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# **A Hen in the Wind (Kaze No Naka No Mendori)**

(1948, 83 min., b/w)

Director: Yasujiro Ozu

Cast: Kinuyo Tanaka, Chishu Ryu

One of the most rarely screened of Ozu's films, *Hen in the Wind* focuses on a POW who returns home after Japan's defeat in 1945 to find that his wife has been forced into prostitution to pay for their son's hospital bills. Though, as always, Ozu is concerned with the Japanese family and the deterioration of traditional values, he shows an uncharacteristic, almost Mizoguchean, sympathy for the oppressed woman. "Ozu brilliantly and honestly confronts the postwar moment" (Joan Mellen).