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EARLY SPRING

(SOSHUN)

Director: Yasujiro Ozu

Japan 1956 144 minutes

Cast: Ryo Ikebe, Keiko Kishi

Ozu's longest film, and one of his richest, **EARLY SPRING** followed **TOKYO STORY** after a three year hiatus to write the script. The hope promised by the title quickly fades as Shoji, a recent graduate become office worker, gradually realizes that he is trapped – in his job, his marriage, his predictable life. His attempt to forestall the inevitable future of disillusionment and loneliness, by dallying with a young, flirtatious typist called Goldfish, leads to separation from his wife and, finally, a new position in a rural outpost. Ozu treats what he called "the pathos of the white-collar life" with characteristic reticence and clear-eyed sympathy; his meticulous portrayal of the rhythms of a "salaryman's" life – the endless cycle of commuting, office hell, and drinking – achieves a kind of quotidian grandeur. "A great, unpleasant film with some of the most poetic and mysterious montage in Ozu's career. The sequence of cuts showing commuters arriving at the station in the early morning, and the cut, later on, in the midst of dramatic crises to a neon sign at twilight are of a profoundness found nowhere else in cinema" (Nathaniel Dorsky).

Sunday, April 3 3:00 p.m.

