

Press Release
January 2012

The Japan Foundation
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The Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme 2012

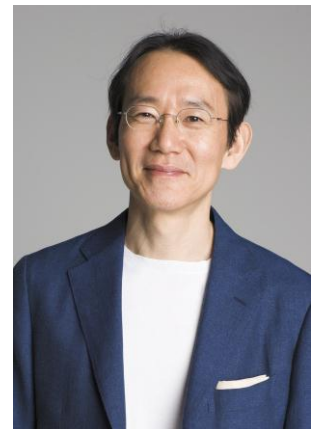
Whose Film Is It Anyway?

A Season of Japanese Films by Contemporary Japanese Auteurs

10 February – 28 March 2012: 7 venues in 7 cities in the UK

Director Masayuki Suo visiting the UK

Internationally acclaimed **Masayuki Suo** is one of Japan's leading directors, with an impressive and wide-ranging oeuvre of films including the award-winning *Shall We Dance?*, which went on to inspire that well-known American remake of the same name starring Richard Gere and Jennifer Lopez. He may not be a prolific filmmaker, but Suo is meticulous; renowned for the way in which he nurtures each film, being intimately involved with the creative process from script to print.



Suo's acclaimed 2006 feature *I Just Didn't Do It* forms part of this year's **Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme**, and Suo has been invited to the UK by the Japan Foundation to be present at ICA screenings of his films.

Suo will also talk about his career and his approach to filmmaking at Japan Foundation, prior to the screening of his work at ICA.

During his trip to the UK, Suo will be involved in the following events:

Q&A SESSIONS: After screenings at the ICA

I Just Didn't Do It screenings: 11th February 3:30pm ; 12 February 4:00pm

Box Office: 020 7930 3647 / www.ica.org.uk

TALK EVENT: 9th February 2012 - Masayuki Suo in conversation with Jasper Sharp

Venue: The Japan Foundation, Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, London WC1B 5EH

Time: 6:30pm, entry free – booking essential event@jpf.org.uk

The Japan Foundation

The Japan Foundation was established in 1972 by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and became an Independent Administrative Institution in 2003. We promote international cultural exchange between Japan and the rest of the world, and provide financial support for a range of international cultural exchange programmes. Our activities are financed by annual subsidies from the Japanese government, capital gains accrued from the management of our original endowment fund, and contributions and donations from the private sector.

We work principally in the fields of Arts and Culture, in Japanese language education and in Japanese studies. The Foundation's activities are coordinated through our headquarters in Tokyo as well as through our offices, language centres and cultural centres in over 20 countries outside of Japan.

The Japan Foundation London is the Foundation's only office in the UK, and one of the first overseas offices to be established, opening in 1972, and gaining a language centre in 1997.

The Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme

The Japan Foundation Touring Film Programme was founded in 2004, and is organised by the Japan Foundation.

- Director **Masayuki Suo** is perhaps best known for his two Japan Academy Prize-winning films, *Sumo Do, Sumo Don't* (1992) and *Shall We Dance* (1996). Included in this programme is the film *I Just Didn't Do It* (2006), which has won multiple awards including Best Director at Yokohama Film Festival 2008.

Useful links:

- Japan Foundation Film Website: <http://www.jpf-film.org.uk/>
- Japan Foundation Website: <http://www.jpf.org.uk/>

The film season is produced and organised by The Japan Foundation, and supported by the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation.

For more information and images please contact:

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End of notes