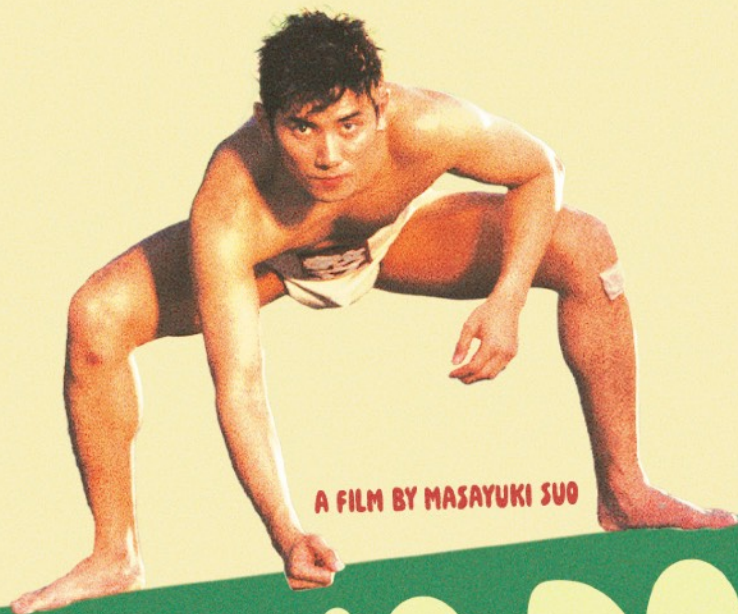


NEW 4K RESTORATION



A FILM BY MASAYUKI SUO



シコふんじった。



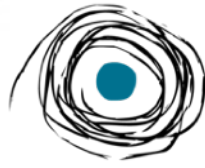
# SUMO DON'T

"A RARE TREASURE  
A PINNACLE OF ITS GENRE"  
FICTION MACHINE



KOHJIYOSHI COMPASSION PRESENTS AN ACHIMURA PICTURES PRODUCTION A THOMAS DU PUY FILM "SUMO DO, SUMO DON'T"  
KAZUHIRO MATSUMI - TOSHI SHIMIZU - HIDEKI TSUBOMURA - HISAKAZA TSUCHIHA - TOSIYUKI TANIUCHI - TOSIYUKI TANIUCHI - TOSIYUKI TANIUCHI  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER: KENJI UENO. PRODUCTION RECORDING: KENJI UENO. SOUND RECORDING BY TAJIMA YOSHIOKA. EDITED BY SHINJI YAMAGUCHI. PHYSICAL SCORE BY YOSHIOKA DAI  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER: SHINJI YAMAGUCHI. DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY: MASAYUKI SUO. © 1991 KODANSHA CORPORATION





FILM MOVEMENT<sup>®</sup>  
CLASSICS

*presents*



シムド



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 Naoki Kayano

**WINNER OF 5 JAPANESE ACADEMY AWARDS**  
**including BEST FILM, BEST DIRECTOR, BEST ACTOR**

**"THE BEST KIND OF SPORTS COMEDY."**  
**—Hayley Scanlon, *Windows on Worlds***

Japan | 1992 | Japanese with English subtitles  
Comedy | 103 minutes | 1.85:1 | 5.1 Surround Sound

Press Contact

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

Film Movement Booking Contact

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



## SYNOPSIS

College student Shuheï (Masahiro Motoki, *Departures*) finds out he is lacking a few credits for graduation. His crafty professor, a sumo enthusiast, says he'll let it slip if Shuheï joins the school team and competes in the regional university tournament. Shuheï begrudgingly joins the team, which includes one member, the eccentric repeat student Aoki, and the pretty club manager Natsuko. They are soon joined by a ragtag group of new members including an outspoken British exchange student and a tough overweight coed. Everyone seems driven by ulterior motives at first. Yet as their trials and tribulations see them grow through hilariously outrageous shenanigans, so too does the team cultivate a winning spirit for the traditional Japanese pastime.

SUMO DO, SUMO DON'T finds director Masayuki Suo (*Shall We Dance?*) refining his themes and motifs in this "fully entertaining, sometimes laugh out loud movie about sports underdogs who rise to success" (*Japan on Film*).



## 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

Shuhei Yamamoto  
Natsuko Kawashima  
Aoki Tomio  
Hosaku Tanaka  
Haruo Yamamoto  
Masako Mamiya  
George Smiley  
Tatsuo Horino  
Hokudo no Ken  
Professor Tokichi Anayama

**Masahiro Motoki**  
**Misa Shimizu**  
**Naoto Takenaka**  
**Hiromasa Taguchi**  
**Masaaki Takarai**  
**Ritsuko Umemoto**  
**Robert Hoffman**  
**Masaru Matsuda**  
**Hiroshi Miyasaka**  
**Akira Emoto**

## CREW

Written & Directed by  
Executive Producer  
Cinematographer  
Lighting  
Production Designer  
Sound Recording  
Editor  
Musical Score

**Masayuki Suo**  
**Shoji Masui**  
**Naoki Kayano**  
**Tatsuya Nagata**  
**Kyoko Hasebe**  
**Yasushi Yoneyama**  
**Junichi Kikuchi**  
**Yoshikazu Suo**



## 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](http://www.filmmovement.com).

