

Junichi Kajioka

(writer, director and producer)

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Junichi Kajioka is an award-winning Japanese film-maker and actor based in London. He started his career in Tokyo appearing in popular TV series in the early 90s and then went to China to study acting. He was one of the pioneer Japanese actors who went to China to study drama and to work in the Chinese Film and TV industry.

Junichi's first professional film appearance came in Jiang Wen's Cannes 2000 award winning film DEVILS ON THE DOORSTEP in China where he had been studying acting at the Central Academy of Drama. He has also played various Japanese historical figures in Central Chinese Television (CCTV) drama series in leading roles.

He now resides in London and actively works both behind and in front of the camera in the international film industry. Notable projects include Universal Pictures' 47 RONIN, and SPECTRE BOND 24. He is due to appear in Mark Stirton's Scottish thriller DARK HIGHLANDS in the leading role.

He won Best Supporting Actor awards for British feature film TAKING STOCK in the USA and Monaco. He was also nominated for Best Actor for his roles in KING OF LIFE and PHONE BOX at film festivals in the UK and India. Further successes followed and he won awards for his first directorial film IMPHAL 1944 - winning Best Producer and Best Screenplay for Short Drama at the Monaco International Film Festival.

He is currently making his third film called Soseki and Me. This short documentary is about Soseki Natsume, who was born 150 years ago. He was a Japanese novelist and lived in London in 1900. He influenced Japanese literature after his return from London. The story will be told through the eyes of Mr. Ikuo Tunematsu, who ran the Soseki Museum in London for over 30 years.

Junichi has a passion for discovering and telling little known stories to the world, especially those connected with Japanese and British relations. He also believes people can promote peace and cultural exchange through filmmaking.