

A Huge Thanks for Another Record-Breaking Year! The Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme 2025 (JFTFP25)

On 31 March, the JFTFP25 drew to a close, bringing to an end 262 screenings of 26 films across 33 cinemas in 32 cities and further cementing the programme's position as the UK's biggest festival of Japanese cinema.

In its 22nd year, the programme finally broke the 10,000-attendee barrier, with a final attendance figure of 11,952. Our top five highest-rated films, as chosen by you, were YASUDA Junichi's *A Samurai in Time*, SHIRAISHI Kazuya's *Bushido*, YAMASHITA Nobuhiro's *Let's Go Karaoke!*, MIYAKE Sho's *All the Long Nights*, and SEKINE Kosai's *Stay Mum*.

We were also delighted to welcome two special guests to the UK as part of this year's programme, who toured various venues around the UK giving fascinating insights into their works during post-screening Q&A sessions: **SEKINE Kosai**, director of *Stay Mum*, and **TODA Akihiro**, director of *Ichiko*.



Director SEKINE Kosai takes part in a Q&A session after a screening of *Stay Mum*. Credit: Nicola Tree



Director TODA Akihiro takes part in a Q&A session after a screening of *Ichiko*. Credit: Nicola Tree

The JFTFP25, however, was not just about the screenings – the programme also featured a variety of **video messages from directors of JFTFP25 films**, **programme notes** commissioned exclusively for the JFTFP25, and an **online roundtable discussion** held on 26 March which gathered a panel of film experts from both Japan and the UK to discuss the 2025 programme's themes.

Below are a few comments we received from our audience regarding this year's programme:

- Another year and another wonderful programme of great films which make you reflect on various subjects and stick in your mind over time. Looking forward to next year's programme. @Institute of Contemporary Arts, London
- What I love about the JFTFP is that it brings films by less visible directors – it is a good surprise – please keep it coming. @Institute of Contemporary Arts, London
- The variety of themes is brilliant. Focused on different social phenomena and shows depth of thinking. The atmosphere's good. Really enjoyed it. @Institute of Contemporary Arts, London
- The festival is always expertly programmed and always has a wide range of films to cater to all. @Riverside Studios, London
- Always enjoy this programme – keep up the good work! @Dundee Contemporary Arts, Dundee
- The festival is very important to me and I love the chance to learn more about Japanese art and culture. @Exeter Phoenix, Exeter

- Please, please keep these seasons going... invaluable access to Japanese film and insights into the country. @Firstsite, Colchester
- Excellent programme – please come back! Good to see what the audience in Japan gets to see. @HOME, Manchester
- Fantastic initiative, allows us to get closer to a completely different, fascinating culture. @QUAD, Derby

Our sincerest **thanks to everyone who joined us at a screening, helped spread the word, or otherwise made the JFTFP25 possible** – we hope you enjoyed the programme this year!

We'll be back same time next year – make sure you keep an eye on [our website](#) to be the first to find out more!