Venue & Booking

Christchurch Art Gallery

Cnr Worcester Boulevard and Montreal St

No booking required

*First come first served basis.





General Enquiry

Consular Office of Japan in Christchurch

Phone: 03 366 4680

Email: cultural.chc@wl.mofa.go.jp





Please Note

All films will be shown in Japanese with English subtitles.

We reluctantly reserve the right to change the schedule.



About JFF

In cooperation with Japan Foundation, the Japanese Film Festival is held annually, in order to encourage the growth of Japanese culture and understanding in New Zealand.

Each year, we try to give the people of New Zealand some insight into the culture, customs, and traditions of Japan, alongside what is popular with Japan's society today, through film.

Discover more about Japanese films at iff.jpf.go.jp







Presented by





Venue Partners

CHRISTCHURCH ART GALLERY TE PUNA O WAIWHETU Tuesday 5th Nov 6pm

Dreaming of the Meridian Arc

大河への道



Intriguing story of how Japan's first map was completed!

In contemporary Katori City, Chiba, a team launches a project to promote the area by making a TV dramatization of cartographer, Tadataka Ino, the first person to map Japan in 1821. As they begin their research, a surprising revelation emerges: the cartographer died in 1818, three years before the map was presented to the Shogun! His disciples concealed their master's death to clandestinely finish the map to honour him. Alternating between modern day and Edoera Japan, this film pays homage to people whose names have been lost in history and is a tribute to the perseverance of a set goal.

Director: NAKANISHI Kenji Cast: NAKAI Kiichi, MATSUDA Kenichi, KITAGAWA Keiko

Year: 2022 Length: 112mins Genre: Drama Rating: PG

Wednesday 6th Nov 6pm

Ito いとみち



Enjoy the sound of the Tsugaru samisen & the unique dialect!

Ito is a high school student in Aomori Prefecture and a very talented shamisen player, having learned from her late mother. However, she is painfully shy and has few friends, so she decides to start a part-time job at a maid café, much to the concern of her father. Based on the novel by Koshigaya Osamu, this charming coming-of-age film is set in the northern landscapes of Japan.

Director: YOKOHAMA Satoko Cast: KOMAI Ren, TOYOKAWA Etsushi

Year: 2021 Length: 116mins Genre: Drama Rating: PG

Monday 11th Nov 6pm

The Fish Tale

さかなのこ



A love for fish that is deeper than the ocean!

Based on the autobiography of a celebrated marine biologist known as Sakanasan, a mild-mannered and humorous man with a huge knowledge of fish. The movie follows Meebo, Sakana:s fictional counterpart, for whom life is all about fish and nothing else. Meebo single-mindedly goes after this passion, no matter what the obstacle! Located in beautiful coastal towns, the filmmakers' attitude is "Fish first, people second."

Director: OKITA Shuichi Cast: Non, YAGIRA Yuya, Kaho Year: 2022 Length: 139mins Genre: Drama Rating: PG

Wednesday 13th Nov 6pm

We Make Antiques! Kyoto Rendezvous

嘘八百 京町ロワイヤル



Comedy Drama set Kyoto & Sakai!

Struggling antique dealer Norio is asked by a beautiful and mysterious woman Shino to find a valuable chaki (tea bowl) by Tea Master Oribe which was passed on by her late father. Norio asks his potter friend Sasuke to make an authentic-looking imitation. Shino proposes a deal to earn money by exposing an underground crime group selling fakes. Norio and Sasuke decide to take charge of the conspiracy to take revenge on the villains who stained their reputation in the past.

Director: TAKE Masaharu Cast: NAKAI Kiichi, SASAKI Kuranosuke, HIROUE Ryoko

Year: 2019 Length: 106mins Genre: Comedy Rating: PG