

NEW 4K RESTORATION

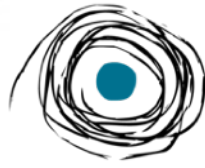
"SPIRITUAL"
TIMEOUT

"HILARIOUS"
VARIETY

FANCY DANCE

A FILM BY MITSUYUKI SUO





FILM MOVEMENT[®]
CLASSICS

presents

FANCY DANCE

a film by **MASAYUKI SUO**

NEW 4K RESTORATION

4K scan by Imagica Entertainment Media Services, Inc. from Original Camera Negative
4K restoration by Tokyo Koon Co., Ltd. | Scanner: Scanity by Digital Film Technology
Supervised by the film's cinematographer Yuichi Nagata

Japan | 1989 | Japanese with English subtitles
Comedy | 102 minutes | 1.37:1 | 5.1 Surround Sound

Press Contact

Michael Krause | Foundry Communications | (212) 586-7967 | mkrause@foundrycomm.com

Film Movement Booking Contact

Erin Farrell | Theatrical & Festival | (212) 941-7744 x213 | erin@filmmovement.com

SYNOPSIS

Popular punk rock singer Yohei (Masahiro Motoki, *Departures*) agrees to become a Buddhist monk for a year in order to inherit his family's lucrative temple. With his head fully shaved he leaves behind his aggressive girlfriend and other worldly desires for an ascetic lifestyle in the countryside. There he is teamed up with a quirky cast of characters, including his younger brother, who becomes a monastic heartthrob of the fanatical high school girls nearby. While life is hard at first with endless duties and harassment by the higher-ups, pretty soon Yohei discovers that even the senior monks have found ways to buck the system. Some of the nefarious activities of the novice and seasoned monks include dating a woman on the sly, cavorting at hostess bars outside campus grounds, hoarding candies and other secular antics. When Yohei's estranged girlfriend comes to drag him back to secular life he finds himself at a crossroads.

The sophomore feature by Masayuki Suo (*Shall We Dance?*) is a sublime hangout comedy whose "mix of belly laughs, slapstick, sex jokes and satire pushes towards a predictably serene, spiritual conclusion" (*Time Out*).



ABOUT MASAYUKI SUO

After a childhood spent living and breathing movies and baseball, Tokyo-born Suo entered Rikkyo university to study French Literature. It was there that lectures by esteemed movie critic, Shigehiko Hasumi inspired him to become a film director. After an initial foray into independent movies, he got a leg up when he summoned the nerve to ask director Banmei Takahashi, for a job. The legendary director, who happened to be a regular customer at a bar where Suo's friend was working, gave Suo unpaid unemployment at the telephone switchboard. Suo went on to become an Assistant Director on as many as 10 movies a year for Takahashi as well as other directors in his stable such as Koji Wakamatsu and Kazuyuki Izutsu.

When Takahashi founded the Director's Company in 1982, Suo took the opportunity to open Unit 5, his own filmmaking collective with colleagues Isumichi Isomura, Yoshiho Fukuoka, Toshiyuki Mizutani and Akira Yoneda. He was soon churning out scripts and in 1984 his debut as a director was made with *Abnormal Family – My Brother's Bride*, a well-received homage to his hero, Yasujiro Ozu, which put him on the map. In 1986 he directed the adaptation of a popular novel *Salaryman Classroom* for TV. His momentum increased when he was entrusted with making the behind-the-scenes documentary of the filming of Juzo Itami's *Taxing Woman* in 1987. This lead him to team up with former Daiei employee, Shoji Masui who produced Suo's *Fancy Dance* in 1989. This film debuted the super star actor, Motohiro Motoki and gave Suo the clout to take on *Sumo Do, Sumo Don't* in 1992, which won Best Film at the Japanese Academy Awards.

In 1993 Suo and Masui created their own production company, Altamira Pictures. 1996's *Shall We Dance?* swept nearly every category of the 20th Japanese Academy Awards and became a social phenomenon, inspiring a Hollywood remake starring Richard Gere and Jennifer Lopez. 2007's *I Just Didn't Do It* won a raft of awards and helped catalyze a shift in attitudes within Japan's legal system. Suo changed gears with *Dancing Chaplin* in 2011, a low-budget documentary about ballet which garnered international festival exposure. In 2012, he reunited the two lead actors from *Shall We Dance?* For *A Terminal Trust*, a love story set in the context of terminal hospital care. In 2014 Suo returned to his signature style with *Lady Maiko*, a light-hearted look at a country girl's ambitious bid to enter the cloistered world of Kyoto's apprentice geisha.

CAST

Yohei Shiono
Masoho Akashi
Ikuo Shiono
Chinrai Shinada
Shosui
Mitsuki Kitagawa
Shizuko Shiono

Masahiro Motoki
Honami Suzuki
Ken Osawa
Hiromasa Taguchi
Miyako Koda
Naoto Takenaka
Nobuko Miyamoto

CREW

Written & Directed by
Producer
Cinematographer
Lighting Director
Production Designer
Sound Recording
Music
Editor

Masayuki Suo
Shoji Masui
Yuichi Nagata
Tatsuya Osada
Minoru Ohashi
Kiyoshi Yoneyama
Yoshikazu Suo
Junichi Kikuchi



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.

