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Author(s)	Donald Richie
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### **About Love, Tokyo**

*Written and directed by Mitsuo Yanagimachi. Japan.*

This is the latest film from one of Japan's finest directors ("Fire Festival" and "Farewell to the Land"). Again we are among the disaffiliated — only this time they are Chinese. A young student from Beijing comes to Tokyo to make a living and finds himself shunted to a job in an abattoir, finally to prostituting himself in a host-club. When he finds a girlfriend (born in Japan of Chinese parents and hence just as disadvantaged) he loses her to a yakuza. This dramatic story is told in the coolest of styles. Cold blues, industrial grays, acid greens are the background against which, distanced by long Mizoguchi-like shots, the lovers meet. This hot-cold, sweet-sour combination makes the film compelling and disturbing. It is also brave, outspoken and compassionate — a rare combination. Yanagimachi is perhaps the most serious and responsible director in today's Japan. His inspiration, he has said, is Bresson, and he has here created a film of like resolve. (*Donald Richie, IHT*)