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## A FOOL IN LOVE/NAOMI (CHIJIN NO AI), 1967, Daiei



Screenplay by Ichiro Ikeda; Photography by Setsuo Kobayashi; Music by Naozumi Yamamoto. With Michiyo Yasuda, Shoichi Ozawa, Masakazu Tamura, and Ko Kuroishi.

This was the third film version of Junichiro Tanizaki's novel that might be described as an eccentric *Pygmalion*. A middle-aged businessman takes in an orphan girl with intentions of raising her to be a proper lady who might eventually become his wife. But it is the girl who gains control. She takes advantage of her sugar-daddy's doting to get whatever she wants, coquettishly playing on his less than honorable intentions. After years of being cuckolded, the poor fool is still her slave.

Masumura has adapted several of Tanizaki's novels. Their frequent emphasis on odd sexual themes perfectly fits Masumura's penchant for the sleazy aspects of contemporary life.