

A WOMAN

実録阿部定



CALLED

NIKKATSU PRESENTS A WOMAN CALLED SADA ABE. PRODUCERS SHIGERU KURIBAYASHI AND YOSHIHIRO YUKI. WRITTEN BY AKIO IDO. STARRING JUNKO MIYASHITA, EIMEI ESUMI, GENSHU HANAYAGI.
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MASABU MORI. EDITOR SHINJI YAMADA. PRODUCTION DESIGNER GUNJI KAWASAKI. COMPOSER KOICHI SAKATA. DIRECTED BY NOBORU TANAKA.

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SADA ABE



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**A WOMAN
CALLED
SADA ABE**

a film by
NOBORU TANAKA

Japan | 1975 | Japanese with English subtitles
2.39:1 | 76 minutes

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SYNOPSIS

Based on the shocking true story of a geisha and sex worker who accidentally killed her lover in a lustful haze of unbridled passion and kinky sex, *A WOMAN CALLED SADA ABE* is a watershed of hallucinatory erotic cinema. Director Noboru Tanaka, who rose to prominence as one of Nikkatsu's leading Roman Porno auteurs, framed the tale as both a "true document" and an ode to decadence that lays bare the candid details of the infamous couple's obsessive relationship. Exquisitely shot with striking period piece production design and expressive mise-en-scène, the film's raw emotional power is further exemplified by the bold and inspired performance of pink film and Roman Porno super starlet, Junko Miyashita.

Preceding Nagisa Oshima's renowned telling of the same sensationalized crime, *In the Realm of the Senses*, by a year, *A WOMAN CALLED SADA ABE* is "more intimate, more cinematically stylized and arguably more erotic" (*Midnight Eye*).



DIRECTOR NOBORU TANAKA

Noboru Tanaka was a Japanese film director known for his Roman Porno films, including three critically respected films known as the Showa trilogy: *A Woman Called Sada Abe* (1975), *Watcher in the Attic* (1976), and *Beauty's Exotic Dance: Torture!* (1977), all three starring Nikkatsu Roman porno queen Junko Miyashita. Though at the time his career was overshadowed by directors such as Kumashiro Tatsumi and Sone Chusei, many critics today consider Tanaka the best of Nikkatsu's Roman Porno directors.

Tanaka was born in Hakuba in Nagano prefecture on August 15, 1937. He majored in French literature at Meiji University in Tokyo. While working on his thesis, Tanaka took a part-time job at a movie studio to gain first-hand knowledge of film production. He served as a production assistant on Kurosawa's *Yojimbo* (1961), an experience that created Tanaka's enthusiasm for the film industry. After graduation, he applied to Nikkatsu studios for a job as an assistant director and passed their entrance exam.

Tanaka was given his first chance to direct in 1972 with the early Roman porno, *Beads from a Petal*. The same year, Tanaka directed *Night of the Felines*, an unusually realistic look at the lives of a group of prostitutes, and received critical recognition for *Woman on the Night Train*.

As his career progressed, Tanaka's films became known for their imaginative, sometimes surreal, use of color and poetic imagery within harsh, brutal world settings. In 1973, Tanaka directed the second entry in the Secret Chronicle trilogy, *Secret Chronicle: Torture Hell*. A thematic departure from the series' first entry, Tanaka's film was a serious look at religious-sexual ceremonies at a temple and won the Directors Guild of Japan New Directors award.

Rape and Death of a Housewife (1978), despite its sensationalistic title, is considered one of Tanaka's masterpieces and was his major mainstream critical break-through. Kinema Jumbo gave the film their Best Film award.

After making nearly 25 films for Nikkatsu, Tanaka left the studio to try his hand at directing mainstream films for other studios. He directed several hits including the 1983 Shochiku film, *Village of Doom*. He returned to Nikkatsu to direct *Monster Woman '88* (1988) and then retired from the film industry. Just as international recognition was beginning to come to Tanaka, he died of a brain aneurysm on October 4, 2006.

CAST

Sada Abe
Kishizô Ishida
Geisha

Junko Miyashita
Eimei Esumi
Genshu Hanayagi

CREDITS

Directed by
Written by
Producers

Noboru Tanaka
Akido Ido
Shigeru Kuribayashi
Yoshihro Yûki

Director of Photography
Editor
Production Designer
Composer

Masaru Mori
Shinji Yamada
Gunji Kawasaki
Koichi Sakata



