

## Document Citation

Title	<b>Kimiko</b>
Author(s)	Hobe Morrison
Source	<i>Variety</i>
Date	
Type	review
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Tsuma yo bara no yo ni (Wife! Be like a rose!), Naruse, Mikio, 1935

# KIMIKO

(JAPANESE MADE)

International Film Bureau release of Photographic Chemical Laboratory production. Features Sachiko Chiba. Directed by Mikio Naruse. Based on the novel 'Two Wives' by Miboru Nakano. Photography, Hiroshi Suzuki; music, Noboru Itoh; English titles by Noshiomi Hirata. At Filmarte Theatre, N.Y., week April 12-'37. Running time, 73 mins.

Kimiko Yamamoto.....	Sachiko Chiba
Yuko.....	Tomoko Itoh
Oyuki.....	Yuriko Hanabusa
Shunsaku Yamamoto.....	Sadao Maruyama
Naiki.....	Heihachiro Okawa
Kimiko's Uncle.....	Kamatari Fujiwara
Kimiko's Aunt.....	Chikako Hosokawa
Kelch.....	Kaoru Itoh
Maue.....	Setsuko Horikoshi

(In Japanese, With English Titles)

First Japanese talking pic shown in America. 'Kimiko' was selected as film representative of modern Japan

by group of Chicago University professors, who based their judgment on pic's intrinsic value and its appeal to American audiences. From appearances, film (or at least this print) was aimed for western showing, as musical score is distinctly Occidental in character. Particularly so in opening scenes. Despite optimism of the college professors, 'Kimiko' has little entertainment value for average American film audiences. May draw moderately in few arties, but chiefly as novelty. Otherwise no dice. And yet despite certain unaffected charm of the pic and genuine direction and production.

Film's chief flaw is its dreary pace. Also fact that Japanese are racially not emotionally demonstrative, as result of which performances are agonizingly underplayed.

Nevertheless, 'Kimiko' is loaded with quiet drollery in what is apparently Japanese equivalent of 'Mr. Needs' and 'Man Godfrey' type of comedy. Plenty of sly wise-cracking in the dialog, particularly between heroine and her fiance. Jap. femmes are okay for looks.

Story deals with modern Tokio girl and her mother. Father has abandoned them years before to live with geisha. Girl's wedding isn't possible unless father is present to arrange details with fiance's parents. Girl goes to get him, sees him in the happiness of his new home and family. Realizing impossibility of his living with his wife, daughter sends him back when the wedding details are settled.

Simple story is ingeniously told. Has honest human values and is completely without hokum. But lack of pace, combined with what seems to be fundamental difference in viewpoint for western audiences, makes 'Kimiko' heavy entertainment—at least in America. Wealth of picturesque atmosphere and vivid photography.

Hobe.