

Ambassador's greetings – Japanese Film Festival

5 October 2025

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I am Satoshi Iwasaki, the Ambassador of Japan to Cyprus. Thank you all for joining us at our Japanese Film Festival, which marks the 7th anniversary of this event. It is my pleasure to welcome you all tonight.

Since the establishment of the Japanese Embassy in Cyprus in 2018, we have dedicated ourselves to enhancing the ties between our two nations, especially by promoting mutual understanding through cultural events like this film festival. Many Japanese films reflect Japanese culture and everyday life, and I hope that you will feel a sense of our culture through these screenings.

We are going to present four screenings of Japanese films this month. Two will take place here at the Pantheon Theatre, and the other two will be at Rio Cinema in Limassol. Tonight, we will show "Love at Least", a romance film first released in Japan in 2018.

The film explores the lives of a couple navigating a complex society, seeking moments to understand and feel love for one another. A young woman, Yasuko suffers from depression and bipolar disorder, which have also led to a sleeping disorder. This keeps her in bed most of the time and has turned her into a social recluse.

She lives with a young man Tsunaki, who is in charge of gossip articles at a publishing house, though his dream was to be a novelist. He finds his work empty, which leaves him unmotivated and unsure of what to do with his life.

“Love at Least” tackles a profound theme, presenting a narrative where there are no absolute rights and wrongs.

While Japanese culture is often associated with pop culture such as manga and anime, this film presents a different side of Japan, highlighting the challenges of living without complete understanding— a sentiment that I believe resonates globally.

I hope you find "Love at Least" both thought-provoking and engaging, and I look forward to welcoming you to our next screenings. Thank you once again for being here tonight.