

Document Citation

Title	Afraid to die
Author(s)	
Source	<i>Pacific Film Archive</i>
Date	1984 Apr 07
Type	program note
Language	English
Pagination	
No. of Pages	1
Subjects	
Film Subjects	Karakkaze yaro (Afraid to die), Masumura, Yasuzo, 1960

Yukio Mishima

Afraid to Die (Karakkaze yaro) 9:00

The late novelist Yukio Mishima made ~~a rare film appearance as the~~
~~star of this Yakuza (gangster) film.~~ *in this New Wave yakuza film*
~~stars as a gangster on the run~~

~~from gangland assassins in this Yakuza (gangster) film, Ayako Wakao is~~
as *Takeru*,
~~featured as his~~ a gangster who realizes that he is a marked man when,

on the day he is to be released from jail, a rival gang member kills one of his fellow prisoners by mistake. He embarks on a run through ~~the maze~~ ^{an} ~~of the~~ underworld maze of kidnappings, attempted assassinations, attacks

and retaliations. Popular Japanese actress Ayako Wakao is featured as the innocently

Yoshio outspoken Yoshio, ~~victimized~~ girlfriend

and victim of ~~Takashi Shimura~~ the emotionally impermeable Takeo, and Takashi Shimura (Seven Samurai, Ikiru, etc.) appears as ~~the~~ "boss Asahina." Audie Bock writes, ~~Asahina~~ in PFA's Daiei Collection Catalogue, "Masumura's

film fits squarely into the New Wave phenomenon with a fast-moving but nearly incomprehensible plot and talent from outside the established movie world, such as novelist Mishima. A satirical look at the yakuza world before the genre of gangster films became formula, this film provides memorable off-beat locations in a merry-go-round love scene and an escalator death scene, along with the freshness of Mishima in a leather jacket, Takashi Shimura in total-body tattoos, and Ayako Wakao as a sweet young thing."

Directed by Yasuzo Masumura. Produced by Daiei Company. Written by Ryuzo Kikushima and Hideo Ando. Photographed by Hiroshi Murai. With Yukio Mishima, Ayako Wakao, Eiji Funakoshi, Takashi Shimura. (¹⁹⁶⁰~~1956~~, 96 mins, In Japanese with English ~~subtitles~~ titles, 35mm, Color, Print from PFA Collection)