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Shinju ten no amijima (Double suicide), Shinoda, Masahiro, 1969

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HYOGENSHA INC.



Hyogensha Inc.

Hyogensha is a film production corporation founded in 1967 by Masahiro Shinoda (who became independent of the major Shochiku Ofuna Studio) and his wife Shima Iwashita, a popular Japanese actress. Of all the many independent production companies formed in the last few decades, Hyogensha has grown the most steadily and successfully, with ten "director first" quality films, produced either independently or jointly. Director Shinoda, who implements his own ideas and projects with his production company while engaged in other works, is a good model for followers of the film world.

The Outline of Hyogensha Inc.

Date of Foundation : July 5, 1967
Representative Director : Masahiro Shinoda
Capital : 10,000,000 JPY
Address : 201 AI Building, 2-17-15 Higashi Shibuya-ku, Tokyo

Phone : +81-3-3486-6743 Fax : +81-3-3486-6744
email : koisan@msn.com

The List of Hyogensha Films directed by Masahiro Shinoda

Year, Title, Cast, Original novel by, Awards, Invitational entry at international film festivals

1967



Clouds at Sunset
(Akanegumo)

Shima Iwashita, Masayuki Mori
Tsutomu Minakami

A story that takes place in 1937, along the coast of the Noto Peninsula, and in a setting against the jet-black Japan Sea. An unhappy native woman and a run-away deserter from the army fall in tragic love.

1969



Double Suicide
(Shinju Ten no Amijima)

Shima Iwashita, Kichiemon Nakamura
Monzaemon Chikamatsu
Kinema Junpo Best One Award
Venetian and London International Film Festivals

Based on a famous Joruri (ballad drama) of the Edo period, the story represents the travelogue of a man and a woman who are madly in destructive love. It is considered an epoch-making production with crazy passion and the aura of eroticism, rendered with a bold new technique.

1971



Silence
(Chinmoku)

Shima Iwashita, Mako Iwamatsu / Shusaku Endo
Education Minister's Art Select Award
Cannes International Film Festival

A foreign missionary, suffers a cruel fate going through many ordeals in Nagasaki in the Edo period. This film chronicles the increasingly severe persecution of Japanese Christians, and is pictured through the cool, realistic eye of the producer.

1974



Himiko
(Himiko)

Shima Iwashita, Masao Kusakari
Cannes International Film Festival

The story of Himiko, who is a mysterious Queen of Yamatai Empire in ancient Japanese history. The production portrays the unfolding of political strife and human lust in a graphic narrative with touches of beautiful formality, such as Japanese classical dance.

1978



Melody in Gray
(Hanaregoze Orin)

Shima Iwashita, Yoshio Harada
Tsutomu Minakami
Best Director Award / Asian Film Festival

A dying tradition of blind female musicians is depicted—they used to visit people from door to door playing shamisen music for money. The film is studded with Japanese traditional local performing arts and lifestyle, taking place over four seasons in beautiful but harsh Northern Japan.

1984



MacArthur's Children
(Setouchi Shonen Yakyudan)

Masako Natsume, Hiromi Go / Yu Aku
Blue Ribbon Prize and others
Best Foreign Film Award
Houston International Film Festival

Soon after the end of the World War II, depressed grown-ups are contrasted with children innocently playing baseball. The setting is in an elementary school on the Awaji Island which is located in the Setouchi Inland Sea.

1986



Gonza the Spearman
(Yari no Gonza)

Hiromi Go, Shima Iwashita
Monzaemon Chikamatsu
Silver Bear Prize / Berlin International Festival

Based on a Joruri story from the Edo period, the story focuses on a couple who are labeled as adulterers. The two characters are Gonza, a young guard who has superb skill in handling a spear, and the wife of a tea ceremony teacher.

1990



Takeshi, Childhood Days
(Shonen Jidai)

Shima Iwashita, Toshiyuki Hosokawa
Hyouzo Kashiwabara, Fujio Fujiko
Japan Academy Award and others

An experience of a boy, who evacuated Tokyo to Toyama Prefecture toward the end of the WWII. This story is a nostalgic flash back to the boy's childhood days in the militaristic society of the time.

1995



Sharaku
(Sharaku)

Hiroyuki Sanada, Shima Iwashita
Hioko Minagawa
Japan Academy Award and others
Cannes International Film Festival

Popular culture flourished in the Kansei days of the Edo period, and Sharaku, a mysterious painter, suddenly appeared and seized people's attention with his animate paintings of Kabuki actors. Human dramas are pictured through the use of Kabuki, Ukiyoe, and Share-hon (comical stories with graphics). The film exhibits an enthusiastic and romantic touch.

1997



Setouchi Moonlight Serenade
(Setouchi Moonlight Serenade)

Kyozo Nagatsuka, Shima Iwashita / Yu Aku

The story of a Japanese family that crosses the Setouchi Inland Sea by ship in the chaotic days right after the end of the war. Dramas of Japanese people who were shattered by the cultural and moral upheaval of the war, are depicted with a flare of fantasy.

1999
(to be released)
Owls' Castle (Fukuroh no Shiro)
Ryotaro Shiba

The Profile of Masahiro Shinoda



Shinoda was born in 1931 to a prestigious family in Gifu in the central part of Japan. On graduating from the Literature Department of Waseda University in 1953, he started to study film direction under great directors such as Yasujiro Ozu, at the long-established Shochiku Ofuna Studio. After making a successful debut as a director with a "One Way Ticket to Love," Shinoda directed "Youth in Fury" in 1960, and "Pale Flower" and "Assassination" in 1964. In these movies, he focused on youth struggling to live as they desired, applying his original approach to directing. His novel ideas and new direction skills, along with other young directors such as Nagisa Oshima and Yoshishige Yoshida, attracted the attention of critics and the general public. They were considered leaders of the "nouvelles vagues" movement at Shochiku. In 1967 he married Shima Iwashita, who was one of the most popular actresses in Japan, and then founded Hyogensha, his independent production studio. "Double Suicide," an avant-garde production based on a Kabuki play, won the best film awards in 1969. In 1970s, Shinoda focused on human dramas that were never revealed in formal history such as "Silence" (1971) on the persecution of Japanese Christians by the Edo government, "Himiko" (1974) on the Yamatai Empire's Queen in ancient Japan, and "Melody in Gray" (1978) on the touching pathos of a woman music entertainer. Since that time, Shinoda has concentrated on two themes: the world of his childhood before and after the WWII, and the narrative space indulged in the contemporary era. The works include "MacArthur's Children" (1984), "Gonza the Spearman" (1985), "Takeshi, Childhood Days" (1990), and "SHARAKU" (1995). Shinoda has been seeking a genuinely universal means of expression through the reconstruction of Japanese history via film.

Masahiro Shinoda A Filmography

- One Way Ticket to Love** (Koi no Katamichi Kippu), original screenplay by Masahiro Shinoda, 1960
- Youth in Fury** (Kawaita Mizuumi), screenplay by Shuji Terayama after the novel by Eiji Shinba, 1960
- Killers on Parade** (Yuhi ni Akai Ore no Kao), original by Shuji Terayama, 1961
- Epitaph of My Love** (Waga Koi no Tabiji), screenplay by Shuji Terayama and Masahiro Shinoda after the novel by Ayako Sano, 1961
- Love New and Old** (Samisen to Otobai), screenplay by Takao Yanai after the novel by Matsutaro Kawaguchi, 1961
- Glory on the Summit** (Moyuru Wakamonotachi), screenplay by Yoshio Shirasaka after the novel by Yoriyoshi Arima, 1962
- A Flame at the Pier** (Namida o Shishi no Tategami ni), original screenplay by Shuji Terayama, Ichiro Mizunuma and Masahiro Shinoda, 1962
- Pale Flower** (Kawaita Hana), screenplay by Masaru Baba after the novel by Shintaro Ishihara, 1964
- Assassination** (Ansatsu), screenplay by Nobuo Yamada after the novel by Ryotaro Shiba, 1964
- With Beauty and Sorrow** (Utsukushisa to Kanashimi to), screenplay by Nobuo Yamada after the novel by Yasunari Kawabata, 1965
- Samurai Spy** (Ibun Sarutobi Sasuke), screenplay by Yoshiyuki Fukuda after the novel by Koji Nakada, 1965
- Island of Punishment** (Shokei no Shima), screenplay by Shintaro Ishihara after the novel by Taijun Takeda, 1966
- Clouds at Sunset** (Akanegumo), screenplay by Hisayuki Suzuki after the novel by Tsutomu Minakami, 1967
- Double Suicide** (Shinju Ten no Amijima), screenplay by Taeko Tomioka and Masahiro Shinoda after the Monzaemon Chikamatsu play, 1969
- The Scandalous Adventures of the Buraikan** (Buraikan), screenplay by Shuji Terayama after the play by Mokuami Kawatake, 1970
- Silence** (Chinmoku), screenplay by Shusaku Endo and Masahiro Shinoda after the novel by Shusaku Endo, 1971
- The Sapporo Winter Olympics** (Sapporo Orinpikku), screenplay by Nobuo Yamada, Taeko Tomioka and Aromu Mushiake, 1972
- Petrified Forest** (Kaseki no Mori), screenplay by Nobuo Yamada after the Shintaro Ishihara novel, 1973
- Himiko** (Himiko), original screenplay by Taeko Tomioka and Masahiro Shinoda, 1974
- Under the Blossoming Cherry Trees** (Sakura no Mori no Mankai no Shita), screenplay by Taeko Tomioka and Masahiro Shinoda after the Ango Sakaguchi novel, 1975
- Melody in Gray** (Hanaregoze Orin), screenplay by Keiji Hasebe after the Tsutomu Minakami novel, 1978
☆Best Director Award winner at the 24th Asian Film Festival
- Demon Pond** (Yashagaike), screenplay by Tsutomu Tamura and Haruhiko Mimura after the drama by Kyoka Izumi, 1979
- Devilish Island** (Akuryoto), screenplay by Kunio Shimizu after the Seishi Yokomizo novel, 1981
- MacArthur's Children** (Setouchi Shonen Yakyudan), screenplay by Tsutomu Tamura after the novel by Yu Aku, 1984
☆Best Film Award winner at the Houston International Film Festival
- Gonza the Spearman** (Yari no Gonza), screenplay by Taeko Tomioka, 1985
☆Winner of the Silver Bear at the 36th Berlin International Film Festival
- Dancer** (Maihime), screenplay by Tsutomu Tamura and Masahiro Shinoda after the original story by Ogai Mori, 1989
☆Special invitational entrant in the 34th London Film Festival
- Takeshi, Childhood Days**, (Shonen Jidai), screenplay by Taichi Yamada. Adapted from works by Hyozo Kashiwabara and Fujio Fujiko A, 1990
- SHARAKU** (Sharaku), original screenplay by Hiroko Minagawa, 1995
☆The 48th Cannes Film Festival, 1995, for Competition
- Setouchi Moonlight Serenade** (Setouchi Moonlight Serenade) screenplay by Katsuo Naruse, 1997
☆The 47th Berlin International Film Festival, 1997, for Competition