

Document Citation

Title	Black rain
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Source	<i>Cinematheque Ontario/a division of Toronto International Film Festival Group</i>
Date	2007 Jan 29
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Kuroi ame (Black rain), Imamura, Shohei, 1989

BLACK RAIN

(KUROI AME)

Director: Shohei Imamura

Japan 1989 123 minutes

Cast: Kazuo Kitamura, Yoshiko Tanaka

*Cinemathèque Ontario
Winter 2007*

"A masterwork . . . flawless . . . a profound chiller" (Vincent Canby, *The New York Times*). Long thought unfilmable, Ibuse's famous novel about survivors of the nuclear bombing at Hiroshima provided Imamura with one of his greatest challenges. Set largely in the Fifties, the film focuses on a village whose inhabitants were showered with radioactive "black rain" and who have become social untouchables, particularly a family whose repeated attempts to marry off their niece have been unsuccessful. Each suitor, upon discovering that the beautiful young woman was exposed in the bombing, shuns her. Imamura tames the hectic style of his earlier films to establish a subdued tone appropriate to his subject and source material; the result is shattering. "Imamura returns to the concerns of his finest work, and the cinematic style which has made him one of the world's best directors" (Donald Richie).

Monday, January 29 6:30 p.m. PG - Mature Theme



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