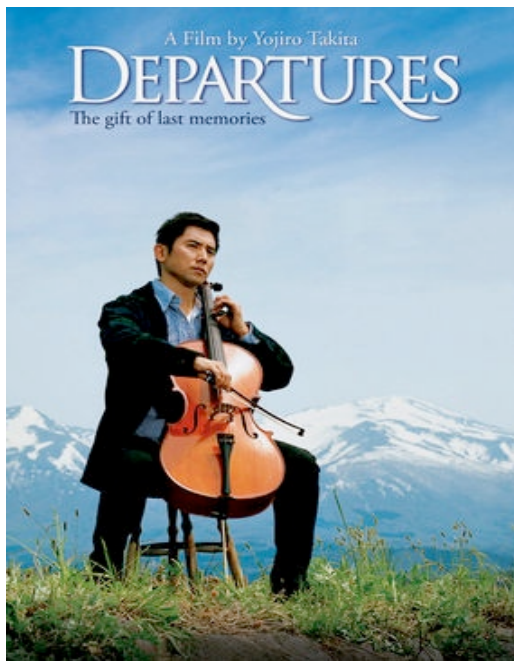


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For immediate release

UTSA's East Asia Institute Presents – Asian Film Series “Departures”



October 20, 2012 – The East Asia Institute (EAI) will host “The Departures,” a public screening from 2:00-4:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 11, 2012 in the Main Building room 0.106 on UTSA's Main Campus as part of the East Asian Film Series. This film viewing is made possible by the generous support of the The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership. The event is free and open to the public.

A panel discussion will follow the film on “Buddhism and Japanese burial rituals” as well as contemporary Japanese society and culture in general. Panelists will include Japan specialists from the San Antonio community and students from Japan who are studying at UTSA. Commentary will also be provided by Mimi Yu, Assistant Director of the East Asia Institute.

The film follows Daigo Kobayashi, played by Motoki Masahiro, a Tokyo-based cellist whose orchestra is suddenly disbanded. Returning to his hometown with his wife, Daigo finds employment, not knowing he ends up taking a job preparing the “departed”, or the dead, in funerals. Daigo struggles with his own and that of the Japanese society's cultural taboos on death as well as confronting the past he left behind long ago.

UTSA East Asia Institute's mission is to promote appreciation and understanding of East Asian societies and cultures both on campus and in the community through research, outreach, networking, education, student/faculty exchange, and business development and cooperation. The East Asia Institute organizes seminars, workshops, lectures, conferences, film festivals, visual art exhibitions as well as hosting performing arts groups from China, Japan, Korea, and other Asian nations. It also encourages faculty research collaborations both within UTSA and with participating East Asian university researchers.

The Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership's mission is to promote collaboration between Japan and the United States with the goal of fulfilling shared global responsibilities and contributing to improvements in the world's welfare. In addition, the CGP strives to enhance dialogue and interchange between Japanese and US citizens on a wide range of issues, thereby improving bilateral relations.

For more information on this event, please contact the East Asia Institute at 210.458.4943, eai@utsa.edu, or see the EAI's homepage at <http://www.utsa.edu/ea>.