

***The Ozu Diaries* – Press Kit**

Running Time: 140 minutes

Languages: Japanese, English, Mandarin, French

Country: USA

Official Selection:

82nd Venice International Film Festival

30th BUSAN International Film Festival

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

[View & Download Stills](#)

Synopsis

THE OZU DIARIES, directed by Academy Award-nominated filmmaker Daniel Raim, is an Official Selection of the 82nd Venice International Film Festival. This cinematic journey explores the inner world of Japanese master filmmaker Yasujiro Ozu, drawing from his private diaries, wartime notebooks, letters, interviews, photographs, and never-before-seen home movies. Through Ozu's own words, combined with reflections from Kyoko Kagawa, Wim Wenders, Kiyoshi Kurosawa, Tsai Ming-liang, and Luc Dardenne, the film traces how Ozu transformed personal loss and wartime trauma into enduring masterpieces such as *Early Summer*, *Tokyo Story*, and *An Autumn Afternoon*.

Director's Statement

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 and interviews from that period 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.

Director's Biography

American documentary filmmaker Daniel Raim is an Academy Award-nominated director and AFI alumnus based in Los Angeles. His work shines a light on the artistry of cinema's masters and unsung heroes, blending emotional depth with rare archival treasures. Raim's debut, *The Man on Lincoln's Nose* (2000), earned an Academy Award nomination for its portrait of Hitchcock's production designer Robert F. Boyle. He went on to direct *Harold and Lillian: A Hollywood Love Story* (Cannes, 2015), distributed worldwide and now being developed for Broadway. Raim has created over thirty documentaries for the Criterion Collection, and his later features include *Image Makers* (2019) and *Fiddler's Journey to the Big Screen* (2022). His latest film, *The Ozu Diaries*, was produced in association with Shochiku and TCM.

More information: www.danielraim.com

Crew

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

Featuring

Kiyoshi Kurosawa

Wim Wenders

Luc Dardenne

Isao Shirosawa

Tsai Ming-liang

Kyoko Kagawa

Akiko Ozu

Shizuo Yamanouchi

Voices

Yasujiro Ozu – Koi Ohori

Shiro Kido & others – Rin Takagi

Kinuyo Tanaka & Asae Ozu – Kie Nakai

Archivists

Yukiko Wachi, Kazuhiro Odashima, Hidenori Okada

With support from Kawakita Memorial Film Institute, Kamakura Museum of Literature,
National Film Archive of Japan

Made in Association With

Turner Classic Movies (TCM)

Shochiku

Office OZU



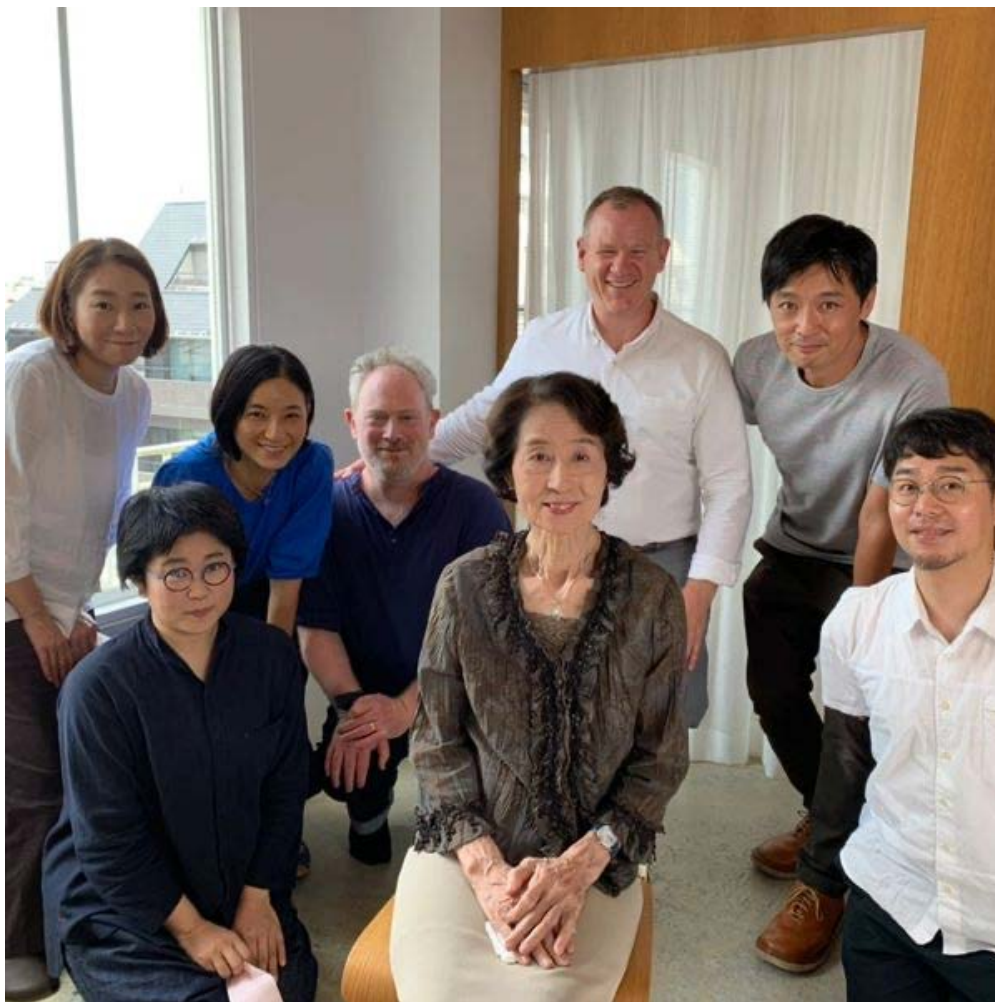
BEHIND THE SCENES

Filming the 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

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 from the 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT IN THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE](#)