

Aroused by Gymnopédies

In this film, a man flees from the mortality of the one he loves, and his meandering journey from woman to woman is depicted with humor and melancholy. In Isao Yukisada's films, the shadow of death is a constant. To date, he has depicted numerous versions of love as a master of love stories, but another theme that runs strongly through his works is the sadness and recovery of the bereaved. As Yukisada has said himself, "A lust for life and sexual desire are inextricably linked." He has made a film about the unbalanced relationships between a man unable to move forward in life who senses death at close quarters, and several vibrant women with vitality in abundance, all overlaid gorgeously and erotically with Erik Satie's Gymnopédies as a motif for a spellbound state. We hope that this film, inspired by various actual episodes from the Japanese film industry, will delight viewers with its surprises and humor.

Director Comment: Isao Yukisada

Roman Porno films amazed and captivated me with their avant-garde developments, rather than their erotic aspects. I came to Tokyo wanting to make them, and knocked on the doors of Nikkatsu Studios. However, the label had already arrived at its demise.

Then, many years later, an invitation to make a Nikkatsu Roman Porno film fell into my lap. What's more, my effort would be going head-to-head with others by famous directors, which sounded intriguing. Naturally, I told them on the spot that I'd do it.

I thought about what I wanted to make, and the first things that popped into my mind were two true stories about men close to my heart who I respect deeply. I knew that evoking the pervasive vitality of women, which runs through every single classic Roman Porno film, would not be an easy task, but through using those true stories as a basis, I wanted to take advantage of the meticulous, passionate, and expressive nature of Roman Porno to portray these times we live in. I ended up depicting the affairs of an incorrigible male film director who is saved by the mysterious power within the female body. By the way, he isn't me.

Synopsis

Shinji is a middle-aged, sleaze film director. He hardly goes back home and moves from one woman to another. In spite of his idleness, women look after him compassionately for whatever reason. Shinji gets more and more neglectful depending on their generosity, however, there is one reason for Shinji's wife...

A man knows he does not have that much time left with his wife. Accordingly, he gets afraid of the coming end, filled with sorrow, and become desperate. He eventually accepts the loss of the love. It would be the most heartfelt, romantic and bitter story in this Roman Porno titles.

Isao Yukisada

Born in 1968, Kumamoto, Japan. He joined the production teams of Kaizo Hayashi and Shunji Iwai as an assistant director. His first feature film *Sunflower* (2000) was awarded FIPRESCI Award at 5th Busan International Film Festival. *Go* (2001) received 50 awards including Best

Directing at Japan Academy Prize and was well regarded both in and outside Japan. In 2004, *Crying Out Love in the Center of the World* set a remarkable record for making ¥8.5 billion at the box office, 6.2 million attendances and was domestically recognized as the No.1 film of the year. The 2010 film *Parade* was awarded FIPRESCI Prize, Panorama at 60th Berlinale. The recent works include *Five Minutes before Midnight*, *The Round Table (Entaku Kokko, Hito Natsu no Imagin)* and *Before The Vigil*, in addition to *Pink and Gray*, a smash hit movie in 2016.

[Filmography]

Open House (1998) - Director, Screenwriter

Sunflower (2000) - Director, Screenwriter

A Closing Day (2000) - Director, Screenwriter

Luxurious Bone (2001) - Director, Producer, Screenwriter

Go (2001) - Director

Rock 'n' Roll Mishin (2002) - Director, Screenwriter

Seventh Anniversary (2003) - Director

A Day on the Planet (2004) - Director, Screenwriter

Crying Out Love in the Center of the World (2004) - Director, Screenwriter

Year One in the North (2005) - Director

Spring Snow (2005) - Director

Toku no Sora ni Kieta (Into the Faraway Sky) (2007) - Director, Screenwriter

Closed Note (2007) - Director, Screenwriter

A Good Husband (2010) - Director

Parade (2010) - Director, Screenwriter

Before The Vigil (2013) - Director, Screenwriter

The Round Table (Entaku Kokko, Hito Natsu no Imagin) (2014) - Director

Five Minutes before Midnight (2014) - Director

Pink and Gray (2016) - Director, Screenwriter