

Japanese Course on a Cultural Theme

Exploring Japanese language and culture - J-movie "Departures"

The Japan Foundation, Sydney together with the Department of Education WA is offering a special Japanese language and cultural workshop based on the Academy Award-winning film *Departures*.

Departures follows Daigo Kobayashi (Masahiro Motoki), a devoted cellist in an orchestra that has just been dissolved leaving him without a job. Daigo decides to move back to his old hometown with his wife to look for work and start over. He answers a classified ad entitled "Departures" thinking it is an advertisement for a travel agency only to discover that the job is actually for a "Nokanshi" or "encoffineer," a funeral professional who prepares deceased bodies for burial and entry into the next life. While his wife and others despise the job, Daigo takes a certain pride in his work and begins to perfect the art of "Nokanshi," acting as a gentle gatekeeper between life and death, between the departed and the family of the departed. The film follows his profound and sometimes comical journey with death as he uncovers the wonder, joy and meaning of life and living.



The workshop, conducted by Ms. Mari Nobuoka and featuring professional actor, Mr. Shingo Usami, will introduce participants to the themes and characters of the film and how such materials can be used for teaching and learning

purposes. The session aims to use principals of intercultural language learning to deepen participants' understanding of the etiquette associated with attending a Japanese funeral.

This workshop will be presented predominantly in Japanese and is targeted towards language teachers and advanced students.

This free seminar will be held at Hyogo Cultural Centre on **Tuesday, June 14th from 4pm until 6pm**. If you are interested in attending, please contact us at hyogoprogram@iinet.net.au or on 9385 9002.



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