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The eighth month of the 19th
year of the Heisei period.

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(Hazuki)

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E-mail: OkayamaInsider@hotmail.co.jp

The eighth month is the "leaves month",
but it doesn't correspond with autumn!

Hit Movie Series Nisshi (Part 18)

Tsuribaka

filmed in Okayama

by Noriko Ehara

"*Tsuribaka Nisshi*" (釣りバカ日誌: roughly translated as the Diaries of a Fishing Addict) is one of the most popular movie series ever made in Japan. The series first screened in 1988 and 2007 marks the 20th anniversary since production began.

The 20th anniversary installment, episode 18, was filmed in Okayama in May this year and will be shown at Toho Cinemas Konan, Okayama Merpa, and Movix Kurashiki from August 25th. Screening in other prefectures begins a week later on September 8th.

Okayama Prefecture jumped at the opportunity to support the film, which features many of Okayama's best maritime scenery. Masahiro Ishii, the governor of Okayama Prefecture even makes a cameo appearance as a local fisherman in the film.

Why is the *Tsuribaka* series so popular in Japan? Some say it captures the hearts and minds of Japanese people. We cannot stop loving "*Hamachan*", the lead character. It is a must-see movie if you are at all interested in Japanese cinema, culture or of course fishing!

The lead character, Densuke Hamasaki, affectionately known as "*Hamachan*" (on the right



in the photo) is played by actor Toshiyuki Nishida. The whole premise of the *Tsuribaka* series is the life of the cheerful fishing addict, *Hamachan*, and his family, friends, colleagues, and a guest heroine.

Hamachan is fishing crazy, thinking about his next fishing trip all the time. His priorities are family first, fishing a close second, and his work a distant third.

Hamachan's morals and love for his wife and family are rock-solid, and he is always honest to everyone. He cannot

say "No" if anyone asks him for help.

Hamachan has a special relationship with the president of his company, Mr. Suzuki, known as "*Su-san*" (on the left in the photo). At work they are *Hamachan* the salaryman, and *Su-san* the CEO. At work, they keep their friendship a secret, but on the ocean, *Hamachan* is the teacher and *Su-san* is the eager student.

In the part 18, *Su-san* goes missing after he messes up an important speech. *Hamachan* tries to find him in Okayama. But when *Hamachan* sees the Seto Inland Sea, he cannot control his passion for fishing.....