

## Document Citation

Title	<b>Cinema of contemplation: program selection byh Phillip Lopate : Utamaro and his five women</b>
Author(s)	Phillip Lopate
Source	<i>Pacific Film Archive</i>
Date	1974 Nov 17
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Utamaro o meguru gonin no onna (Utamaro and his five women), Mizoguchi, Kenji, 1946

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17

1974

CINEMA OF CONTEMPLATION:

PROGRAM SELECTION BY PHILLIP LOPATE

UTAMARO AND HIS FIVE WOMEN, 2:30\*\*, 7:15

Even before Kenji Mizoguchi died, he made films that seemed to come from the other side of the grave. He viewed human passions with the stately, detached sympathy of someone who has seen it all; and his cinematic style, unfurling with the loveliness of a succession of magnificent Japanese prints, was the most consistently transcendental of any film director. UTAMARO AND HIS FIVE WOMEN, all too rarely shown, a beautiful film from his middle period, is perhaps the closest he came to an autobiographical statement about the making of art. He took as his subject the great Ukiyoe printmaker, Utamaro, who broke with the conventional nature-subjects of the 18th century to form a supple, highly popular style, based on the lives of geisha houses and sensuality. Mizoguchi portrays Utamaro as so absorbed in the act of vision that he can do little but watch helplessly (if compassionately) the thrashings and destructive love affairs of the women who are his models. —Phillip Lopate. (1946, 95 mins, 35mm)

THE IDIOT, 4:15\*\*\*, 9:00