

Document Citation

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Title | Kon Ichikawa: a guide to references and resources -- excerpt |
| Author(s) | John Allyn |
| Source | <i>G.K. Hall</i> |
| Date | 1985 |
| Type | book excerpt |
| Language | English |
| Pagination | 88, 89 |
| No. of Pages | 1 |
| Subjects | |
| Film Subjects | Yukinojo henge (An actor's revenge), Ichikawa, Kon, 1963 |

The Films: Credits, Notes, and Synopses

They recall Grandma's last day. She was reading the newspaper and remarked that there were just too many people in the world. If she died, there would be one less. Mother still wants one more child.

There is a birthday cake--the child is two. He looks out the window. In the full moon, he sees Grandma's face. He calls for her and his parents tell him that she's gone far away.

The child's narration concludes the film: "I am two, so there are two candles on my birthday cake. If Grandma had a birthday cake, there'd be so many candles it would light up like the moon. . . . I am two. I was a baby--I was born from my mother. I will become an adult."

45 YUKINOJO HENGE [AN ACTOR'S REVENGE] (1963)

Credits

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Producer: | Masaichi Nagata (Daiei) |
| Director: | Kon Ichikawa |
| Screenplay: | Daisuke Ito, Teinosuke Kinugasa, and Natto Wada |
| Based on a story by: | Otokichi Mikami |
| Photography: | Setsuo Kobayashi |
| Music: | Yasushi Akutagawa |
| Art director: | Yoshinobu Nishioka |
| Lighting: | Kenichi Okamoto |
| Sound: | Gen Otani |
| Cast: | Kazuo Hasegawa (Yukinojo Nakamura and Yamitaro), Fujiko Yamamoto (Ohatsu), Ayako Wakao (Namiji), Raizo Ichikawa (Hirutaro), Chusha Ichikawa (Kikunojo Nakamura), Ganjiro Nakamura (Sansai Dobe), Eijiro Yanagi (Kokaiya), Saburo Date (Kawaguchiya), Eigoro Ogami (Shogun) |
| Format: | Color, DaieiScope |
| Release date: | 13 January 1963 |
| U.S. release: | June 1971 (Non-theatrical) |
| Other titles: | <u>The Avenging Ghost of Yukinojo,</u> <u>Revenge of Yukinojo</u> |

Synopsis

In this period melodrama, Yukinojo Nakamura is a famous oyama ("female impersonator") of the Ichimiura troupe. From the stage during a performance, he sees Sansai Dobe, a Nagasaki magistrate, who is responsible for the killing of Yukinojo's father. It is because Sansai moved to Tokyo that Yukinojo brought the Ichimiura troupe

The Films: Credits, Notes, and Synopses

there. Yukinojo's teacher, Kikunojo, tries to persuade him to postpone taking revenge. That night, when Yukinojo is going home, he is almost killed by a samurai, but is saved by a robber, Yamitaro, who suddenly appears.

Sansai's daughter, Namiji, falls in love with Yukinojo after seeing him on the stage, even though she is the mistress of the Shogun.

A rival of Sansai, Kawaguchiya, finds out about Namiji's infatuation with Yukinojo and wants to use the situation to his own advantage. Yukinojo, of course, is also using Namiji to get to her father. She sincerely loves him, which makes him uneasy. While he visits her, Ohatsu, a woman thief, is found in the house by Yukinojo. She runs away but later visits Yukinojo's house. She hears Yukinojo and his teacher talking and learns their secret.

Kawaguchiya buys all the rice during a period of shortage. There has been a crop failure and famine is a real possibility. Prices go up. Kawaguchiya's rival, Kokaiya, also has some relation to Sansai's crime. Yukinojo talks to Kokaiya and gets him to sell cheap. Kawaguchiya goes bankrupt. He loses his mind, tries to burn out Kokaiya, and Kokaiya kills him. Kokaiya wants power over Sansai so he kidnaps Namiji. She kills him and again the robber, Yamitaro, appears on the scene to help. Namiji is unwell; when Yukinojo goes to Yamitaro's house to see her, she is already dead. Yukinojo brings her body to Sansai's house. He is made up to look like his late father and Sansai is so frightened that he takes poison. We learn that Yukinojo's father was a prosperous seafood merchant in Nagasaki. Sansai, the magistrate, along with Kokaiya and Yukinojo's father's head employee, Kawaguchiya, all plotted to get rid of him and take his fortune. Now they are all dead.

Yukinojo appears for his last stage performance. His beautiful face is lonely and sad. He is leaving the Ichimiura troupe.

46 TAIHEIYO HITORIBOTCHI [ALONE ON THE PACIFIC] (1963)

Credits

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Producer: | Yujiro Ishihara (Nikkatsu) |
| Planning: | Kei Nakai |
| Director: | Kon Ichikawa |
| Screenplay: | Natto Wada |
| Based on a story by: | Kenichi Horie |
| Photography: | Yoshihiro Yamazaki |
| Lighting: | Ko Fujibayashi |
| Sound: | Fumio Hashimoto |
| Art director: | Takashi Matsuyama |
| Music: | Yasushi Akutagawa and Toru Takemitsu |
| Editor: | Masanori Tsujii |