



KIEF NEWS

English Edition No.76 2015.3



★ TOPIC 1 *Upcoming Events*

Upcoming events in Kanazawa to look forward to!

International Friendship Festival 2015

The dates for this year's International Friendship Festival are out! This year we are planning for more exciting performances, activity corners, and food booths so that you can sample cultures and tastes from all around the world! As always, admission is free.



Date: June 27th (Sat) - 28th (Sun) 10:00 - 16:00

Venue: Shiinoki Cultural Complex Ishi-no-Hiroba Plaza and Open Lawn Area

The 1st Kanazawa Marathon (Kanazawa Marathon 2015)

In 2015, along with the opening of the Hokuriku Shinkansen line, the Kanazawa Marathon will also be held for the first time! Since it is a full marathon with a course that winds through seven different zones of Kanazawa, runners will have a complete experience of Kanazawa's charms. Log onto the Kanazawa Marathon 2015 homepage (<http://www.kanazawa-marathon.jp/outline/english.html>) to find more information about eligibility requirements, how to apply and more. There are also short videos introducing the course. Be sure to check it out!



Date & Time: November 15, 2015 (Sunday) Start 9:00 / End 16:00

Event Holder: The Kanazawa Marathon Organizing Committee

Number of participants: 12,000 * Participants will be chosen by lottery if there are too many applications.

Course Overview: It starts at Hirosaka-dori Street and finishes at the Ishikawa Prefecture Seibu Ryokuchi Koen Park Athletics Stadium, with a circuit-style course that provides many opportunities to enjoy Kanazawa's charms.

★ TOPIC 2 *CIR Recommendations: Movies Related to Japan*

Yoolim Lee (Korea)

Bushi no kondate (2013)

武士の献立

I want to introduce the movie *Bushi no kondate* to everyone. Set in the Edo period, it is about how the main character Haru (played by Ueto Aya) marries into a talented family of samurai cooks who are responsible for looking after the diet and health of upper-class samurai. It turns out her husband Yasunobu (played by Kora Kengo), despite being born into that family, can't cook. At its heart, it is a story about familial bonds. I would especially recommend this movie to people who are interested in what the Kaga Clan kitchen looked like and traditional Japanese cuisine in general!

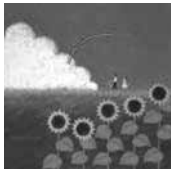


CIR Recommendations: Movies Related to Japan

Werner Vanhorenbeeck (Belgium)

Kikujiro no natsu (1999)

菊次郎の夏



Kikujiro no natsu is one of the first Japanese films I ever saw. It is the story of a boy from Tokyo who goes on an adventure to look for his mother during his summer vacation together with a suspicious looking man named Kikujiro. They travel through the Japanese countryside where they meet people that do not fit in with social norms and end up in bizarre and dangerous situations. I liked this film very much because it showed me how simple and complex films can be at the same time. It also was my first glimpse of Japanese culture and the Japanese countryside. Although I did not know this at that time, the film is based on the life of Takeshi Kitano, who also plays the role of Kikujiro in this film. I would recommend this film to anyone who likes Beat Takeshi's works and anyone who enjoys Japanese films from the 90's.

Shoyo To (China)

SUMMER WARS (2009)

サマーウォーズ

In the internet-based virtual world of OZ, one high school student is unexpectedly drawn into a very complicated situation. (Sorry but it is so complicated that it's hard to explain it all in this limited space!) For now, just know that there are plenty of laughs, tears, and action in this movie, so I think that anyone will enjoy it. It is a must-see for anyone with an interest in Japan. Otaku, pretty girls, games, artificial intelligence, family love, countryside scenery, traditional Japanese culture ... this movie is packed to the brim with all this Japan-specific content and I highly recommend it!



Mathilde Wood (France)

Rurouni Kenshin – Samurai X series

るろうに剣心



If you're into Japan's samurai culture, then this 3 part movie series is a must! It is the live adaptation of the homonymous popular manga series. This series holds a special place in my heart as it introduced me to Edo-Meiji period Japanese culture. The story revolves around a wandering samurai who used to be an assassin during the Meiji revolution. We follow him as he finds his new path in life and creates new friendships. The movies are recent and thus very high quality. I wouldn't recommend these movies to children as there are some battle scenes and the protagonist's past is violent, but I am sure adults who like action movies would really enjoy them!

Amanda Ng (USA)

Jiro Dreams of Sushi (2011)

二郎は鮨の夢を見る

Jiro Dreams of Sushi is an American documentary film about 85-year-old sushi master Jiro Ono who runs a world-class sushi restaurant in Tokyo. In the course of the movie, the story behind Jiro and his lifelong dedication to creating perfect sushi is unveiled, and we get to observe his relationship with his son who faces the pressure of filling his father's big shoes. The movie is a feast for the eyes, with countless mouthwatering close-ups of sushi. I would recommend this movie to people who love to look at good food and who would like to learn more about what life is like running a sushi restaurant in Japan.



Fun fact: Prime Minister Abe recently took President Obama to eat at Jiro's restaurant!

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