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Thursday, October 4

*Mikio Naruse: A Master
of the Japanese Cinema*
REPAST

5:30 only

See September 21..

THE WHOLE FAMILY WORKS
(HATARAKU IKKA)

1939, Mikio Naruse, Japan;

HIDEKO, THE BUS CONDUCTOR
(HIDEKO, NO SHASHO-SAN)

1941, Mikio Naruse, Japan;

7:20 only total: 125 min.

One of Naruse's most remarkable films, **THE WHOLE FAMILY WORKS** presents the suffering of a single Japanese family as an implied consequence of the economic hardships brought on by the war against China. In order to earn enough merely to survive, all eleven members of a printer's family, including grandparents and small children, must go to work each day. Kiichi, the eldest son, announces that he would like to quit his factory job and enter electrician's school. Kiichi's ambitions excite his younger siblings and cause dissension between his parents, who fear the consequences of losing the income generated by Kiichi. Sidestepping a national film policy that encouraged the production of more "inspirational" works, Naruse laments the thwarted dreams and wasted talents of a generation locked into rigid class structures and soon to be called into battle.

His first film with Hideko Takamine, **HIDEKO, THE BUS CONDUCTOR** is a refreshingly simple comedy about a tour guide on a broken-down bus in rural Japan who tries to enliven her route by providing passengers with some unexpected information about local sights.

FILM (SENTINEL) GAZETTE
SEPT. / OCT. 1987