

Presented by the Japan Information & Culture Center, Embassy of Japan  
and DC Anime Club



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# 5 Centimeters per Second & Voices of a Distant Star Friday, May 29 @ 6:30 pm

In this heart-wrenchingly beautiful tale, short-lived cherry blossoms echo the fleetingly frail nature of life, love and relationships. Named for the speed at which cherry blossom petals fall, *5 Centimeters per Second* follows a young boy named Takaki as he befriends, falls in love with, and slowly drifts away from his childhood friend. Despite their efforts to keep in touch through letters, time and distance take their toll, and they eventually lose contact. Will fate bring them together again, or will their star-crossed paths drift farther apart? Awarded Best Animated Feature Film at the 2007 Asia Pacific Screen Awards, Makoto Shinkai is one of the very rare film makers—even more so in the animation world—who understands that less can often be more, and that quiet moments often tell us more than any amount of action or dialogue.

Since the release of his first short film, *Voices of a Distant Star*, anime fans and critics alike have been hailing Shinkai as the next Hayao Miyazaki. As part of this special double feature, the JICC will also present this beautifully animated short created almost entirely by Shinkai on his home computer. It tells the story of young woman who joins the global resistance to defend the earth from an alien attack. Sent to the far reaches of the universe, she can only communicate with her love through cell phone text messages. As time goes on and the distance between them grows, the messages take longer to arrive. Can their love survive the passage of time and the brutal war?

Japanese with English Subtitles. 65 min, 2007/ 30 min, 2002. Directed by Shinkai Makoto.

This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and granted on a first come, first served basis. **Reservations required.**

Please send your name, affiliation, the number in your party, and the names of your guests, to: [Jiccrsvpspring09@embjapan.org](mailto:Jiccrsvpspring09@embjapan.org)

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