

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



©2007 “Megane” Company Photo by Yoko Takahashi

Megane

July, 22nd @ 6:30 pm

When uptight urbanite Taeko arrives on one of Japan’s tropical southern islands, she’s confronted by something almost unheard of in Tokyo—relaxation. For her, the whole idea is slightly unsettling. The laidback, bespectacled locals (*megane* means eyeglasses in Japanese), seem somewhat odd. The tiny inn she planned to stay at doesn’t quite meet her expectations, and it isn’t long before Taeko flees to the island’s only other lodging. Horrified to find it even stranger than the first, she returns in defeat to the carefree innkeeper and his eccentric circle of friends, where the soothing whisper of waves, the sweet delight of shaved ice and the local pastime of “twilighting” await. Slowly, Taeko succumbs to her hosts’ quirky charms and casual approach to being. Subtly sublime and utterly uplifting, *Megane* reminds us all to slow down and appreciate life’s simple pleasures.

Director Naoko Oigami established her meditative, intimate style of filmmaking early in her career. Part of a new generation of female Japanese directors, she scored a surprise box-office hit with *Kamome Diner*, which was also featured in the JICC’s J-Film Series. *Megane*, which reunites Oigami with the stars of that film, was selected for the World Cinema Dramatic Competition at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival. It also won a prize at this year’s Berlin International Film Festival for “broadening the boundaries of cinema today”. If you missed *Megane*’s local debut at the Washington, DC International Film Festival in April, this is the perfect chance to kick back and enjoy the show!

Japanese with English subtitles. 106 min, 2008. Rated PG-13. Directed by Naoko Oigami

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.

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