps toward a new beginning of everyday life in Tokyo.



© 2011 Oasis Project

LEAVING ON THE 15TH SPRING

Title
Leaving On The 15th Spring

Cast
Ayaka Miyoshi,
Kaoru Kobayashi,
Shinobu Otake,
Saeji Koide,
Yasuhito Yoshida

Director
Yasuhito Yoshida

Running time
114 min

Release date
2012

Genre
Human Drama

PG:

S Y N O P S I S

On Minamidaito Island, there isn't a high school, consequently teenagers who turn 15-years-old leave the island to attend high schools. Yuna Nakazato (Ayaka Miyoshi) lives on Minamidaito Island with her father. She is the youngest child and has two older siblings. Yuna has one year left before she must leave the island to attend high school. Her father grows sugar cane on the island. Yuna's mother lives in Naha, the capital city of Okinawa, originally to watch over her older sister Mina while she attended high school there. Yuna's older brother also works in Naha.

Every family on Minamidaito Island has a similar situation where the family lives separately. Yuna misses her mom, but she worries about her father, who will be left alone next year. Yuna is curious about the world and also feels uneasy over her future.



© 2012 Leaving on the 15th Spring Film Partners



JET Programme

A program for graduates to teach English in Japan
Application forms now available:
http://www.za-emb-japan.go.jp/en/culture/programme_JET.html