

## OUR FAMILY

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### OUR FAMILY

ぼくたちの家族

May 13, 2014

Q&A guests: Director Yuya Ishii and stars Satoshi Tsumabuki and Sosuke Ikematsu



Yuya Ishii, Satoshi Tsumabuki, Sosuke Ikematsu

FCCJ film night audiences are no stranger to movie stars, but they are sometimes surprised when the lights go up after the screening, and the Japanese camera crews start filing in for the Q&A sessions. On May 13th, there were 6 TV crews and several dozen still photographers from the Japanese press — all there for sound bites and great images of megastar Satoshi Tsumabuki (*Waterboys*, *The Little House*) and Sosuke Ikematsu (*The Last Samurai*, *Love's Whirlpool*). The instant and widespread Japanese coverage of our events enables us to continue sneak previewing some of the most buzzworthy films opening soon in a theater near you.

On this night, that film was Yuya Ishii's *Our Family*, soon to open across Japan. In 2013, Ishii's *The Great Passage* was selected as Japan's official Oscar entry and swept up every conceivable domestic award, including the top four Japan Academy Prizes. The director could have had his pick of any follow-up project, but as he explained to the FCCJ audience, he chose to adapt the bestselling novel *Our Family* because he was consciously making a break from the existential comedies with which he had made his reputation. Why? Because it was to be the last film he made before turning 30.

The result is an extremely mature work. *Our Family* features Ishii's trademark comical touches but also demonstrates his new mastery of gravitas as it limns the emotional journey of a four-member dysfunctional family facing a range of modern-day maladies, most crucially, its matriarch's diagnosis with a potentially fatal brain tumor. Rather than continuing to hurtle toward collapse, the family gradually begins to discover in each other unexpected sources of strength and ultimately, hope.



The FCCJ is home to Japan's only ongoing (free!) film series with English subtitles and filmmaker Q&A sessions.



Ishii and Tsumabuki share a laugh during the Q&A session.

Tsumabuki and Ikematsu, who convincingly portray the estranged brothers in the film, discussed their images of families at FCCJ, both agreeing that there's no such thing as the perfect one, and Tsumabuki stressed that communication is the most powerful tool to overcoming problems. When questioned about his recent appearances in a string of family dramas, he insisted that he hadn't planned it that way. All three men were curious about the overseas reception of the film when it seems to them so specifically Japanese — but FCCJ's audience clearly found it to be universal.



Nippon TV interviews French critic Aude Boyer after the screening.

*Our Family* has been selected for competition at the Montreal World Film Festival in August, marking its international debut. The festival is very Japanese-film friendly, having bestowed a range of awards on Japanese titles nearly every year, including the top prizes for *A Long Walk* (2006) and *Departures* (2008).

— Photos by Koichi Mori except where noted.



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## Media Coverage

- ‘Bokutachi no kazoku’, la sonrisa congelada
- Bokutachi no kazoku
- 妻夫木聡:外国人記者からのダメ出しに苦笑
- 日本の“家族”描く『ぼくたちの家族』海外上映に期待
- 妻夫木聡、“家族”描く映画続くも「たまたま」
- 妻夫木聡、家族は「永遠のテーマ」
- 妻夫木聡、池松壮亮、石井裕也監督が登壇
- 妻夫木聡、『ぼくたちの家族』出演は即決！
- 妻夫木聡、「そのままがいいと言ってくれるのが家族」
- 妻夫木聡、モントリオール世界映画祭に意欲！「世界の人も“家族”を感じて！！」
- 妻夫木聡が語る家族観「難しいけど、それがいい」
- 妻夫木聡、池松壮亮、石井裕也監督、モントリオールへの意気込みを語る
- 池松壮亮★情報局

2014年5月14日

- 『Oha 4 News Live』 日本テレビ
- 『ZIP! SHOWBIZ TODAY』 日本テレビ
- 『あさチャン! LIFE』 TBS
- 『めざましテレビ』 フジテレビ

2014年5月15日

- 『一夜づけ』 テレビ東京
  - 『スッキリ!! スッキリエンタメ』 日本テレビ
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