

## Document Citation

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in the  
**REALM OF  
THE SENSES**

A FILM BY NAGISA OSHIMA

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FROM CINEMA 5•16MM

JP #32796

*"In the Realm of the Senses retains the esthetic sensitivity and reticence of Japanese artistry. To put it bluntly, the picture is beautiful in its delicacy, hideous in what it glimpses as gory climax, and utterly foreign to what one is accustomed to see either in pornographic pictures or Japanese romances."*

Archer Winsten, *New York Post*

*"A beautiful film. Probably the most thoughtful work of and on eroticism yet created."*

Charles Champlin, *Los Angeles Times*

*"Oshima's film is noteworthy as a serious attempt to expand the potential for use of explicit sex in works that probe and define behavior and the demands individuals inflict upon each other."*

William Wolf, *Cue*

In 1936, a geisha was found wandering through the streets of Tokyo clutching the severed penis of her lover. Her lover had died some days earlier and she had taken his genitals as an assertion of their continuing passion for each other.

Nagisa Oshima's *In the Realm of the Senses* reconstructs this true story of Sada, the geisha, and her lover, Kichi. Almost all the film's action takes place within their closed world of eroticism. Their love making steadily increases in erotic intensity as they deliberately isolate themselves from society.

According to director Oshima, Sada was one of the first women in Japan to have her sexuality made public. During her trial, she attracted much sympathy and was finally sentenced to only six years in prison. The mention of her name is still synonomous with the breaking of sexual taboos in Japan.

#### Credits

Produced by Anatole Dauman  
Written and directed by Nagisa Oshima  
Color, 115 minutes, 1977, X\*.

\*Please note that although this film has not been rated by the MPAA, it carries a self-imposed X rating. It does contain scenes of explicit sex and other material that may be offensive to some people.



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