

## Document Citation

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## **NANIWA ELEGY (OSAKA ELEGY) 9:30**

Naniwa is the old name for Osaka, the setting for this story: a young telephone operator who allows herself to be seduced by a boss in order to help her family financially. In his *Dictionary of Japanese Films*, the French historian George Sadoul notes of **NANIWA ELEGY**: "The main thread of Mizoguchi's work begins to appear in this film: the depiction of society and the condition of women in that society. It marks also his search for a 'new realism,' a difficult task under a militaristic government concerned only with 'ideological' films. In fact, it was banned by the government censors in 1940 for 'decadent tendencies.' When Mizoguchi said late in his life, 'I found my true voice after I was 40,' he was undoubtedly thinking of this film, a simple story, simply directed. It is the first film on which he worked with Yoshikata Yoda, whose sympathies were close to his own and whose collaboration he valued highly. He also recalls the 'passion and devotion to her work' of the actress Isuzu Yamada, whose role was written for her and who gives an extraordinary performance as a modern woman struggling against commercialization. The film is an incomparable artistic achievement, matching the best work of Jean Renoir at this time and, like Renoir's films, with a profound sense of social realities."

Directed by Kenji Mizoguchi. Screenplay by Mizoguchi and Yoshikata Yoda. With Isuzu Yamada, Kiyoko Kashiwagi. (1936, 90 mins, English titles, Print Courtesy of MacMillan Audio Brandon)  
**Please Note: NANIWA ELEGY will also be shown on Wednesday, April 14, at 9:45 p.m.**

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