

The Ozu Diaries

P R E S S K I T

Directed by Daniel Raim

137 minutes | 2025 | Japanese, English, Chinese, and French with English subtitles



For more information, contact Producer [Yuki Machida](#)

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D I S T R I B U T I O N

North America The Criterion Collection / Janus Films

North America TV Turner Classic Movies (TCM)

France Carlotta Films

Spain A Contracorriente Films

South Korea 영화사 진진 (Jinjin Pictures)

Japan Shochiku (Fall 2026)

C O N T A C T S

World Sales — Shochiku Co., Ltd.

Festival Inquiries — [Kathy Susca](#)

Press Inquiries — [Yuki Machida](#)

Booking — [The Film Collaborative](#)

F E S T I V A L S E L E C T I O N S

Venice International Film Festival — World Premiere
Busan International Film Festival — Asian Premiere
AFI Fest — North American Premiere
Tokyo International Film Festival — Japan Premiere
Rio de Janeiro International Film Festival — South American Premiere
Taipei Golden Horse Film Festival — Taiwan Premiere
To Save and Project: MoMA International Festival of Film Preservation — New York Premiere
Sant Jordi Barcelona Film Festival — Spain Premiere
Santa Barbara International Film Festival

C R I T I C A L P R A I S E

“A portrait of astonishing depth and tenderness.”

— Josh Siegel, Curator, MoMA

“The Ozu Diaries can be regarded as the definitive documentary about Ozu’s life and work. At last, Yasujiro Ozu receives the comprehensive and poetic cinematic portrait he deserves.”

— Ritter Fan, Plano Crítico

“A film to be savored patiently, much like Ozu’s own masterpieces.”

— Marco Fialho, Cinefialho

“The Ozu Diaries is a true labor of love, faithful to Godard’s statement that ‘editing is the resurrection of life.’”

— Marcella Leonardi, Nubi Fluttuanti

A B O U T T H E F I L M

THE OZU DIARIES, from Academy Award®-nominated filmmaker Daniel Raim, offers both an intimate biography and revelatory portrait of Japanese master Yasujiro Ozu, one of cinema’s most original and enduring auteurs.

Drawing from a treasure trove of archival materials — journals, notebooks, correspondence, photographs, interviews and unseen home movies — the film opens a rare window into Ozu’s inner world and artistic process. With Ozu’s own words as guide, and enriched by reflections from filmmakers Wim Wenders, Kiyoshi Kurosawa, Tsai Ming-liang, Luc Dardenne and others, Raim traces how Ozu transformed personal loss and wartime trauma into enduring masterpieces such as *LATE SPRING*, *TOKYO STORY* and *AN AUTUMN AFTERNOON*.

His precise, deceptively simple stories and signature visual style became a vehicle for poetic, humanist explorations of family, love and impermanence. Deeply rooted in Japanese culture yet universally resonant, Ozu’s work continues to shape our understanding of cinema’s possibilities.

D I R E C T O R ’ S S T A T E M E N T

Ozu’s films didn’t come easily to me at first. But his poetic portraits of family life and loneliness lingered. *An Autumn Afternoon* became the gateway, not through plot or drama, but through presence. As Kiyoshi Kurosawa says in this documentary, “Watching Ozu for the first time, I felt I was glimpsing the very secret of cinema itself.”

In 2017, while making a short film for The Criterion Collection titled *In Search of Ozu*, I sensed a deeper story waiting to be told: the human being behind the films.

The most challenging part was confronting Ozu’s wartime experience. His diaries from that period and postwar interviews reveal a rupture—a profound loss. As Masasumi Tanaka wrote, “Ozu survived the war. But we cannot deny that his humanity was in crisis.” And yet, in the decades that followed, he created some of the most tender, humorous, formally playful, and emotionally resonant films in cinema. This documentary is told largely in Ozu’s own words. It’s an attempt to sit with him across time—to understand his pain, his joy, his contradictions, and his singular way of seeing the world.

— Daniel Raim

D I R E C T O R ' S B I O G R A P H Y

American documentary filmmaker Daniel Raim is an Academy Award–nominated director and AFI alumnus based in Los Angeles. His documentaries illuminate the artistry behind cinema's greatest masters and unsung heroes. Celebrated for their emotional depth and rare archival discoveries, his films have been praised by *Filmmaker Magazine* as "richly complex and powerfully moving."

Raim first gained recognition with *The Man on Lincoln's Nose*, which earned an Academy Award nomination for its portrait of legendary production designer Robert F. Boyle. He later directed *Something's Gonna Live*, an acclaimed tribute to the production designers and cinematographers who shaped the visual language of classic Hollywood. In 2015, his documentary *Harold and Lillian: A Hollywood Love Story* premiered at the Cannes Film Festival and was nominated for the Golden Eye (L'Œil d'Or). A *New York Times* Critics' Pick, the film became an international theatrical release and later aired on TCM. A Broadway musical adaptation is currently in development.

Raim has produced and directed more than thirty documentaries for the Criterion Collection, and his features include *Image Makers: The Adventures of America's Pioneer Cinematographers* (2019) and *Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen* (2022). His latest film, *The Ozu Diaries* — produced in collaboration with Shochiku and TCM — premiered at the Venice International Film Festival.

More information: www.danielraim.com



C R E D I T S

Written, Directed & Edited by: Daniel Raim
Produced by: Yuki Machida, Daniel Raim
Director of Photography: Koichi Furuya
Original Music: Dave Lebolt
Executive Producers: Matthew & Natalie Bernstein, Hiromi Fujii, Charlie Tabesh, Eric Nyari

F E A T U R I N G

Kiyoshi Kurosawa
Wim Wenders
Luc Dardenne
Isao Shirosawa
Michiko Yamanouchi
Tsai Ming-liang
Kyoko Kagawa
Akiko Ozu
Shizuo Yamanouchi

V O I C E S

Yasujiro Ozu — Koi Ohori
Shiro Kido & others — Rin Takagi
Kinuyo Tanaka & Asae Ozu — Kie Nakai

A R C H I V I S T S

Yukiko Wachi, Kazuhiro Odashima, Hidenori Okada

With support from

Kawakita Memorial Film Institute · Kamakura Museum of Literature · National Film Archive of Japan

M A D E I N A S S O C I A T I O N W I T H

Turner Classic Movies (TCM) · Shochiku · Office OZU



BEHIND THE SCENES

*Filming Ozu's diaries at the Kamakura Museum of Literature
with Akiko Ozu (Yasujiro Ozu's niece)*



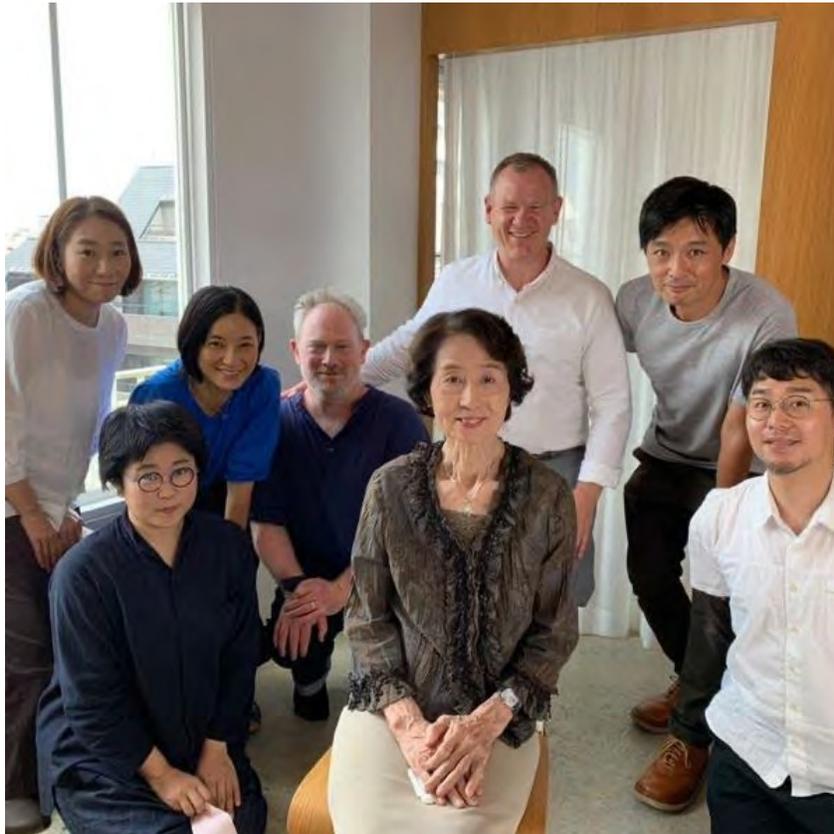
BEHIND THE SCENES

An insightful interview with master filmmaker Wim Wenders (WINGS OF DESIRE, PERFECT DAYS), reflecting on Yasujiro Ozu's enduring legacy.



BEHIND THE SCENES

Director Daniel Raim and producer Yuki Machida in conversation with filmmaker Kiyoshi Kurosawa (CURE, TOKYO SONATA), reflecting on Yasujiro Ozu's postwar filmography.



B E H I N D T H E S C E N E S

From left to right (top row): Hiromi Fujii (Shochiku Executive), Yuki Machida (producer), Daniel Raim (director/producer), Matt Severson (creative consultant), Koichi Furuya (cinematographer). (Bottom row) Yukiko Wachi (Head archivist, Kawakita Memorial Film Archive), Kyoko Kagawa (actress, “Tokyo Story”), and Takuya Kawakami (sound recordist).



Turner Classic Movies Acquires ‘The Ozu Diaries’ Documentary (Exclusive)

Directed by Oscar-nominated filmmaker Daniel Raim and produced in cooperation with the Yasujiro Ozu estate, the forthcoming film is described as a moving meditation on the life and ideas of the Japanese cinematic master.

NEWS

Shochiku boards Venice doc 'The Ozu Diaries', lands key sales including North America

BY MATT SCHLEY | 6 FEBRUARY 2026



SOURCE: ADAMA FILMS / SHOCHIKU
'THE OZU DIARIES'

S C R E E N D A I L Y

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