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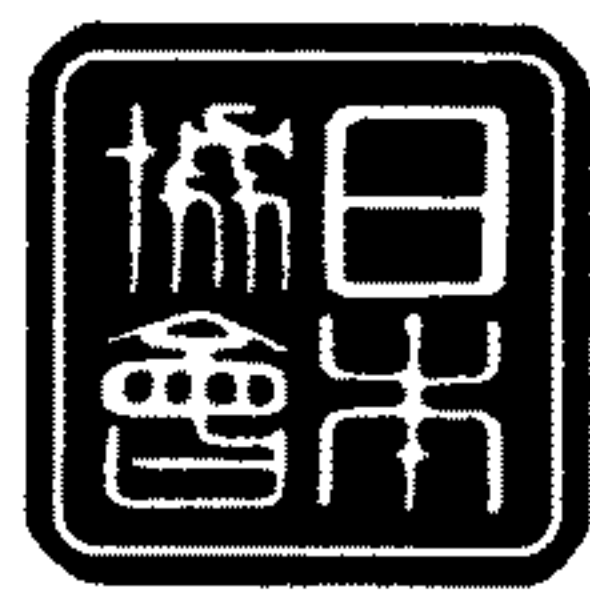
Neko to shozo to futari no onna (A cat, two women, and one man),
Toyoda, Shirô, 1956

Byaku fugin no yoren (Madame White Snake), Toyoda, Shirô, 1956

Kojima no haru (Spring on the islands), Toyoda, Shirô, 1940

Meoto zenzai (Marital relations), Toyoda, Shirô, 1955

Wakai hito (Young people), Toyoda, Shirô, 1937



**JAPAN
SOCIETY**

F I L M

"Shiro Toyoda ... a master adapter, a true actor's director and one of the Japanese cinema's finest craftsmen."—Donald Richie

SHIRO TOYODA RETROSPECTIVE

April 15-June 24, 1994

Japan Society Film Center is proud to present the first U.S. retrospective of Shiro Toyoda (1906-1977), with 16 films made between 1937 and 1973.

THE YOUNG (Wakai hito)

Friday, April 15, 6:30 p.m.

Toyoda's 10th film and his first commercial hit follows the intriguing relationships at a Christian girls' school revolving around an idealistic young male teacher, a strong-minded female teacher and an individualistic student who longs for the male teacher.

1937, 90 min., b&w, 35mm. Written by Naoyuki Hatta, based on the novel by Yojiro Ishizaka. With Haruyo Ichikawa, Den Obinata, Shizue Natsukawa. U.S. premiere.

SPRING ON THE ISLANDS (Kojima no haru)

Saturday, April 16, 1 p.m.

This film chronicles the struggles of a female doctor working with lepers and their families living on the islands of the Inland Sea. Toyoda paints this moving story with humor and pathos, set against the natural scenic beauty of the islands.

1940, 88 min., b&w, 35mm. Written by Yasutaro Yagi, based on the essay by Masaki Ogawa. With Shizue Natsukawa, Ichiro Sugai, Haruko Sugimura, Meiko Nakamura. U.S. premiere.

MARITAL RELATIONS (Meoto zenzai)

Friday, April 22, 6:30 p.m.

Toyoda affectionately portrays the lively relationship between a spoiled, lazy and disowned son of a well-to-do Osaka merchant and his hard-working geisha lover. It is an engaging comedy about people who never give up in the face of a series of tough situations.

1955, 120 min., b&w, 35mm. Written by Toshio Yasumi, based on the novel by Sakunosuke Oda. With Hisaya Morishige, Chikage Awashima, Yoko Tsukasa.

LEGEND OF THE WHITE SERPENT (Byaku fujin no koi)

Friday, April 29, 6:30 p.m.

Co-produced with a Hong Kong studio, this is Toyoda's first color film. The story is based on a legendary Chinese love story between a young man and a beautiful woman who is actually the spirit of a white serpent. Celebrated special effects director Eiji Tsuburaya collaborated in creating magical and fantastic images.

1956, 103 min., color, 35mm. Written by Toshio Yasumi, based on a story by Fusao Hayashi. With Ryo Ikebe, Yoshiko Yamaguchi, Kaoru Yachigusa. U.S. premiere.

A CAT, SHOZO AND TWO WOMEN (Neko to Shozo to futari no onna)

Saturday, April 30, 1 p.m.

A hilarious comedy about a weak man surrounded by tough-minded women — his former wife, his young new wife and his mother. Tormented by these three women fighting for his affection, the hero turns to his cat.

1956, 136 min., b&w, 35mm. Written by Toshio Yasumi, based on the novel by Junichiro Tanizaki. With Hisaya Morishige, Chieko Naniwa, Isuzu Yamada, Kyoko Kagawa.

SNOW COUNTRY (Yukiguni)

Friday, May 13, 6:30 p.m.

A subtle portrayal of relationships that develop around a married Tokyo painter who visits a hot spring resort high in the snowy mountains, where he meets a beautiful geisha and her stepsister. Both women fall in love with him and ultimately decide to accept their ill-fated and entangled situation.

1957, 134 min., b&w, 35mm. Written by Toshio Yasumi, based on the novel by Yasunari Kawabata. With Ryo Ikebe, Keiko Kishi, Kaoru Yachigusa.

THE HOTELMAN'S HOLIDAY (Ekimae ryokan)

Saturday, May 14, 1 p.m.

A slapstick comedy about hotelmen competing with each other at inns near the Ueno station of Tokyo. Due in part to the participation of colorful comedians, the popularity of this film led to a 24-film series, three of which were directed by Toyoda.

1958, 109 min., color, 16mm. Written by Toshio Yasumi, based on the novel by Masuji Ibuse. With Hisaya Morishige, Junzaburo Ban, Frankie Sakai, Shin Morikawa. U.S. premiere.

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THE TWILIGHT STORY (Bokuto kidan)**3 p.m.**

In commemoration of the first anniversary of the death of novelist Kafu Nagai, Toyoda (known for literary adaptations) was assigned to this project. The tragic love between a married writer and a gentle-hearted prostitute is depicted against the backdrop of a magnificently recreated traditional Tokyo red-light district.

1960, 119 min., b&w., 16mm. Written by Toshio Yasumi, based on the novel by Kafu Nagai. With Fujiko Yamamoto, Hiroshi Akutagawa, Michiyo Aratama. U.S. premiere.

PILGRIMAGE AT NIGHT (Anya koro)**Friday, May 20, 6:30 p.m.**

The young hero's predicament begins when he learns first about the secret behind his birth, and then about his wife's adultery. Writer Shiga spent 26 years on this highly introspective novel, and Toyoda skillfully adapted this ambitious literary work for the screen.

1959, 144 min., b&w, 35mm. Written by Toshio Yasumi, based on the novel by Naoya Shiga. With Ryo Ikebe, Fujiko Yamamoto, Chikage Awashima, Tatsuya Nakadai.

MADAME AKI (Yushu heiya)**Saturday, May 21, 1 p.m.**

This modern-day drama centers on a beautiful wife who, learning about her husband's attraction to another woman, has an affair with a young sculptor.

1963, 114 min., b&w, 16mm. Written by Toshio Yasumi, based on the novel by Yasushi Inoue. With Fujiko Yamamoto, Hisaya Morishige, Michiyo Aratama, Tatsuya Nakadai. U.S. premiere.

ILLUSION OF BLOOD (Yotsuya kaidan)**3 p.m.**

An Edo-period (1603-1867) ghost story that served as the subject of a popular Kabuki play is transformed here in an imaginative cinematic style. An opportunistic samurai murders his wife in order to marry a young woman from a wealthy family. It is an eerie story of intrigue, greed and human relations.

1965, 105 min., color, 35mm. Written by Toshio Yasumi, based on the Kabuki story by Namboku Tsuruya. With Tatsuya Nakadai, Mariko Okada, Kanzaburo Nakamura, Junko Ikeuchi.

THE DIPLOMAT'S MANSION (Tokyo yawa)**Friday, May 27, 6:30 p.m.**

Toyoda deftly portrays the subtle relationships between men and women, with a cast composed of skilled theatrical actors and popular movie stars.

1961, 109 min., color, 35mm. Written by Toshio Yasumi, based on the novel by Tsuneo Tomita. With Chikage Awashima, Hiroshi Akutagawa, Reiko Dan, Tsutomu Yamazaki. U.S. premiere.

SWEET SWEAT (Amai ase)**Friday, June 3, 6:30 p.m.**

This is a "woman's film" in the real sense, celebrating the resilient spirit of working women. The film focuses on a bar hostess who single-handedly supports her large family and energetically tackles all kinds of hardship.

1964, 120 min., b&w, 35mm. Written by Yoko Mizuki. With Machiko Kyo, Junko Ikeuchi, Miyuki Kuwano, Keiji Sata.

RIVER OF FOREVER (Chikuma-gawa zessho)**Friday, June 10, 6:30 p.m.**

This touching film looks at the romance between a young truck driver who is suddenly stuck with leukemia and a nurse who falls in love with him. She encourages him to find his life's meaning in the time he has left.

1967, 102 min., b&w, 35mm. Written by Zenzo Matsuyama. With Kinya Kitaoji, Yuriko Hoshi, Seiji Miyaguchi. U.S. premiere.

PORTRAIT OF HELL (Jigoku-hen)**Friday, June 17, 6:30 p.m.**

Set in the Heian period (794-1185), this film depicts the psychological battle between a painter obsessed with perfection and an arrogant lord who forces him to create an "authentic" portrait of hell. To that end, the lord makes the painter's life a living hell.

1969, 95 min., color, 35mm. Written by Toshio Yasumi, based on the novel by Ryunosuke Akutagawa. Kinnosuke Nakamura, Tatsuya Nakadai, Yoko Naito.

TWILIGHT YEARS (Kokotsu no hito)**Friday, June 24, 6:30 p.m.**

In an attempt to raise the public's consciousness of the crucial problem of aging, Toyoda portrays the relationship between a grandfather who develops Alzheimer's disease and his daughter-in-law who must take care of him. At first bewildered and upset, she gradually begins to accept him as he is.

1973, 102 min., b&w, 16mm. Written by Zenzo Matuyama, based on the novel by Sawako Ariyoshi. With Hisaya Morishige, Hideko Takamine, Takahiro Tamura

TICKETS: Japan Society members, senior citizens and students with valid ID, \$5; others, \$7. All admissions are separate. Japan Society members may order tickets in advance by calling the Box Office at (212)752-3015, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday-Friday (\$2 handling fee). General admission tickets will be sold one hour prior to the screening of that day. No refunds or exchanges. Program subject to change without advance notice. All films are in Japanese with English subtitles. Some of the films made in the 1950s and 1960s are not in ideal condition and the color has faded somewhat.

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