

Document Citation

Title	Le mystere Koumiko
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Source	<i>Variety</i>
Date	1965 Jul 28
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	Marker, Chris (1921), Neuilly-Sur-Seine, Île-de-France, France
Film Subjects	Le mystère Koumiko (The Koumiko mystery), Marker, Chris, 1965

Le Mystère Koumiko
(The Koumiko Mystery)
**(FRENCH-COLOR-
DOCUMENTARY)**

Locarno, July 24.

Sofracima release of Sofracima-APEC-Service Recherche CRTF production. With Muroako Koumiko. Written, directed, lensed and edited by Chris Marker on 16m color stock blown up to 35m. At Locarno Film Fest. Running Time, 45 MINS.

Chris Marker has made documentaries at home in France and aboard and has developed a distinctive style in a kind of cinematic essay. He mixes visual metaphor, intellectual comment, general musings, for a counterpoint of image and idea. Though sometimes mannered it usually escapes preciousness by a saving wit, generosity and urbanity.

Here he looks at Japan during the Olympics through a comely girl, one Muroaka Koumiko. The camera all but caresses her as an unseen man asks questions, shows her at liberty or wondering about life, situations and men. In between are smartly lensed looks at Japanese life, physical aspects, and, through it all, a sort of love affair with the girl.

Somehow it comprises a general comment on Japan's many facets; its aping of the West, that is now assimilated, its exotica and everyday look and a generally clever, if surface, summing up of a charming but yet reserved and, finally, mysterious young girl whose faulty French and bland and innocent feelings are beguiling.

Short length of this feature documentary gives it some chance for pairing in U.S. Mosk.