

Japanese Film Festival 2024



Hit Me Anyone One More Time



A man wakes up in a hospital bed with no idea where he is. His memory is lost. He sneaks out of the hospital, then sees himself on the TV news. The prime minister of Japan was rushed to the hospital when a rock knocked him out in the middle of a speech. He is, in fact, the most powerful man in Japan.

He is so reviled by his citizens that one of them actually knocked him out with a rock! A subordinate takes him to the prime minister's residence.

"You are the 127th Prime Minister of Japan. The people hate you and call you the worst prime minister in the history of our country. No one must find out that you have amnesia. It must be kept top secret. We are the only ones who will know." Only three private secretaries know the truth. He doesn't know the names or faces of any of his cabinet members, the location of the main conference room of the Diet or his own son's name let alone the policies he was advancing.

He is blackmailed by a freelance tabloid journalist who claims to know of his condition and approached by a mistress who he doesn't even recall. It seems his wife is cheating on him and his son is heading down a dark path. To top it all off, the president of the United States is scheduled to visit! An amnesiac with nothing to lose regains his ideals and dreams, dragging foreign dignitaries, political rivals, private staff, the press, his family and the entire nation along with him!

What fate awaits...?

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The Dancing Okami

With the popularity of sushi culture and animation, “the spirit of Japan” is conveyed to people all over the world. Among them is the culture of Okami (the proprietresses of Japanese inns).

An Okami will welcome guests with all sorts of backgrounds, and treat them with the utmost hospitality so they would have a beautiful memory of their enjoyable stay.

An ideal Okami is like the sun, who has the ability to use her quick wit to deal with various troubles.

This story is about a young woman who comes back to her hometown after her dream is shattered in the city, and finds a new dream to become an Okami by following in the footsteps of her ill mother.

Please enjoy the mingling of Japan and the West; Japan’s hospitality and its beautiful scenery of four seasons, with the Western tap dance. After you have watched this movie, we hope you will feel “the spirit of Japan” is something that can be shared throughout the world!

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We Make Antiques! Kyoto Rendezvous



A dowdy antique dealer Norio in Kyoto is asked by a beautiful lady Shino to find a swindled historical valuable tea-cup by Master Oribe from 16th century which was passed on by her late father. Norio and a pottery artist Sasuke give her an authentic-looking imitation which Sasuke made for free as replacement. But shortly thereafter, they find out that Shino is a fraud; Shino recognizes their skills and proposes a deal to earn big money in conspiracy by unveiling an underground crime of vice dealers' group selling off lots of fakes internationally. Teaming up with other talented buddies, Norio and Sasuke determine to drive the con-game and to get revenge on the villains who stained on their reputation in the past.

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FATHER OF THE MILKY WAY RAILROAD



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Directed by NARUSHIMA Izuru, this powerful biopic details the life of legendary poet and novelist MIYAZAWA Kenji, one of Japan's most beloved children's authors. As the eldest son of Masajiro, a wealthy pawnbroker and modern man of the Meiji era, Kenji was raised with the expectation that he would one day inherit the family business. However, the free-spirited Kenji is determined to walk his own path in life, and takes it upon himself to pursue agricultural studies, synthetic gemstones and other eccentric ventures. Despite struggling to keep up with his son's ambitions, Masajiro remains supportive as ever throughout Kenji's unorthodox pursuits.

Based on the best-selling novel of the same name, this incredible story depicts the power of family and unconditional love that endures through times of hardship. With standout performances by SUDA Masaki and recent Cannes winner YAKUSHO Kōji, the pair's depiction of fatherly love on the silver screen is sure to bring a tear to your eye.

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The-Zen-Diary



Tsutomu lives alone in the mountains, writing essays, cooking food with vegetables he grows and mushrooms he picks in the hills. His routine is happily disturbed when Machiko, his editor/love interest, occasionally visits. She loves to eat and he loves to cook for her. Tsutomu seems content with his daily life. On the other hand, he still hasn't let go of his wife's ashes although she died 13 years ago...

◆About Zen

It is a school of Buddhism. It also refers to its teachings and philosophy. Enlightenment can be attained through meditation and ridding the mind of irrelevant thoughts. Its practitioners are encouraged to reflect on their lives and practice gratitude for all that they encounter.

◆About Zen food

Buddha's teaching forbids the killing of animals so Zen monks developed a cuisine based around vegetables and grains. It's not just about eating vegetarian food for Zen monks, it's the entire process from preparation, cooking, eating to cleaning the dishes. This is part of their training and through it, monks can understand themselves.

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Ride Your Wave

Hinako, a girl who loves surfing, moves to a seaside town. After a fire, she meets Minato a firefighter. But Minato drowns while out surfing alone and comes back to her in the form of water. As everyone else gets over Minato's death and tries to move on, Hinako comes to depend on his spirit.

