

Japanese Film Screening
Japan Foundation Multipurpose Room
Level 1 Chifley Plaza Sydney

Friday, 9th March 2012

6:30pm~8:30pm

Number of seats available: 90

RSVP:

Reception (02)8239 0055

reception@jpf.org.au

TITLE: Quartet! カルテット!

Producer: Yuri Takemura

Director: Junichi Mimura

Actors: Takasugi Mahiro

Hosokawa Shigeki

Tsuruta Mayu

Azuma Mikiyoshi

Yuki Saori



Background:

During March, Japan Foundation branches around the world are screening a number of documentaries and feature films to mark one year since last years quake and to show the fruits of the strong community spirit in Japan. This is the film selected for the Sydney branch .

Quartet! was mid production when the March 11 earthquake and tsunami hit Japan.

The town of Urayasu (Chiba Prefecture) was shaken heavily by the quake and its ongoing aftershocks.

Despite enormous grief and hardship, the production went on with the help of the Urayasu City community and hundreds of volunteers. It is amazing to think, when watching this film, that it was completed despite being produced during one of the worlds most devastating earthquakes on record.

Synopsis

Kai Nagae is a middle school student who lives in Urayasu, Chiba. Kai is a promising violinist. His music teacher Chihiro tells Kai to find his own sound early, but what is his own sound? Although Kai wants to concentrate on his music, he is unable to do so because of his family.

Kai's family is a musical family. His father Naoki plays the piano, his mother Hiromi plays the cello and his sister Misaki plays the flute. Naoki and Hiromi married back when they were college students majoring in music. To settle down as a couple they had to give up their hopes of becoming musicians. Also, Kai's sister Misaki has an inferiority complex. Kai seems to be naturally gifted with music and Misaki feels their parents ignore her talents. Because of this, Misaki is about to give up on music. Making matters worse, Naoki is laid off from work. The family feels like they are about to collapse at any moment. Hiromi now works in the fish market, while Naoki stays home.

One day, Kai comes home from school and hears the sound of the piano. Kai quietly walks towards the sound and then sees his father in front of the dust covered piano. Naoki is staring at an old family picture. Kai seeing his father in such a lonely state gets the impetus to do something about their family situation. The family will form a musical quartet!

Kai persuades the family members to take part in his idea and slowly they come around to the idea. Meanwhile, Takashi Kitahara is a friend of Hiromi and a rival of Naoki back in their university days. He is now a world renown musical conductor. Takashi visits Hiromi.

He also listens to Kai's music. After listening to Kai's music, Takashi makes a proposition to Hiromi.