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Document Citation

Title	**The theatrics of life : Masahiro Shinoda**
Author(s)	
Source	*Pacific Film Archive*
Date	
Type	flyer
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Sharaku, Shinoda, Masahiro, 1995 Namida o shishi no tategami ni (Tears on the lion's mane), Shinoda, Masahiro, 1962

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Pacific Film Archive presents

The Theatrics of Life
Masahiro Shinoda

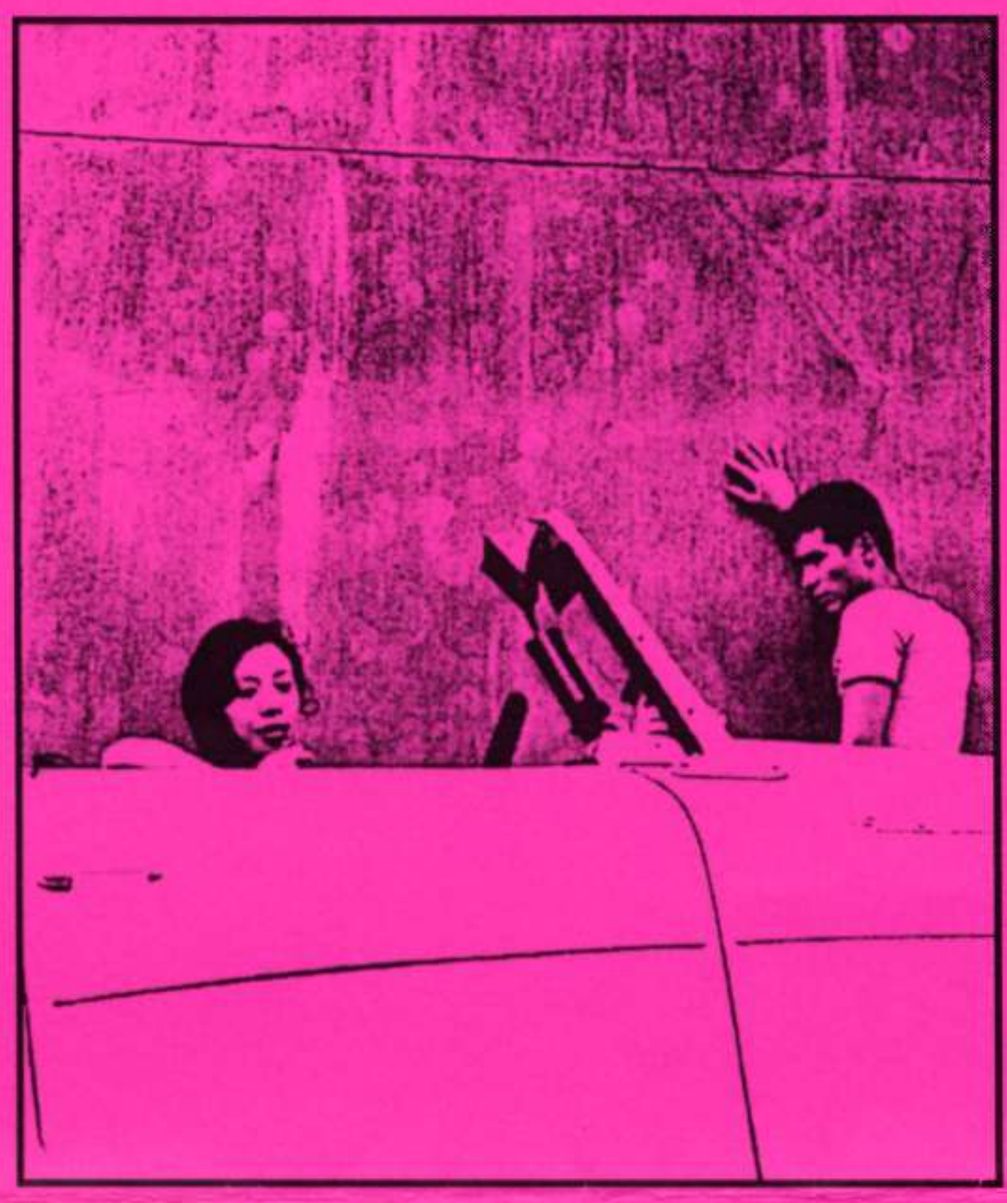


Sharaku

Friday, November 6
7:00 Bay Area premiere

Sunday, November 8
5:30

Sharaku (1995)
Little is known about the 18th century woodblock artist Sharaku, who won sudden notoriety for his caricatures of kabuki actors, then just as quickly disappeared. Shinoda's fictional biography is less a portrait of a man than of a time and place, a voluptuous, teeming Edo. A former kabuki acrobat, Sharaku roves the streets of the Yoshiwara pleasure district with a troupe of theatrical provocateurs, takes up painting kabuki sets, and drifts along until his drawings bring him into rivalry with Utamaro. Toru Takemitsu's final film score conveys the era's aesthetic of sensuality, wit and sophistication.



Tears on the Lion's Mane

Friday, November 6
9:35

Tears on the Lion's Mane */Namida o shishi no tategami ni* (1962)
One of several early Shinoda collaborations with the young poet and (later) avant-garde filmmaker Shuji Terayama and composer Takemitsu. The "lion" of the title is a young dock-worker who tries to break up a waterfront strike out of a misguided sense of loyalty to his crooked boss. A tale of the suppressed passions and violence of youth, painted in the vital strokes of the Japanese New Wave: melodrama and poetry, blood and politics, rock'n'roll.

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