

NIKKATSU PRESENTS NIGHT OF THE FELINES PRODUCED BY RYOJI ITO WRITTEN BY AKIRA NAKANO STARRING TOMOKO KATSURA HIDEKI HARA KEIKO MAKI
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY KENJI HAGIWARA EDITOR AKIRA SUZUKI PRODUCTION DESIGNER YOSHINAGA YOKOO COMPOSER KOICHI SAKATA DIRECTED BY NOBORU TANAKA

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NIKKATSU

牝猫たちの夜

Night of the Felines





牝猫たちの夜

*Night
of the
Felines*

a film by
NOBORU TANAKA

Japan | 1972 | Japanese with English subtitles
2.35:1 | 68 minutes

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SYNOPSIS

Noboru Tanaka's wildly bawdy and visually inventive foray into the Roman Porno genre follows a trio of sex workers at a secretive Soapland brothel in downtown Tokyo. Masako, the most requested attendant and unofficial matriarch of the bathhouse, finds herself in a steamy predicament when her occasional lover and next door neighbor's best friend requests explicit help learning how to satisfy his new girlfriend.

A colorful and mercurial look into the underbelly of Japan's naughty nightlife, Tanaka's raunchy comedy explores the sexual eccentricities of everyday people with just the right mix of unbridled imagination and measured dismay.



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

Masako
Jun
Omitsu

Tomoko Katsura
Hidemi Hara
Keiko Maki

CREDITS

Directed by
Written by
Produced by
Director of Photography
Editor
Production Designer
Composer

Noboru Tanaka
Akira Nakano
Ryoji Ito
Kenji Hagiwara
Akira Suzuki
Yoshinaga Yokoo
Koichi Sakata



