

## Document Citation

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Screenplay: Kogo Noda and Yasujiro Ozu. Photography: Yuharu Atsuta.  
Art Direction: Tatsuo Hamada. Music: Takanobu Saito.

Cast: Shima Iwashita (Michiko Hirayama), Chishu Ryu (her father, Shuhei), Mariko Okada (Akiko), Keiji Sada (Koichi), Shinichiro Mikami (Kazuo), Nobuo Nakamura (Kawai), Kuniko Miyake (Mrs. Kawai), Ryuji Kita (Horie), Michiyo Tamaki (his bride, Tamako), Teruo Yoshida (Miura), Eijiro Tono (Sakuma, the old teacher), Noriko Maki (Fusako Taguchi), Kyoko Kishida (the bar madame), Toyo Takahashi (the restaurant proprietor), Daisuke Kato (Sakamoto, Hirayama's petty officer).

The college boys of Ozu's silent pictures have grown up and grown old. Their kids are growing up, too, and it is time for their daughters to marry and leave home. Hirayama is trying to find a mate for his daughter Michiko, a chore which is made more difficult by the poor example set for her by her brother Koichi and his wife Akiko. His old pal Horie, too, has remarried--a woman just about Michiko's age--and can hardly contain his renewed vitality. The chums are also planning a reunion of their schoolmates to honor their favorite teacher, old Sakuma. In the end, Hirayama sees Michiko married and on her wedding night returns home drunk where his youngest son, Kazuo, admonishes him cheekily that he better get to bed and take care of himself, because he can't afford to have the old boy die just yet.

This, his last film before his death of lymphoma at the age of 60, is Ozu's most charmingly disjointed picture. The slapstick gags his college men engaged in have now been reduced to reminiscences and placid whimsy and their dreams of youth, if not satisfied, have been quieted.

The discussions about the class reunion here are said to be taken almost directly from Ozu's own experience. He had been kicked out of school in his teens and he never forgave the teacher who turned him in for what was really an insignificant incident. When he and his classmates were planning their reunion many years later, Ozu said he would not attend if that teacher were invited.