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Chinmoku
(A Silence)
(JAPANESE-COLOR)

Cannes, May 10.

Toho release of Hyogensha-Mako International production. Directed by Masahiro Shinoda. Screenplay, Shusaku Endo; camera (Eastmancolor), Kazuo Miyagawa; music, Toru Takemitsu. Reviewed at Cannes Film Fest (competing), May 10, '72. Running Time: 130 MINS.

Padre	David Lampson
Girl	Mako
Priest	Don Kenny
Guide	Shima Iwashita
Innoue	Tetsuro Tamba

A tale of religious persecution in 16th-century Japan that has an exotic flair, expert color rendition and sometimes epic breadth, but is too repetitious and literary to give it a more durable and timely tang. Worthy of fest slotting, only specialized chances are intimated for offshore situations.

During the 16th century, Catholic Jesuits, full of zeal fanned out around the world and hit Japan for many converts. But the power elite decided they had their own religion, did not need the new one, which was not commensurate with their life. So converts and European priests were relentlessly hunted down and suppressed.

Pic is about a dedicated priest who lands with another one and meets some underground Catholics. A guide finally turns them in, under torture, and the priest is subjected to mental persuasion and torture to finally abjure his faith and become a Japanese layman.

Film has an attitude against repression but also questions proselytizing and intolerance inherent in the missionary concepts. This aspect, good acting, and fine technical qualities, could slant this for specialized institutional use abroad.

Mosk.

VARIETY 5/17/1972