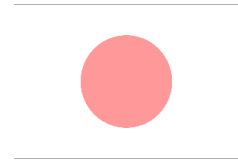


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**News Release**

November 1, 2012

## Japan Film Festival 2012

The Embassy of Japan in Bahrain will host Japan Film Festival 2012 in cooperation with the Shaikh Ebrahim bin Mohammed Al Khalifa Centre for Culture & Research from 20:00 to 22:00 on every Wednesday of November 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 at the Shaikh Ebrahim Centre in Muharraq. The all three movies will be voiced in Japanese and subtitled in English.

### **- Program of Japanese Films -**

#### **① November 7<sup>th</sup>: “WATER BOYS”**

Color/ Vista/ 2001/ 91min

It's springtime in Japan and the Tadano High School swim team is barely keeping afloat. When a pretty new coach turns up with the nutty idea of creating a top synchronized swimming team of her own, she has just a few problems to overcome. Inspired by their darling coach's dream, the boys bumble through the spring and summer, preparing a routine for Tadano High's festival. When autumn finally rolls around, the boys have not only miraculously perfected a truly unique routine they've won the respect and participation of a whole crew of new teammates. On the eve of the festival, the performance is threatened by one last catastrophe. Will the Waterboys hard work be wasted, or can they paddle their way to the success and recognition they've worked so hard to win?

#### **② November 14<sup>th</sup>: “SHODO GIRLS!!”**

Color/ American Vista [1:1.85]/ 2010/ 120min

The story is set in Shikoku Chuo City in Ehime Prefecture, the “City of Paper” that boasts the top output of paper in Japan. However, due to the long recession, the city has lost its former prosperity. Satoko (Riko Narumi) is a senior in Shikoku Chuo High School. She is the captain of the calligraphy club and has won many awards for her works in various exhibitions. However, when Satoko and the club members see Ikezawa perform in front of the school by fluidly writing a large script with music in the background, the activity within the calligraphy club begins to take a new direction. The members of the club become a tight-knit group, and they eventually change the minds of the adults around them who had objected to their endeavor at first. The day of the Calligraphy Performance Contest arrives, and Satoko and the club members perform together. Their sincere passion for calligraphy and their earnest love for their hometown envelop the stage, and a small miracle occurs.

#### **③ November 21<sup>st</sup>: “Bushido Sixteen”**

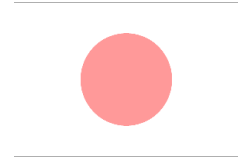
Color/ HDV/ 2010/ 109min

Kaori Isoyama is a junior high kendo champion raised by her strict and stern father. She was undefeated until one day she loses unexpectedly to the opponent in the same class with a saddlecloth saying ‘Tosho Academy Komoto.’

Six months later, Kaori enters the prestigious Tosho Academy Girls High School. On the first

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day of practice, she is reunited with her nemesis only her name is now Nishiogi due to her parents' divorce. Her nemesis has changed and doesn't even take the match seriously. Irritated and bridled, Kaori takes her nemesis to her father's training hall and forces her to go through private lessons.

Sanae Nishiogi simply likes kendo and she does it for fun. Her scientist father had once lost a trial consequently damaging the family life, so she learned not to be so concerned with winning or losing. She finds Kaori's obsession with winning hard to comprehend. Kaori doesn't compromise with seniors in the match and practices constantly even during the lunch hour, reading Musashi Miyamoto's *The Book of Five Rings* with a dumbbell in one hand, completely isolating herself from the others. Sanae becomes interested in Kaori who is completely opposite from her and takes her out to a cake buffet and game arcade. Kaori, having never been to such places, reluctantly goes along.

Kaori becomes selected as the first fencer (in a team of five) for a preliminary district match for the interscholastic meet. Sanae is a reserve. On the day of the meet, Tosho Academy keeps winning, but in between the matches, Kaori and Sanae have a fight and Kaori sprains her wrist. Sanae replaces her and she makes an incredible strike to the head leading the team to victory. Kaori praises Sanae for the strike, but something begins to change inside her. It's only a month away until the interscholastic meet. Kaori has lost her reasons to fight and neglects the practice even after her wrist heals. She is ordered off the team. Sanae, having built up fear to lose, now can't strike like she used to. Why do they continue kendo? What do winning and losing matter? Two girls struggle to find answers. To settle everything, Sanae delivers a letter of challenge to Kaori.

On the day of duel, Sanae waits on a hill reminiscence of Ganryu Island. Will Kaori show up?

(END)

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For further information in regard to this press release, media inquiries can be directed to Mr. Hiroto Asaoka, Public Affairs Section of Japanese Embassy at 17716565 and [hiroto.asaoka@mofa.go.jp](mailto:hiroto.asaoka@mofa.go.jp) or to Japanese Embassy's Web site at <http://www.bh.emb-japan.go.jp/index.htm>