

TWO WONDERFUL JAPANESE MOVIES TO BE SHOWN IN TORRANCE

Mikko Haggott Henson has announced that her Japanese Traditional Performing Arts Organization will be presenting two wonderful Japanese movies at the Torrance James Armstrong Theatre on Sunday, February 3, 2008.

The feature film: *FUDEKO & THE ANGELS' PIANO* (with English subtitles) is an inspiring true story of a remarkable woman who dedicated her life to establishing care and education for children with developmental disabilities in Japan 100 years ago. Fudeko was born as a daughter of a baron and studied in France. She spoke three languages. She was born both beautiful and intelligent. American President Ulysses Grant praised her as the most intelligent woman in the country on his visit to Japan in 1879. Her life changed when she found out that her daughter had intellectual disabilities. Her dramatic life is portrayed by the very popular Japanese actress Takako Tokiwa. Many children with developmental disabilities were cast in this movie which adds to the interest and creates a charming authenticity.



This was a prize-winning movie in Japan in 2006. It premiered on Nov. 18, 2007 at the Japan America Theatre in LA and 1200 persons attended raising over \$10,000 for the Little Tokyo Service Center.

The second film is titled: *"THANK YOU, DADDY ISHII"* (with English subtitles) This is a miraculous true story of a man who became father to 3,000 orphans 100 years ago in Japan. This is a testimonial of how Christianity in Japan changed the society through one man.

The Ishii movie shows first on February 3, starting at 11:20 AM. The cost of the Ishii movie is \$10. The Fudeko movie starts at 2:30 PM and the admission for this movie is \$15. If you want to see both movies, it will be a donation of \$25. Proceeds from these screenings will benefit the Switzer Learning Center located in Torrance. They specialize in special education. Call Mikko for more information (310) 378-3550

FULFILLING THE PROMISE OF AMERICA - Celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988

Message from Senator Daniel Inouye



Today, as I consider the significance of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, I first reflect on the important moment when President Reagan signed the bill into law on August 10, 1988. At that moment, it had been more than 46 years since President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, leading to the displacement of thousands of people of Japanese ancestry and their unconstitutional imprisonment by the U.S. government.

In so many of these individuals, treated unfairly solely because of their ethnic origin, there was a remarkable spirit, an incredible determination, and an unshakable belief that they, too, were Americans. We saw this in the actions of Japanese American soldiers who volunteered from behind barbed wire and gave their lives in hopes that their families, held prisoner by their own government, would one day share the promise of America. I have said before – and it bears repeating – that I have often asked myself if I would have volunteered for military service under these circumstances, and in all honesty, I cannot give you a forthright answer.

So when President Reagan authorized an official apology and token reparations to thousands of persons of Japanese ancestry, it was our government's belated acknowledgment that what had been done during World War II was wrong and that the spirit held by so many Japanese Americans at the time had been vindicated. As I said back in 1988, Americans of Japanese ancestry now know in their hearts that the letter and the spirit of our Constitution hold true for them.

Today there are similar challenges facing our government and our country. We would be wise to look back at the historical importance of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and what it means to our Constitution and to all Americans. The passage of this law required the dedication and hard work of thousands of individuals. It required that individuals with no direct or political interest understand its relevance to our way of life., and it required that they do what was right. In challenging times like today, such an example is one that we should strive to emulate. If we do, Americans will once again show the world and ourselves that the United States is truly a great country.