



For Immediate Release
Friday, March 27, 2009

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**THE WASHINGTON, DC INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
LAUNCHES ITS 23RD YEAR FEATURING OVER
80 WASHINGTON, DC PREMIERES
OF INTERNATIONAL CINEMA
APRIL 16 - APRIL 26, 2009**

**HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE NEW FEATURES
FROM JAPAN AND EASTERN EUROPE**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The **23rd annual Washington, DC International Film Festival** (Filmfest DC) commences **April 16 and runs through April 26**, bringing the best in new international cinema to the Nation's Capital. The festival will feature over **80 films** from around the world including spotlights on **New Japanese Cinema** and **Eastern European Films**. Other selections will include **Global Rhythms, Views from the News, World View**, and **free programs and panels**.

The festival includes DC premieres, international festival headliners and award winners, Official Foreign Language Film Oscar® Selections, local productions and a strand of films with topics unique to the Washington, D.C. region.

The **Opening Night Gala** features the Washington, DC Premiere of the powerful and moving film **DEPARTURES** - the first Japanese entry to win the best foreign film Oscar since the 1950's – and will be held at the new **Harman Center for the Arts** followed by a gala champagne and dessert reception. The **Master of Ceremonies** is the respected and well loved local television film critic, **Arch Campbell**.

The **Closing Night** film is the soulful and funny Italian film, **WE CAN DO THAT** with **special guest, Director Giulio Manfredonia**. The screening will be held at Regal Cinemas Gallery Place followed by a party at Bar Louie.

The Slate Press Release complete with highlights and special guests will be issued April 3rd. High Resolution photos are available on the website under press materials.

Tickets go on sale in early April. Most tickets are priced at \$10.00, unless otherwise noted. Tickets are available through Tickets.com and online at www.tickets.com. Tickets may also be purchased at the theater on the day of the show one hour before the first screening of the day.

Filmfest DC's 24-page catalog will be distributed through [The Washington Post](#) on Friday, April 10. Two centerfold ads will appear in the [Washington City Paper](#) on April 3rd and 17th. **For more information, please visit www.filmfestdc.org or call 202-234-FILM.**

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