

J-Film Series June 2009  
Presented by the Japan Information & Culture Center, Embassy of Japan  
and the Japan Commerce Association of Washington DC



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Wednesday, June 17<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm

When a Tokyo-based symphony orchestra disbands, Daigo Kobayashi (Masahiro Motoki) suddenly finds himself unemployed. A devoted musician who has just spent a small fortune on a new cello, Daigo is crushed. Eager for a fresh start, he and his wife return to his hometown in the country where he decides to answer a *Help Wanted* ad for a job dealing with "Departures." Instead of a career in international travel, Daigo is shocked to learn that the job is actually for an "encoffineer," a ceremonial funeral professional who prepares deceased bodies before they are cremated. Too embarrassed to tell his wife about his unmentionable profession and admit that he has fallen in love with the townsfolk, Daigo tries in vain to keep his new life a secret. *Departures* follows his profound and sometimes comical journey as his work with death teaches him what life is really all about.

Winner of the Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film, *Departures* is an astonishingly beautiful look at a sacred part of Japan's cultural heritage. It offers a fascinating glimpse into a traditional ritual rarely seen. This is the perfect chance for those of you who missed the area's premiere screening at the Opening Night Gala of the DC International Film Festival!

Departures will be also opening at Washington, D.C.'s E Street Cinema on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup>.  
For show times and ticket info, please visit [their website](#).

Japanese with English subtitles. 131 min, 2009. Rated PG-13. Directed by Yojiro Takita.  
This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and will be 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 [jiccrsvpsummer09@embjapan.org](mailto:jiccrsvpsummer09@embjapan.org).

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