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Author(s)	Lee Rosenthal
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ECHOES OF SILENCE, by Peter Goldman; a Film-Makers Distribution Center release. **THE KUMIKO MYSTERY** by Chris Marker; in French with English titles; a New Yorker Films release; both at the New Yorker Theatre from Thurs., April 6.

by Lee Rosenthal

Chris Marker, a young French film-maker who has been working in cinema verite style, went to Tokyo for the Olympic games in 1964. He evidently became diverted from the public event to a private one, meeting a charming and intelligent Japanese girl. He began to train his camera on her and to record her remarks in answer to his questions.

His intuition in changing his focus from the general to the specific was accurate for this young lady, Kumiko Muraoka by name, in her feelings and thoughts expressed summed up all of Japan, with the help of Tokyo as backdrop, of course. In her serenity and classic beauty and in the wisdom of her remarks, despite her youth, she typified the Japan that can seem to assimilate so much that is Western, and often the worst of Western culture, and yet remain uniquely Japanese.

This film is only 47 minutes long. When it was shown at the Third New York Film Festival in 1965, it was 60 minutes long.

I remember feeling at that first viewing that something had happened toward the end to drain away the effect it was building up. I had the strange thought that the film-maker had at some point in his association fallen in love with his subject and had ceased to use his camera with the same searching eye in order to keep Kumiko's charms to himself. We seemed to have been cut off at the point of revelation, and the effect flattened out. But even that momentary and interesting suspicion is missing now from this shorter version, so the point and effect of the film is even more tenuous. There is something to witness and experience here, but not much.

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