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Friday October 9 9:15PM Lark \$8.50/\$6

The Eel (Unagi)

JAPAN 1997 117 MINS



Director Shohei Imamura **Producer** Hisa Iino **Screenwriters** Imamura, Motofumi Tomikawa, Daisuke Tengan **Camera** Shigeru Komatsubara **Editor** Hajime Okayasu **Cast** Koji Yakusho, Misa Shimizu **Print Source** New Yorker Films

Legendary director Shohei Imamura returns from a seven-year absence with THE EEL, winner of the Palme d'Or at the 1997 Cannes International Film Festival. Paroled after serving time for knifing his unfaithful wife, Tokuro Yamashita attempts to rehabilitate himself in a small town populated by the usual Imamura assortment of nosy fishermen, dimwitted gangsters and UFO seekers. He desires only a quiet life with his pet eel, but a caring young woman, her jealous loanshark ex-beau and Yamashita's maniacal old cellmate all threaten to drag him back into a moment of sudden violence. Filmed with Imamura's droll sense of humor and compassionate love for off-kilter characters, THE EEL's fabulously entertaining ride ends with another Imamura trademark—a wildly-staged mob finale of fights, screams and the joyously-presented breakdown of any and all sense of calm.

—J. Sanders

Invited Guest: Koji Yakusho

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