

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



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Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009 @ 6:30 pm

"In this fleeting life, why can't people escape from the fighting, the pain and suffering of disease and death? I want you to find a way..."

This historical epic tells the story of Dogen (1200-1253), the founder of the Soto school of Zen Buddhism considered to be the most important religious figure of his time. He was only eight years old when his mother died, but her final words set him on a path that would change the faith of a nation. Born into the troubled times of Kamakura Era Japan, Dogen's search for enlightenment led him on a dangerous journey to study in China. After finally attaining spiritual fulfillment, Dogen returned to Japan determined to bring peace and hope to his fellow countrymen struggling to survive in the ruins of poverty, war, and the suffering that seems to afflict us all.

The concept of Zen established by Dogen 750 years ago continues to permeate our daily lives, not only in Japan, but around the globe. In a world that continues to be plagued by crisis and confusion, this timely inspirational story could not be more relevant.

Following on the heels of its January 10th release in Japan, this will be the film's first international screening. Celebrated *kabuki* actor Kantaro Nakamura, the eldest son of the 18th generation Kanzaburo Nakamura who performed with the Heisei Nakamura Kabuki troupe at the Warner Theater in 2007, gives a stirring performance as Dogen certain to inspire us all with hope for the New Year.

Due to some mature content, this film may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Japanese with English subtitles. 127 minutes, 2009. Directed by Banmei Takahashi
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: Jiccrsvpwinter09@embjapan.org

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