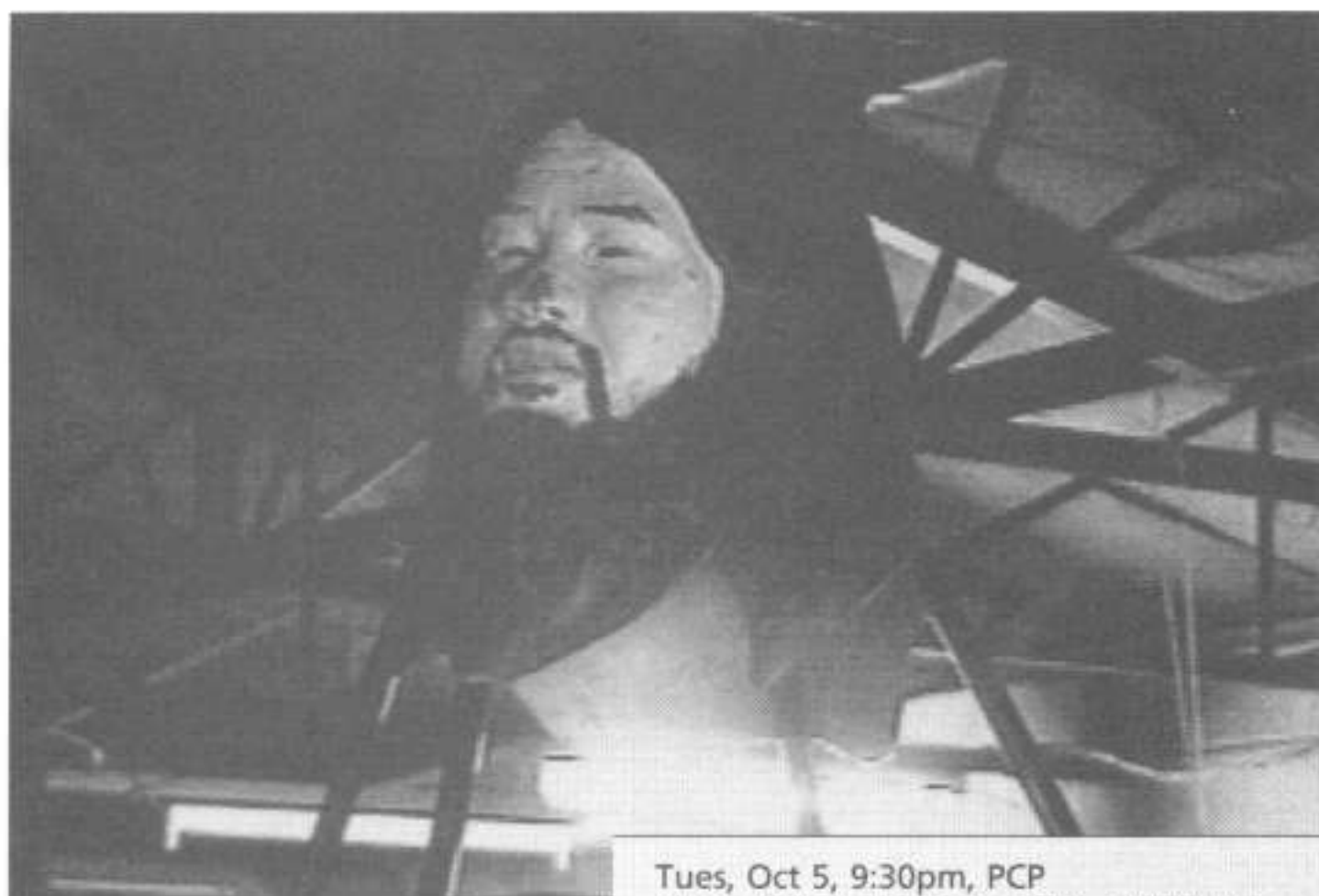


Document Citation

Title	A
Author(s)	Tony Rayns
Source	<i>Vancouver International Film Festival</i>
Date	1999 Sep 24
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	61
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	A, Mori, Tatsuya, 1998

JAPAN



Tues, Oct 5, 9:30pm, PCP
Thurs, Oct 7, 12:45pm, RSQ <AAAAA>

A

Japan, 1998, 136 minutes

Director: Mori Tatsuya

Cast: Araki Hiroshi and junior members of Aum Shinrikyo **Producer:** Yasuoka Takaharu **Cinematographers/Editors/Sound:** Mori Tatsuya, Yasuoka Takaharu **Music:** Pak Poe, Mutsu Hiroshi, Pak Poe Band

Production Company: "A" Production Committee **Print Source:** "A" Production Committee **Sales Agent:** Gold View Co. Ltd. **Format:** Beta-SP NTSC Video

North American Premiere

A is for Aum Shinrikyo, the cult religion responsible for the 1995 sarin gas attack in the Tokyo subway, and for Asahara Shoko, the cult's weird founder and guru ... and for Araki Hiroshi, the 28-year-old junior spokesman for Aum, who struggles to maintain both his faith and his cool while he watches his leaders go on trial for their terrorist crimes and the government move in to demolish Aum buildings.

Mori Tatsuya left a job in television to make this remarkable documentary. He befriended Araki, convinced him that he was trustworthy and impartial, and gained unrestricted access to all that remained of Aum as the authorities began to confiscate its properties—an access denied to (and much resented by) the mainstream media. Mori's film is neither an anatomy of Aum nor an investigation of the subway outrage but something more challenging and rewarding: a portrait of a young man under pressure which probes for the reasons he—and so many others like him—signed up to a cult religion in the first place. This line of enquiry makes it the most searching Japanese indie documentary since *The Emperor's Naked Army Marches On*.

Tony Rayns