

Document Citation

Title	Afternoon breezes
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Source	<i>Pacific Film Archive Calendar</i>
Date	1991 Mar 30
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Kazetachi no gogo (Afternoon breezes), Yazaki, Hitoshi, 1980

Afternoon Breezes 9:10

Hitoshi Yazaki (Japan, 1980)

Hitoshi Yazaki in Person

(*Kazetachi no gogo*). Natsuko and Mitsu share a big-city apartment. Natsuko, jealous of Mitsu's relationship with her boyfriend Hideo, attempts to intervene by sleeping with Hideo herself. The ploy backfires—Natsuko becomes pregnant and is thrown out. The film explores Natsuko's dawning awareness that she is in love with Mitsu, and then her obsession with Mitsu as she neglects her own well being to follow her day and night.

"*Afternoon Breezes* offers the cinema's most incredible and moving account of lesbian obsession since *The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant*...Filmed with exceptional delicacy and restraint and acted with great psychological acuity, it is an astonishingly mature achievement for its very young cast and crew. It was inspired by a newspaper story, but its sense of reality is wholly subjective: the people and places around Natsuko are drained of inner life, reduced to objects in her obsessive gaze. Atmosphere and rhythm count for everything; there are no artificial injections of 'drama.'" (Tony Rayns, Edinburgh Film Festival '85)

- Written by Yazaki, Shunichi Nagasaki. Photographed by Isamu Ishii, Atsushi Komatsubara. With Setsuko Aya, Naomi Ito, Hiroshi Sugita, Mari Atake. (105 mins, In Japanese with English subtitles, B&W/Color, 16mm, Print courtesy the Artist)