

SAMURAI WEEK IN WASHINGTON, D.C.
The 150th Anniversary of the First Japanese Diplomatic Mission to the U.S.

150 years ago, the world had yet to discover Japan, and the people of Japan had never seen America.

Japan Information & Culture Center, Embassy of Japan presents



Courtesy of Toho Co., Ltd.

In celebration of the centennial anniversary of his birth

AKIRA KUROSAWA'S
YOJIMBO

Wednesday, May 26th @ 6:30 pm

Japan's definitive leading man, Toshiro Mifune, wields a wit both sharper and deadlier than his sword in this action-packed, highly comedic classic by the master filmmaker, Akira Kurosawa. When a rambling, masterless samurai, Sanjuro (Toshiro Mifune), wanders into a town-turned-battlefield by two warring clans, the locals advise him to move on. But after displaying his formidable swordsmanship in a brawl with street thugs, Sanjuro offers his services to the highest bidder instead. With the ultimate goal of tricking the two equally despicable factions into destroying each other, Sanjuro's authority is challenged when one of the clan leaders' brothers comes to town wielding a modern contraption: a gun. In a classic final showdown, the old world samurai is pitted against new world technology, forced to use both his wits and physical prowess to survive.

Thanks to one of the most indelible characters in Akira Kurosawa's repertoire, *Yojimbo* surpassed even *Seven Samurai* in popularity when it was released. It was only a matter of time before its masterless samurai, so entertainingly embodied by the brilliant Toshiro Mifune, returned in the sequel *Sanjuro*. Mifune's outstanding performance, which won him the Best Actor award at the Venice Film Festival, combined with Kurosawa's expert direction and Kazuo Miyagawa's beautifully balanced photography, makes for one of the finest, and funniest, films in Japanese cinema.

To celebrate the centennial of one of the world's most influential filmmakers, AFI Silver will present a two-part, career-spanning retrospective of the films of Japanese filmmaker Akira Kurosawa (1910-1998). Part I will be from May 15 to June 21 and Part II from July 2 to September 9. For more information, visit <http://www.afi.com/silver>

Japanese with English subtitles. 75 min, 1961. Directed by Akira Kurosawa.
This event is free and open to the public. Seating is limited and granted on a first come, first served basis.
Doors close at 7:00 pm.

Reservations required. Only two (2) spaces can be reserved at a time. If you wish to reserve more spaces, please send additional email requests. Please send your name, affiliation, and the name of your guest to jiccrsvp@embjapan.org.

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