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Tanaka-san Will Not Do Callisthenics

some reviews

Doug Anderson [Sydney Morning Herald 9 March 2010]

The revised corporate mindset demanded unswerving loyalty that amounted to submission. Tanaka said no, refusing to participate in compulsory calisthenics. He argued against other stupid company policies and stood up for unfairly dismissed workers. The firm responded by ordering his transfer to a distant regional facility. Again Tanaka said no and was sacked. For almost 25 years he has mounted a vigil outside the factory gates, demonstrating his individuality as an inspiration to others whose right to democracy within the workplace is being compromised. One determined man can make a difference.

Daniel Bloom [TVFIX 7 March 2010]

What makes this doco compelling viewing isn't really the fact that one man has decided to challenge the status-quo in a country known for its strict and conservative ways. What's more important is the journey into the human soul and how one man has never given up (despite the fact that he's fighting an insurmountable battle). If there's one thing we can learn from his battle it is simply this: the human soul is a mighty tool when utilised to its full potential.

The week's best TV: Kerrie Murphy [Australian 6 March 2010]

Tanaka Tetsuro was an engineer at Tokyo's Oki Denko until he refused to participate in the company's mandatory callisthenics programs, becoming a champion of employees' rights. After refusing a transfer, he was fired and has since protested daily at the company gates for almost 25 years. That's some hardcore windmill tilting. Australian filmmaker Maree Delofski explores his story within the bigger context of employee rights in a culture built on conformity.

EnhanceTV [March 2010]

This emotional documentary follows Tetsuro's life as an activist for human rights in Japan. Cameras capture his struggle as he stands outside the factory each day, discusses human rights with his peers, attends Oki Denki's annual shareholders meeting, and rallies support for his life's mission. Intimate interviews with Tanaka's wife and sons reveal their admiration and support for his cause, yet also unveil their worries about his emotional and physical health as he refuses to give up on his dream.

for more information visit: http://tanakafilm.com/