

**Special Streaming Project: JFF+ Independent Cinema 2023**  
~ Introducing the current state of Japanese cinema culture with a focus on  
mini theaters, starting on August 1 ~



URL: <https://jff.jp/jpf.go.jp/watch/ic2023/>

On August 1, 2023, the Japan Foundation will launch a special program called **JFF+ Independent Cinema 2023** to shed light on the mini theaters that support the cinema culture of Japan.

The lineup of streamed films includes those recommended by mini theaters throughout Japan, as well as by international film critics and film festival directors. Videos that introduce each participating mini theater, their communities, and the feelings of their staff, will also be produced and streamed. Together these will introduce the current state of cinema culture and regional culture in Japan from multiple angles.

This project is a continuation of the streaming project JFF+ Independent Cinema carried out from December 15, 2022, through June 15, 2023. The previous project was accessed from over 150 countries and regions around the world, including Indonesia, the U.S., Australia, and Mexico, attracting interest from viewers from a wide range of ages, from teenagers through to the elderly. The project received a great response, with many positive comments received from viewers, and some of the streamed works were covered by overseas media.

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## 1. Project Overview

Project name: JFF+ Independent Cinema 2023

**Host:** The Japan Foundation (JF)

**Cooperation:** Japan Community Cinema Center

**Principle Content:** Official website, streaming 12 films and 10 videos introducing mini theaters

### Schedule:

Tuesday, August 1, 2023: start of streaming for films and introductory videos

Tuesday, October 31, 2023: end of streaming for films

\*The website and introductory videos will continue to be accessible after this date.

**Streaming source:** Official website <https://jff.jp.go.jp/watch/ic2023/>

\*Schedule and program content are subject to change without prior notice.

**(1) Website:** <https://jff.jp.go.jp/watch/ic2023/>

**Release date:** 5:00 PM, Tuesday, August 1, 2023 (Japan time) \*Semi-permanent release

**Published information:** Information on the 12 streamed films along with links to the streaming website. Information on each mini theater and links to recommended films. Links to related articles, etc.

**Languages:** Japanese, English

## (2) Streamed films

**Streaming period:** 5:00 PM Tuesday, August 1, 2023, to 5:00 PM, Tuesday, October 31, 2023 (Japan time)

**Streamed films:** 12 Japanese films (including 10 films recommended by 10 mini theaters and 2 films recommended by international film critics/film festival directors)

**Streaming region:** Global except for Japan (some films will stream in more limited areas)

**Streaming source:** The films will be streamed from a JF-affiliated website (<http://watch.jff.jp.go.jp>)

**Streaming fee:** Free of charge (User registration required. Films not available for viewing in Japan.)

**Subtitle languages:** English, Spanish (Latin America), Indonesian, Thai, Chinese (Simplified), Chinese (Traditional) (available with Japanese audio)

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## Film Lineup



©HAKODATE CINEMA IRIS  
[Selected by CINEMA IRIS]  
**And Your Bird Can Sing** (2018)  
Directed by **MIYAKE Sho**



©2021 Follow the Light Film Partners  
[Selected by Cinema de Aeru]  
**Follow the Light** (2021)  
Directed by **NARITA Yoichi**



©2022 Tokyo New Cinema  
[Selected by Cinekoya]  
**LONELY GLORY** (2022)  
Directed by **SAKON Keitaro**



山崎佑次監督作品 ナレーター 石橋蓮司  
©An Artisan's Legacy  
[Selected by fukaya cinema]  
**An Artisan's Legacy,  
Tsunekazu Nishioka** (2012)  
Directed by **YAMAZAKI Yuji**



©Shuichi Okita  
[Selected by Ueda Eigeki]  
**Hey! Our dear Don-chan**  
(2022)  
Directed by **OKITA Shuichi**



©cubfilm  
[Selected by Motomachi Movie Theater]  
**A Muse Never Drowns** (2022)  
Directed by **ASAO Nozomi**

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## Film Lineup



©2022 "A Girl in My Room" Film Partners  
[Selected by Cinema Onomichi]  
**A Girl in My Room** (2022)  
Directed by **TAKAHASHI Natsuki**



©Kuzoku Inc.  
[Selected by jig theater]  
**TENZO** (2019)  
Directed by **TOMITA Katsuya**



©Karatsu Film Partners/PSC2017  
[Selected by THEATER ENYA]  
**HANAGATAMI** (2017)  
Directed by **OBAYASHI Nobuhiko**



©2018 Telecom Staff  
[Selected by Sakurazaka Theater]  
**BON-UTA, A Song from Home** (2019)  
Directed by **NAKAE Yuji**



©FOOLISH PIGGIES FILMS  
[Selected by Mark Schilling]  
**Techno Brothers** (2023)  
Directed by **WATANABE Hirobumi**



©Bachiranun  
[Selected by Haochen Xu]  
**Bachiranun** (2021)  
Directed by **HIGASHIMORI Aika**

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### (3) Mini theater introductory videos (content produced by this project)

**Streaming period:** 5:00 PM, August 1, 2023 (Japan Time)

\*Some videos will start streaming at a date after the above start date.

\*The videos will be streamed on a semi-permanent basis.

**Streamed videos:** 10 videos that introduce each mini theater (including the communities where they are located)

**Streaming region:** Worldwide

Streaming source: Official YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/c/JAPANESEFILMFESTIVALPLUS/>

Official website: <https://jff.jp.go.jp/watch/ic2023/>

Streaming fee: Free of charge

**Subtitle language:** English (available with Japanese audio)

#### Cooperating mini theaters:

- CINEMA IRIS (Hakodate, Hokkaido)
- fukaya cinema (Fukaya, Saitama)
- Ueda Eigeki (Ueda, Nagano)
- jig theater (Tohaku, Tottori)
- THEATER ENYA (Karatsu, Saga)
- Cinema de Aeru (Miyako, Iwate)
- Cinekoya (Fujisawa, Kanagawa)
- Motomachi Movie Theater (Kobe, Hyogo)
- Cinema Onomichi (Onomichi, Hiroshima)
- Sakurazaka Theater (Naha, Okinawa)



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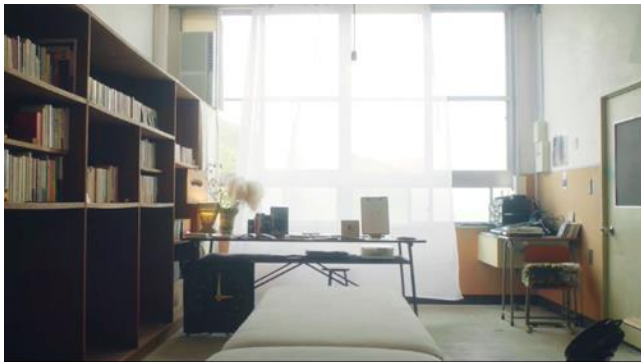
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Ueda Eigeki (Ueda, Nagano)



Motomachi Movie Theater (Kobe, Hyogo)



jig theater (Tohaku, Tottori)



Cinema Onomichi (Onomichi, Hiroshima)



THEATER ENYA (Karatsu, Saga)



Sakurazaka Theater (Naha, Okinawa)

#### (4) Other content

•Articles by seven international film critics/film festival directors (Japanese/English)

<https://jff.jp.go.jp/read/column/japaneseindiefilms/>

In these articles, seven international film critics and film festival directors will introduce Japanese independent films that they recommend. Two of the recommended films will be streamed as part of this project. The articles will be published on the JFF+ website for introducing Japanese films, and can be accessed from the special project website.

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### 3. Other

#### (1) Other online streaming event: Japanese Film Festival Online



Japanese Film Festival Online (JFF Online) is an online Japanese film festival that streams a wide ranging lineup of Japanese films, including the latest releases, documentaries, anime, and classics. In the previous festival held in 2022, 20 Japanese films were streamed for free to 25 countries around the world with subtitles in over 10 languages. Preparations are currently ongoing for the next festival. Stay tuned for more information!

#### (2) On-site Japanese film festivals around the world: Japanese Film Festival



The Japanese Film Festival (JFF) screens the latest Japanese films at locations around the world. The festival was launched in 2016 for the 10 nations of ASEAN and Australia under the motto, "Japanese Films Anywhere, Anytime." Since then, the festival has expanded to include China, Russia, India, and Brazil, and continues to spread the appeals of Japanese cinema to the world.

#### (3) The Japanese cinema website: JFF+ <https://jff.jpf.go.jp/>



JFF+ is a website operated by the Japan Foundation to share information about Japanese cinema with the world. The site offers a variety of ways to learn about and interact with Japanese cinema, including special programs such as JFF+ Independent Cinema, JFF Online, articles on Japanese cinema, and cinema-related programs of the Japan Foundation.

#### (4) Host and organizer: The Japan Foundation <https://www.jpf.go.jp/>



The Japan Foundation (JF) is the only Japanese organization dedicated to implementing programs for comprehensive international cultural exchange. Established in 1972 as a special corporation under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it became an independent administrative corporation on October 1, 2003. The Foundation creates opportunities to connect Japan and the world through culture language and dialogue, to create more friends of Japan, and to cultivate bonds with the world, giving rise to empathy, trust, and goodwill between people.

In addition to their headquarters in Tokyo, the Japan Foundation

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operates a branch in Japan (Kyoto), 26 branches in 25 countries, and 2 related organizations (the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa and the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai).

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