

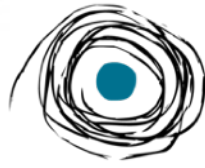
A FILM BY
HIDEO GOSHA

鬼龍院花子
生涯

ONIMASA

A THE COMPANY LTD. PRODUCTION "ONIMASA" SCREENPLAY BY TOSIYUKI KAWAKATSU, DIRECTED BY HIDEO GOSHA. CASTING BY YOSHIO TANAKA. COSTUME DESIGNER SHINJI MATSUDA. EDITOR YOSHIO TANAKA. PRODUCTION DESIGNER TOSIYUKI KAWAKATSU. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS TOSIYUKI KAWAKATSU, TOSIYUKI KAWAKATSU. PRODUCED BY TOSIYUKI KAWAKATSU. © 2015 THE COMPANY LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

© 2015 THE COMPANY LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. FILM MOVEMENT



FILM MOVEMENT[®]
CLASSICS

presents

A FILM BY
HIDEO GOSHA

ONIMASA

鬼龍院花子
の生涯

NEW 4K RESTORATION

“A serious look at the life of the yakuza outside of genre formulae as well as a sympathetic look at the women caught up in that life.”

—Japan on Film

Japan | 1982 | Japanese with English Subtitles
Action / Drama | 146 minutes | 1.85:1 | Mono

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

Acclaimed genre auteur Hideo Gosha (*Samurai Wolf*, *Violent Streets*, *Tokyo Bordello*) broke new ground with this sophisticated tale of an uber-fierce yakuza boss as seen through the eyes of his resilient adopted daughter. Adapting a hit novel Gosha juxtaposed the fiery machismo of his roughneck antihero, played with savage intensity by the brilliant Tatsuya Nakadai, against the strong and often wily women in his life. Everyday gangster tribulations and their attendant intrigue, from dog fights to union busting, kidnapping, prostitution and revenge are the meticulously detailed and gritty backdrop of this sweeping character study that lays bare the volatile mores of early twentieth century Japan. Considered a major watershed of Gosha's late period, ONIMASA is a "great gangster epic, possessing tragic dimension as well as scope and passion" (*Los Angeles Times*).



HIDEO GOSHA BIOGRAPHY

While lesser known in the west, Hideo Gosha was arguably one of Japan's greatest filmmakers. He first made his mark in the samurai and yakuza film genres, and left behind a diverse oeuvre of groundbreaking films.

Gosha was born in Tokyo in 1929. After serving in the navy during WWII he earned a business degree from the prestigious Meiji University. He began his career as a reporter at Nippon television in 1953. In 1957 he was hired by then newly established Fuji Television where he worked his way up to producer and director.

A lifelong fan of jidaigeki (samurai period pieces) and chambara (samurai sword fighting action), Gosha made his breakthrough as a director with the hit television show, *Three Outlaw Samurai*. He was then hired to adapt it into a theatrical feature by the famed Shochiku film studio in 1964.



He followed his debut with many more successful samurai films including the dynamic spaghetti western informed *Samurai Wolf*, *Goyokin*, a gritty, now-classic opus about stolen gold starring Tatsuya Nakadai; the historical masterpiece *Hitokiri*, starring Shintaro Katsu (titular lead of the popular Zatoichi film series) as a ruffian pawn of feudal corruption. Gosha streamlined the action in his films with innovative sound design and spellbinding choreography, both of his actors and the camera, for which he was dubbed "The Chambara Revolutionary."

In the 70's, Gosha started to work more and more in the crime genre. He masterfully essayed themes of corruption and avarice with visceral depictions of unbridled violence and overt sexuality. After all, the main subjects of these films were often contemporary yakuza, prostitutes and other denizens of the underworld. *Violent Streets* (1974) is a prime example of the then new jitsuroku (true document) subgenre of yakuza films. Unlike the previous decade's very popular ninkyo eiga (films of chivalrous yakuza) the jitsuroku films exposed gangsters as the cold blooded killers and thieves that they were known to be in real life.

In contrast with his earlier work, Gosha started to employ more saturated colors to capture the flashy and lurid lifestyles of downtown Tokyo, where he himself grew up. His distinctive style and sense of realism are thus exemplified in later films including *Onimasa* (1982), starring Tatsuya Nakadai as a megalomaniacal self-made gangster boss. In this period he also focussed on the perils of women in a man's world with films such as *The Geisha* (1983), the box office smash *Yakuza Ladies* (1986) about gangster's wives who proved tougher than their male counterparts, and *Tokyo Bordello* (1987).

Gosha worked up until his death in 1992. The following year he was posthumously honored with a lifetime achievement award from the Japanese Academy Film Prize Association (the Japanese Academy Awards). His legacy lives on as his films are finally starting to reach wider and wider audiences.

CAST

Onimasa
Matsue Kiryuin
Uta Kiryuin
Tsuru
The Big Boss

Tatsuya Nakadai
Masako Natsume
Shima Iwashita
Akiko Kana
Tetsuro Tanba

CREW

Directed by
Screenplay by
Original Story
Music
Cinematographer
Lighting
Sound Recording
Art Designer
Editor

Hideo Gosha
Koji Takada
Tomiko Miyao
Mitsuteru Kanno
Fujio Morita
Yoshiaki Masuda
Kiyoshige Hirai
Yoshinobu Nishioka
Isamu Ichida



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.

