

Tokyo Film Festival to Open with Prisoner of War Drama, Fragments of the Last Will

By: [Gautaman Bhaskaran](#)[News18.com](#)

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Tokyo



Japanese prisoner of war drama, Fragments of the Last Will, will open the first in-person edition of the Tokyo International Film Festival after the Covid pandemic.

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Fragments Of The Last Will is based on the true story of Hatao Yamamoto, a Japanese prisoner of war detained in a post-Second World War Siberian gulag.

In what will be the first full-fledged in-person edition after the Covid pandemic of the Tokyo International Film Festival, Takahisa Zeze's Japanese prisoner of war drama, Fragments of the Last Will, will herald the 10-day event from October 24.

Fragments Of The Last Will is based on the true story of Hatao Yamamoto, a Japanese prisoner of war detained in a post-Second [World](#) War Siberian gulag. Yamamoto believed that he would be able to reunite with his wife and children in Japan and fought to keep hopes alive for his fellow POWs as well.

The cast is led by Kazunari Ninomiya and includes Keiko Kitagawa, Tori Matsuzaka, Kento Nakajima, Akira Terao, Kenta Kiritani and Ken Yasuda. It will release theatrically in Japan on December 9 through Toho, one of the leading movie production houses in Japan.

Shozo Ichiyama, the Festival's Programming Director, said Fragments of the Last Will "exceeds the scale of ordinary Japanese films and I found the story profoundly moving."

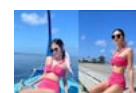
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Zeze once made "Pinku" movies (soft pornography), but later shifted to a wide range of different genres, including science fiction. One of the best here was Strayer's Chronicle and two-part suspense mystery 64. His drama Heaven's Story won the Fipresci Prize at the Berlinale in 2011 while The Lowlife explored the lives of three women working in Japan's porn industry and played in Competition at Tokyo in 2017.

The Festival – which shifted its main venues from the Roppongi Hills to the plush, upmarket and happening district of Ginza (with its swanky boutiques and restaurants offering delectable cuisine) — will close with Oliver Hermanus's UK drama Living, starring Bill Nighy, an adaptation of Akira Kurosawa's 1952 Japanese drama Ikiru. The screenplay has been revised by Kazuo Ishiguro, whose credits include Remains of the Day and Never Let Me Go.

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Produced by UK's Number 9 Films, it premiered at Sundance in January and has since been selected for Venice, Toronto, San Sebastian, Telluride, London and Zurich Film Festivals.

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About the Author

GAUTAMAN BHASKARAN Gautaman Bhaskaran is a movie critic, commentator and an author, who penned the first ever biography of Adoor Gopalakrishnan, and has been covering ma...[Read More](#)

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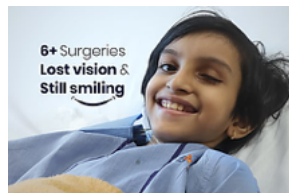
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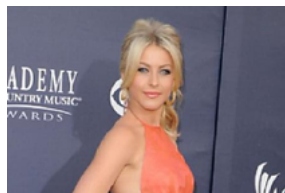
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