

## Document Citation

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Author(s)	Gene Moskowitz
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**Himiko**  
(JAPANESE-COLOR)

Cannes, May 28.

Toho International release of Hoygensha-ATG production. Features entire cast. Directed by Masahiro Shinoda. Screenplay. Taeko Tomioka: camera (Eastmancolor). Tatsuo Suzuki: music. Toru Takemitsu. Reviewed at Cannes Film Fest (Competing). May 19, '74. Running time. 100 MINS.

Himiko ..... Masao Kusakari  
Takehiko ..... Rentaro Mikuni  
Nashime ..... Rie Yokoyama  
Girl ..... Yoshi Kato  
Emperor ..... Choichiro Kwarazaki

An austere tale of third-century Japan during its formation when the concepts of the divinity of rulers were being formed as well as the Japanese character and culture. Perhaps too hermetic, it has a beauty in imagery and an almost elegiac progression that make it more for specialized placement than for more general usage.

A young man comes back to his land from that of the aborigines. His half-sister is the Sun Goddess who supposedly can talk to the sun

god and actually rules through an old man and a king and his two sons. A love affair has the king deciding to get rid of Himiko, the Goddess, but is done away with by the old man who thinks the people need Himiko.

But she too, finally has to be sacrificed as invaders are repulsed, her lover, the half-brother, killed and the king's two sons fight over mastery. The old man mourns Himiko as suddenly a shadow of a helicopter wings over and pulls back to disclose modern Japan which sprang from these superstitions, matriarchal bases and other influences.

Done with theatrical flourish incantatory progression and visual grace it is still a most difficult item for general Western chances if a fine fest entry and earmarked for archive and school slotting. —*Mosk.*