



**The Japan-America Society Presents
CineMatsuri: Washington DC's Japanese Film Festival
March 20 - 27, 2016**

Step into spring on Sunday, March 20, the first day of the National Cherry Blossom Festival, with CineMatsuri™, the five-day Japanese Film Festival presented by the Japan-America Society of Washington. Only in its third year, CineMatsuri has earned praise for its careful and entertaining selection of some of the best films in recent Japanese cinema.

CineMatsuri's opening on March 20 is hosted and sponsored by Trade Center Management Associates (TCMA), the exclusive management firm of the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center. It features *Persona Non Grata*, the story of a courageous Japanese diplomat, Chiune Sugihara, who defied his government in 1940 and issued visas to over 6,000 Jews, saving them from certain death in Nazi concentration camps. The film starts at 1:30 pm and will be followed by a Q and A with the director, Cellin Gluck.

New film screenings then continue each evening at 7 pm at the E Street Cinema. In addition, there will be three encore presentations of *Persona Non Grata* at area theaters during the following week.

Monday night's presentation is *Flying Colors (Biri Gyarū)*. Based on a true story, it is a delightful comedy that tells how a young woman went from the bottom of her class to gain entrance to one of Japan's top universities. It has been nominated for four Japanese Academy Awards, including Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor, and Best Supporting Actress.

Tuesday night represents a shift in genre as CineMatsuri presents a samurai tale of loyalty and revenge, *Snow on the Blades (Zakuro Zaka no Adauchi)*. Beautifully filmed and crossing from Japan's feudal period to the modern Meiji era, it follows a samurai's 13-year journey to find the man who killed his master.

On Wednesday night, *I am a Monk (Boku wa Bo-san)* tells the adventures of a 24-year-old who is thrust into the position of chief abbot at a temple after his grandfather dies. From picking the right razor to shave his head to learning how to conduct funerals with the solemnity his grandfather's friends remember, it offers a rare and generally light-hearted look into the world of Buddhist monks in modern Japanese society.

CineMatsuri closes on Thursday, March 24 with *The Emperor in August (Nihon no Ichiban Nagai Hi)*. The film has been nominated for eleven Japanese Academy Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Actor. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the final days of World War II, leading to Emperor Hirohito's fateful decision ordering his government to accept the Allied terms of surrender, followed by an attempted coup d'état to stop the Emperor's announcement and continue the war.

All films will be shown in Japanese with English subtitles.

Further information about CineMatsuri, including descriptions and trailers of each film, ticketing, showtimes, and locations, can be found on the festival's website at www.cinematsuri.org. Tickets are \$13 per film, except for the encore presentations of *Persona Non Grata*, which are \$11. Because of the festival's growing popularity, tickets should be purchased in advance.

This year's CineMatsuri is made possible thanks to Festival Partners JTB USA and the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, with major support from the Embassy of Japan.

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