

Document Citation

Title	The Koumiko mystery
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Source	<i>McCall's</i>
Date	1966 Mar
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Le mystère Koumiko (The Koumiko mystery), Marker, Chris, 1965

At
the
Movies

With
Pauline
Kaei

The most beautiful movie I've seen recently is an hour-long documentary about a modern Japanese girl and her attitudes and her life. It is called *The Koumiko Mystery*, and it was made by a Frenchman, Chris Marker, who shot it in Tokyo during the Olympics. The mystery is simply the mystery of human individuality, the *true* mystery. Marker's approach is personal, lyrical; he loves his subject, and so do we. And the movie, by being so involved in one individual, tells us more about today than any of the movies about the "problems" of youth.

His Tokyo has something of science fiction, too: it looks as if it were built the day after tomorrow. It seems almost inconceivable that it was ever intended to endure. And as Koumiko, with her archaic Oriental beauty, walks through this transient, commercial World's Fair kind of civilization, and talks about what she likes and what she doesn't and how she feels—seeing herself as an outsider, as so many young Americans do—the movie begins to express something new, a new modern mood, perhaps, of acceptance of estrangement.