

Statement by Ambassador Ishikawa Hiroshi at
Japanese Film Festival Opening Ceremony

1 October 2025

Ms Yvonne Tang, Assistant Chief Executive, Media Industry Group of Infocomm Media Development Authority,

Mr Kenneth Tan, Chairman of the Singapore Film Society,

Ms Hayakawa Chie, Director of Renoir,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good evening. It is my pleasure to welcome you to the opening ceremony of the Japanese Film Festival 2025 and the Singapore premiere of Renoir.

The Japanese Film Festival has been held in Singapore since 1983. As we open the 42nd edition this year, we are reminded that a film festival is more than watching films. It is about the stories we experience together, the feelings they evoke, and the connections they create. Over the past four decades, our Film Festival has grown into a familiar part of the cultural exchange between Singapore and Japan. It is also a testament to our friendships and partnerships that we continue to build through the art of storytelling.

This year, we are honoured to open with the film Renoir, directed by Ms Hayakawa Chie, who is with us tonight. The film is an international co-production involving Japan, Singapore, France, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Qatar. It reflects the power of film to bring people and countries together. The work also shows the growing partnership between Japan and Singapore in the creative field, with strong contributions from Singaporean talents.

I would like to thank Ms Yvonne Tang, Assistant Chief Executive of IMDA, for joining us as our Guest of Honour tonight. The production of Renoir would not have been possible without the support of IMDA, and we

are grateful for that cooperation. I also thank the Singaporean professionals who worked on the film. Their efforts are a vital part of its success.

I want to express my appreciation to our long-time partners. The Singapore Film Society, under the leadership of Mr Kenneth Tan, has been with us from the beginning. Without their dedication, the Japanese Film Festival in Singapore would not have been what it is today. The Japan Foundation has also been indispensable, making this festival part of a wider network of Japanese Film Festivals around the world.

Our thanks also go to Golden Village, our venue partner, for hosting us in this hall tonight. I also thank the Asian Film Archive for presenting classic Japanese films at Oldham Theatre, Japan Airlines for making Ms Hayakawa's visit possible, and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Singapore for their continued support.

Finally, I thank all of you, our audience. Your interest in Japanese cinema and culture is the reason this festival continues.

As we begin our 42nd Japanese Film Festival, I invite you to enjoy the films and the experiences they bring. May this festival once again remind us of the stories, emotions, and friendships that connect us.

Thank you, and please enjoy the screening.