

**Bestselling Author ISAKA Kotaro to make a first visit to
North America for the 46th Toronto International Festival of Authors
(TIFA)**

**Engaging with Readers in Canada through Talk Events
for four days from October 29**

The Japan Foundation (JF) is inviting writer ISAKA Kotaro to Canada. This project is co-presented by the Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA) and The Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library of the University of Toronto. Events will include a film screening on October 29, followed by author talks and book signings on October 30 and November 1.

TIFA, now running for its 46th year, is one of the world's most prestigious international literary festivals. The Japan Foundation, Toronto has a long history of inviting Japanese authors for the festival. This year, we are honored to invite Mr. Isaka in celebration of the 25th anniversary of his literary debut. While his works have been translated into more than 20 languages and internationally acclaimed worldwide, this will be his first event appearance in North America.

Born in Chiba, Japan in 1971, Mr. Isaka graduated from Tohoku University's Faculty of Law in 1995. He debuted in 2000 with *Audubon's Prayer*, which won the Shincho Mystery Club Award. His subsequent accolades include the Yoshikawa Eiji Literary Prize for New Writers for *Ahiru to Kamo no Coin Locker* in 2004, the Japan Booksellers' Award and Yamamoto Shūgorō Prize for *Golden Slumber* in 2008, the University Readers' Award for *Maria Beetle* in 2014, Shizuoka Bookstore Award (Novel Division) for *AX* in 2017, and the Shibata Renzaburō Award for *Gyaku Socrates* in 2020. His latest novel, *Goodbye Jabberwock*, is scheduled for release on October 22, just before his visit to Toronto, and showcases his ongoing creative momentum. The English translations of the *Assassins* Series have received several prestigious award nominations, including the UK's Crime Writers' Association (CWA) Dagger for Crime Fiction in Translation for *Bullet Train* (Japanese original *Maria Beetle* translated by Sam Malissa) and *Hotel Lucky Seven* (Japanese original 777 translated by Brian Bergstrom), and Ian Fleming Steel Dagger for *The Mantis* (Japanese original *AX* translated by Sam Malissa).

Among his many works, *Maria Beetle* was adapted into the 2022 Hollywood movie *Bullet Train*, starring Brad Pitt and SANADA Hiroyuki. The movie topped the North American Domestic Box Office for two consecutive weeks and drew worldwide attention. On October 29, the movie will be screened in Toronto, with Mr. Isaka scheduled to appear on stage in person.

This appearance offers an excellent opportunity to understand how Japanese contemporary fiction is received by international fans. North American readers and literary enthusiasts can expect to learn more about the author and his journey.

Press Inquiries

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URL : <https://festivalofauthors.ca/book-author/kotaro-isaka/>

Outline

Event Titles, Dates, Venues:

Film screening *Bullet Train*

6:45 p.m. on Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Innis Town Hall (University of Toronto, Innis College)

2 Sussex Ave, Toronto, ON, Canada

Crafting Twists and Thrills: A conversation with author ISAKA Kotaro

6:00 p.m. on Thursday, October 30, 2025

The Japan Foundation, Toronto

2 Bloor St. East, Suite 300, Toronto, ON, Canada

Kotaro Isaka: Hotel Lucky Seven (Toronto International Festival of Authors)

3:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 1, 2025

Isabel Bader Theatre (Victoria College, University of Toronto)

73 Queen's Park Cres E, Toronto, ON, Canada

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Co-presenters : The Japan Foundation, Toronto, Toronto International Festival of Authors, University of Toronto, Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library

The Japan Foundation <https://www.jpf.go.jp/>



The Japan Foundation (JF) is Japan's only Institution dedicated to carrying out comprehensive international cultural exchange programs throughout the world. It was established in 1972 as a non-profit, special legal entity under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and legally transformed into an Independent Administrative Institution on October 1, 2003. Through "Culture", "Language" and "Dialogue", the Japan Foundation creates global opportunities to foster friendship, trust and mutual understanding.

The Japan Foundation has a global network consisting of the Tokyo headquarters, the Kyoto Office, two Japanese-language institutes (the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Urawa, and the Japan Foundation Japanese-Language Institute, Kansai), and 26 overseas offices in 25 countries.

Toronto International Festival of Authors <https://festivalofauthors.ca/>



Toronto International Festival of Authors (TIFA) is one of the world's leading international literary festivals, featuring 200 authors from dozens of countries and attracting 20,000 visitors each year during the two-week festival period.

Japanese authors have been invited almost every year since 1985, starting with Ōe Kenzaburō, the first Japanese participant. To date, 30 esteemed Japanese authors have been invited to the festival.

University of Toronto, Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library <https://east.library.utoronto.ca/>
(Co-presenting the event on October 29th and 30th)



UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
LIBRARIES

CHENG YU TUNG EAST ASIAN LIBRARY

Cheng Yu Tung East Asian Library houses a collection of materials in Asian languages at the University of Toronto. With approximately 200,000 Japanese-language materials, the library has been a vital resource centre for the East Asian Studies community.

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