

—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: **May 2025 Film Committee Report**

**SCREENINGS REPORT**

**April 15** Special Screening of **A SAMURAI IN TIME** with  
director Junichi Yasuda, actor Makiya Yamaguchi

**Audience: 90**

By special arrangement with distributor Gaga, we were able to screen one of the unlikely success stories in Japanese film history, nearly 7 months after it first appeared in theaters (it's still playing, as well as on Amazon Prime). Completed on a minuscule budget of just 26 million yen (\$170,000), *A Samurai in Time* went from strength to strength, going from sold-out screenings in one mini-theater in Ikebukuro to its pickup by Gaga, which rolled it out to over 400 cinemas nationwide. After climbing into the Top 10 at the box office and grossing more than double most Hollywood hits in Japan, it then became the first-ever independent feature to win the Best Film Academy Award in Japan, along with a Best Editor trophy for the director. The FCCJ audience loved the backstory, but the surprising focus was on Yasuda's *other* career, as a rice farmer near Kyoto. Noting that he wouldn't have been able to continue farming the family land if the film had been a flop, he criticized the government's rice policy. "Rice farmers have a really tough time, and I'm losing ¥100,000 for every crop, rather than being allowed to sell at an equitable price," he lamented. Despite receiving ample coverage already, the Q&A guests were covered by numerous online and TV crews, as well as the print press.

**UPCOMING SCREENINGS**

May 7 **VOICES OF THE SILENCED** with codirectors Park Soonam and Park Maeu  
June 10 **RENOIR** with director Chie Hayakawa, actors Yui Suzuki and Lily Franky  
July 7 **THE ARMY IN A TREE** with director Kazuhiro Taira, actor Yuki Yamada

**OFFICIAL FC MEETING**

Our last meeting was on April 19. 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.

**ACTION REQUESTED: HONORARY MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL**

Please see the following page.