

Japanese Film Festival

1st - 5th March
2010

Admission Free



1st March: The Glorious Team Batista

The New Zealand Film Archive

© 2008 "The Glorious Team Batista" Production Committee, Director: Yoshihiro Nakamura, 120 min, M

This film is about a team of specialist surgeons, "The Glorious Team Batista", formed at Tojo University Hospital, to carry out Batista heart surgeries. The usual success rate for the procedure is 60%, but miraculously the Team Batista pulls off 26 consecutive successful operations. Then suddenly and unexpectedly, patients die in one operation after another, prompting suspicion of murder. Taguchi (Yuko Takeuchi), a doctor specialising in psychosomatic medicine, is assigned to conduct an internal investigation for suspected murder.



2nd March: My Neighbors the Yamadas

The New Zealand Film Archive

© 1999 Director: Isao Takahata, 104 min, PG

This film is about the daily lives of the Yamada family: Takashi and Matsuko (the father and mother), Shige (Matsuko's mother), Noboru (the son), Nonoko (the daughter), and Pochi (the family dog). It has a significantly different "feel" to it than the other Studio Ghibli films, not only because of its different style of animation, but also because it is not a contiguous plot, but rather a series of animated shorts, each preceded by a title such as "Father as Role Model", "A Family Torn Apart" or "Patriarchal Supremacy Restored".



3rd March: Tokyo Tower - Mum & Me, and Sometimes Dad

The New Zealand Film Archive

© 2007 Tokyo Tower o.b.t.o " Film partners, Director: Joji Matsuoka, 142 min, M

This film alternates between the past, in which the central character, Masaya, narrates his life story, and the present, in which Masaya watches his mother die of cancer in the hospital. Masaya is a small boy when his parents split up, after his mother "Okan" tires of his father returning home drunk. Kiki Kirin and Yayako Uchida, who play the role of Okan at different stages in her life, are real-life mother and daughter.



4th March: Summer Days with Coo

The New Zealand Film Archive

© 2007 Masao Kogure/ Summer Days with Coo Committee, Director: Keiichi Hara, 138 min M

Coo is a kappa, a tiny amphibious creature with a dish-shaped skull. He lives in a swamp. The humans plan to drain the swamp and Coo's father confronts a samurai on the road to beg him to reconsider the plan but the samurai is afraid of him and cuts him to pieces. Coo runs away, but an earthquake strikes and Coo falls into a crevice, where he is buried alive. Hundreds of years later, Koichi Uehara finds Coo's dried body in a riverbed in his neighborhood. He brings him home and revives him in the bathroom sink. This is a movie that touches on important contemporary issues such as environmental destruction, bullying and media overload.



5th March: Memories of Tomorrow

Reading Cinemas Courtenay

© 2006 Memories of Tomorrow Production Committee, Director: Yikihiko Tsutsumi, 122 min M

In the spring of 2004, Saeki is a relentless manager at an advertising agency and at the top of his game. He, however, begins to forget little things, such as the names of his clients, where he left the car keys, or where the turnoff is to his daughter Rie's apartment. When he forgets a business appointment for the first time in his career, and subsequently, fails to recognize his employees in a crowded cafeteria, his wife, Emiko convinces him to see a doctor. Saeki is most likely suffering from early-onset Alzheimer's disease. Saeki and his wife study the nature of the disease and how its progression can be slowed. Ken Watanabe of the last Samurai stars as Saeki.

Complimentary tickets will be issued from 5pm at
The New Zealand Film Archive-84 Taranaki St on 1-4 March-and Reading Cinemas Courtenay-100 Courtenay Place on 5 March
Seating is limited and tickets will be issued on a first-come, first-served basis.

5:30pm-Doors Open 6:00pm-Movie Commences

Organised by:

The Embassy of Japan, The Japan Foundation and The JET Alumni Association of Wellington

For further information please contact the Embassy of Japan, Email: japan6@ejj.org.nz, Tel: (04) 495 8344
<http://www.nz.emb-japan.go.jp/>



JAPAN FOUNDATION