

"EXTREMELY VIOLENT AND BRUTAL... IT CHALLENGES THE POPULAR YAKUZA PICTURES OF THE SIXTIES."
- JAPAN ON FILM

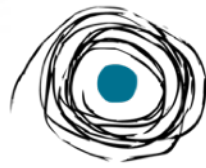
A FILM BY TAI KATO

BY A MAN'S FACE SHALL YOU KNOW HIM

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A TAI KATO FILM BY A MAN'S FACE SHALL YOU KNOW HIM
CASTING: MITSUHIKO ANDO, KENJI MIYAZAKI, SHINJI YAMAMOTO, JUJI FUKUI, ARIKI TAKAI
PRODUCTION: YOSHINO KAKUDA, JUNYA SUGIYAMA
EDITING: TETSUO HOSOHARA, TAI KATO, DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: TAI KATO

FILM MOVEMENT CLASSICS SHOCHIKU



FILM MOVEMENT[®]
CLASSICS

presents

BY A MAN'S FACE SHALL YOU KNOW HIM

a film by TAI KATO

HIGH DEFINITION DIGITAL TRANSFER

**“Told through vibrant color cinematography and
a complex series of flashbacks, Kato traces the influences
of sex, violence, and racism in post-war Japan.”**

–Make Mine Criterion

Japan | 1966 | Japanese with English subtitles
Action / Crime / Drama | 89 minutes | 2.45:1 | Mono

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SYNOPSIS

WWII veteran Dr. Amamiya (played by real life former yakuza Noboru Ando) runs a clinic in a downtrodden Japanese neighborhood. When an accident victim brought to him for treatment turns out to be his ethically Korean war buddy he recalls the criminal strife that practically ripped their town apart and changed their lives forever just some years earlier right after the war. Flashbacks reveal the brash and contentious Korean gang that tried to take over the local market and turn it into a red light district. While fueled by innate prejudice from the native Japanese residents, the hoodlums' ruthless methods lead to unspeakably treacherous acts. As both sides' anger escalates to the brink, Dr. Amamiya takes matters into his own hands to try and control this untenable conflict.

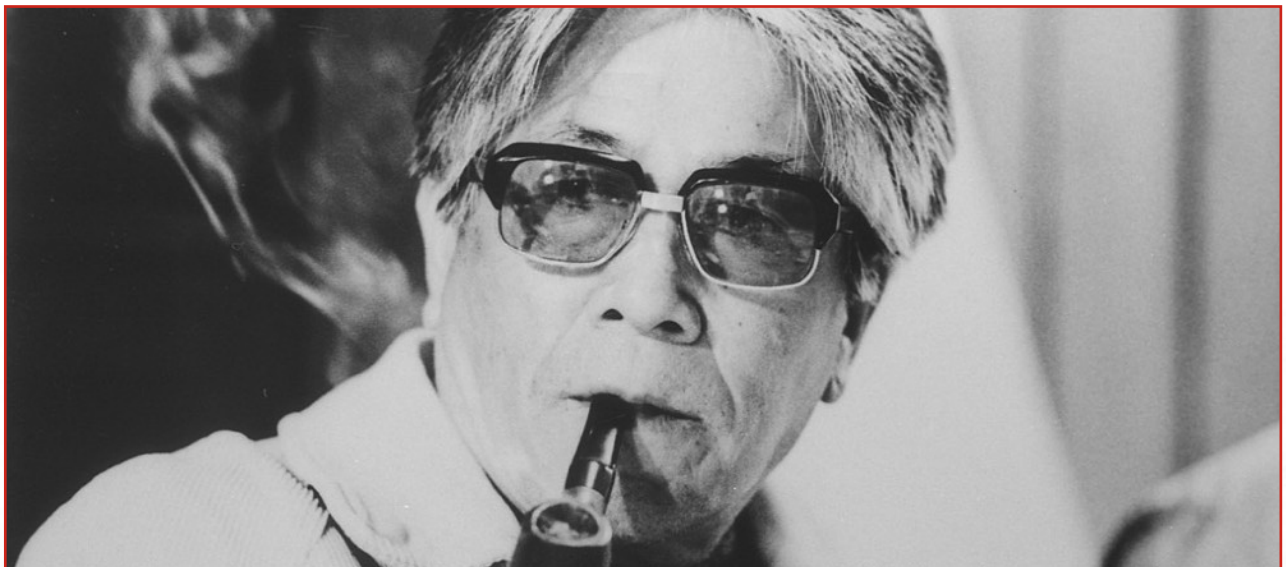
Director Tai Kato's groundbreaking feature takes on controversial sociopolitical issues with his distinct cinematic aesthetic in a seamless blend of melodrama and action that is exemplary of his "superb craftsmanship and personal style" (*Los Angeles Times*).



ABOUT TAI KATO

In the 1960s Toei Studio was Yakuza Central and Tai Kato was the chief exponent and innovator of this popular genre. American audiences equate the yakuza with the contemporary gangster, but the classic yakuza setting is more akin to the western, with swordplay more than gunplay, silk not seersucker, and honor not anarchy in the teeming gambling underworld. This allowed Tai Kato to indulge his passion for historical drama, as well as for startling realism and audacious camerawork. It also shows us yakuza's roots in the samurai (*chambara*) film, in which Toei specialized. Kato contributed to the *chambara* revival after the Occupation ban on this genre's "feudal values" was lifted. The evolution from samurai to yakuza was effected by a societal change-when swords were outlawed (in 1868), only outlaws had swords. Ergo, the outlaw hero, for whom duty (*giri*) and humanity (*ninjo*) were frequently in conflict. In the low-budget quickies that were in demand during the second Golden Age of Japanese cinema, constraint was the mother of invention and personal style for Kato. Not only did he favor "the natural beauty of the face" over makeup, and gesture over genre codes, he created what some call a cinema of excess: one-shot sequences of extraordinary lyricism and power, flat wide-angle framing, and his most famous trait, the low-angle shot which breaks up the scene and sometimes the body into its components. All in all, closer to Sergio Leone than to Ozu. Koshi Ueno wrote of Kato's "desire to look at things which are difficult to see from a normal viewing position. His desire to look is also a desire to show."

From Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive retrospective "Blossoms and Swords: The Films of Tai Kato"



CAST

Shuichi Amamiya
Munki Choi
Maki Kuramoto
Shunji Amemiya
Hye-Chun Lee
Yeon-bok Xu

Noboru Ando
Ichiro Nakatani
Sanae Nakahara
Juzo Itami
Akemi Mari
Bunta Sugawara

CREW

Directed by
Screenplay by

Tai Kato
Tai Kato
Seiji Hoshikawa



ABOUT FILM MOVEMENT

Founded in 2002, Film Movement is a North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films based in New York City. It has released more than 300 feature films culled from prestigious film festivals worldwide including the Oscar-nominated films *Theeb* (2016) and *Corpus Christi* (2020). Film Movement's theatrical releases include American independent films, documentaries, and foreign-language arthouse titles. Its catalog includes works by directors such as Ryusuke Hamaguchi, Lee Isaac Chung, Hirokazu Kore-eda, Maren Ade, Jessica Hausner, Ciro Guerra, Bertrand Bonello and Mélanie Laurent.

In 2015, Film Movement launched its reissue label Film Movement Classics, featuring new restorations released theatrically as well as on digital platforms, Blu-ray and DVD, including films by such noted directors as Ang Lee, Chen Kaige, Luchino Visconti, Stanley Kwan, Peter Greenaway, Bille August, Marleen Gorris, Takeshi Kitano, Arturo Ripstein, King Hu, Lee Chang Dong, Hideo Gosha and Sergio Corbucci.

For more information, please visit www.filmmovement.com.

