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**Sansho the
Bailiff**

(*Sansho dayu*)

NFT
7/89

Set in the 11th century, *Sansho's* packed, marvellously shot narrative combines barbaric violence (the corruption of Sansho's court) with a family story emphasising loyalty and self-sacrifice. From so many great sequences, one could mention the kidnapping on the beach, the flight through the forest and the grave concern of Tanaka's performance, moving from proud mother to prisoner/courtesan and finally broken old lady. Unforgettable. 1954/Dir Kenji Mizoguchi.