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*The Operating Room*

## Gekashitsu The Operating Room Tamasaburo Bando

Japan, 1992, 50 minutes  
 Colour/35mm (Vistavision)  
 Production Company: Asahi National Broadcasting Co. Ltd./Shochiku Co. Ltd./Arato Genjiro Pictures  
 Executive Producer: Kyuemon Oda, Kazuyoshi Okuyama, Genjiro Arato  
 Screenplay: Hiroshi Hashimoto, Genki Yoshimura, Tamasaburo Bando, from a novel by Kyoka Izumi  
 Cinematography: Noritaka Sakamoto  
 Editor: Akira Suzuki  
 Principal Cast: Sayuri Yoshinaga, Masaya Kato, Haruko Wanibuchi, Reona Hirota, Tomoko Mariya, Yoshié Minami, Yoshitaro Ii, Ishiro Yoshimura, Kiichi Nakai

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"Eternal beauty is something many of us seek but never gain, like flowers reflected in a mirror, or the image of the moon shimmering on quiet water." — Tamasaburo Bando. Kyoka Izumi (1873-1939), who wrote the novel upon which *The Operating Room* is based, was known to critics as an "alchemist of beauty." This literary gem, which epitomizes what later came to be known as the "world of Kyoka," has been brought to the screen with exquisite sensitivity by Kyoka's most brilliant stage interpreter. As a young medical student strolled through the gardens with the azaleas in full bloom, a young countess silently passed by, holding a parasol. Nine years later, in cherry blossom season, the tragic consequences of their deeply held secret are manifest in the operating room.

**Tamasaburo Bando** is one of Japan's best-known Kabuki players, specializing in female impersonation. He also appears in films and stage plays, playing Desdemona in "Othello" and Lady Macbeth in "Macbeth." He danced to the choreography of Maurice Bejart and starred in the stage version of Dostoevsky's "The Idiot," directed by Andrzej Wajda. He has also directed stage productions of classic works and portrayed heroines in many dramas written by Kyoka Izumi, whose novel is the source of *The Operating Room* (92), Bando's first film as a director.