

—THIS REPORT REQUIRES ACTION—

To: The Board of Directors

From: Karen Severns, chair
Ilgin Yorulmaz, co-chair
Joan Anderson
Thomas Ash
Koichi Mori
Shinichi Nakajima (staff liaison)

Re: **April 2025 Film Committee Report**

SCREENINGS REPORT

March 12 Sneak Preview of **RAVENS** with director Mark Gill
and actors Tadanobu Asano, Kumi Takiuchi

Audience: 100

Acclaimed actor Tadanobu Asano returned to FCCJ for the third time just weeks after winning a Golden Globe for “Shogun,” and the club benefited from hosting his first appearance back home, with many Japanese media also covering the event. Asano was joined by award-winning British director Mark Gill and his costar in *Ravens*, Kumi Takiuchi, to discuss the unique biopic about legendary Japanese photographer Masahisa Fukase. “It was love at first with Asano... he was the only name on my shortlist,” Gill admitted, when asked about the casting. “And it was Christmas every day working with him.” Asano admitted that he felt a “kindred spirit” in the photographer, a man who was at odds with his success and plagued by contradictory impulses. Takiuchi, working with her first international crew, discussed the freedom she felt on the “stifling-hot” summertime set in Tokyo, and Gill, a former musician, discussed the era-spanning playlist he created even while he was writing the script. The international collaboration (the film is a France/Japan/Spain/Belgium coproduction) signals the new direction of Japanese cinema, with the government now heavily promoting subsidies to bring ever-greater numbers of international teams to shoot here.

UPCOMING SCREENINGS

April 15 **A SAMURAI IN TIME** with director Junichi Yasuda and actor Makiya Yamaguchi
May 7 **VOICES OF THE SILENCED** with codirectors Park Soonam and Park Maeu

OFFICIAL FC MEETING

Our next meeting will be in mid-April. The team continues to stay in touch primarily by email and phone, as overseas travel/different time zones make it difficult to schedule frequent Zoom sessions.