

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

Winds from Zero



© Screening and Planning Committee "Winds from Zero"

Wednesday, May 20th at 6:30 pm

Based on the heartbreaking true story of Kyoko Suzuki, whose 19 year old son was killed in a terrible hit-and-run accident, *Winds from Zero* is a tragic yet ultimately uplifting film about how even the most horrific events can bring about positive change. The film follows the grief-stricken mother as she learns that the maximum sentence the driver can receive is only five and a half years, despite his prior record of drunk driving. Determined to honor her son's memory and save the families of future victims from suffering the same pain, she embarks on a grassroots crusade for change.

Director Toshi Shioya first became interested in this, his fourth feature film, when he saw a TV program about the mother's entrance ceremony at the prestigious Waseda University. He wondered what a grown woman was doing among the young students, but when he discovered that she had enrolled in the place of her son, he decided to share her incredible story through film.

Mr. Shioya began his career as an actor, studying at the famous Neighborhood Playhouse School of Theatre in New York City. After being nominated as a Best Supporting Actor by the Australian Film Institute for his role in *Blood Oath* (1990) with Russell Crowe, he appeared in the American hit *Mr. Baseball* (1992) with Tom Selleck. In 1994 he established an actor's clinic and soon became involved in movie planning and production. Mr. Shioya made his directorial debut with *Private Moment* in 2001.

Japanese with English subtitles. 111 min, 2007. Directed by Toshi Shioya.

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

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