TATSUMI

A FILM BY HIROSHI SHOJI



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a film by **HIROSHI SHOJI**

Japan | 2023 | Japanese with English subtitles 108 minutes | 2.35:1 | 5.1 Surround Sound

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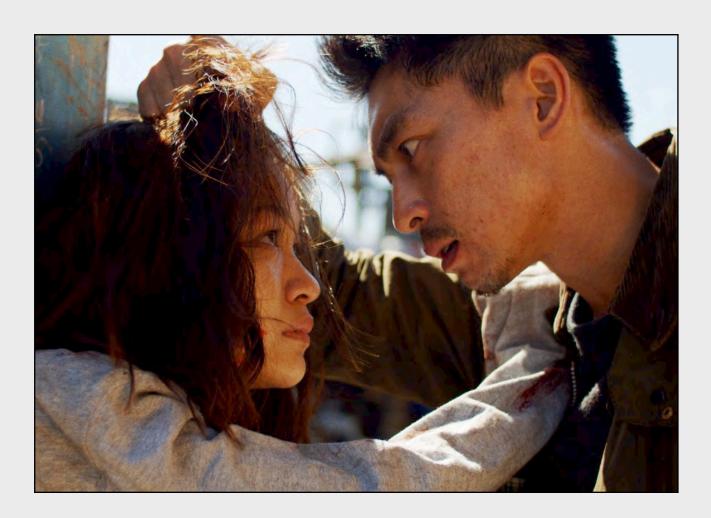
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SYNOPSIS

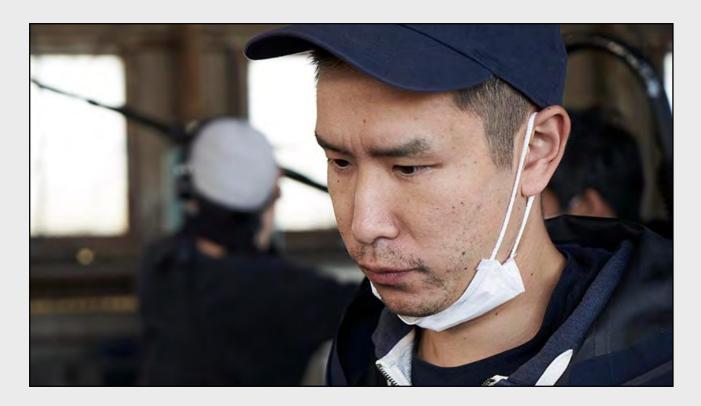
Tatsumi (Yuya Endo), an unassuming fisherman, makes his real livelihood by cleaning up dead bodies for local yakuza gangs. When criminal intrigue leads to the vicious murder of his ex-girlfriend by one of the gangsters, it thrusts her hot-headed teenage sister Aoi (a tour de force by ingénue Kokoro Morita) onto an unbridled path of vengeance. With his own personal motives in tow, Tatsumi vows to mentor and protect Aoi to the bitter end of her blood-soaked crusade. Gritty, mean and intense from the get-go, Tatsumi recalls the explosive "true document" yakuza films of celebrated director Kinji Fukasaku while adding a fresh perspective to its violent proceedings.

Director Hiroshi Shoji flexes his auteur chops with stylish panache that never belies the genre's misanthropic DNA. His naturalistic direction and the cast's breathtaking performances render Tatsumi a "tense, brutally realistic and an overall great film" (*Asian Movie Pulse*).



ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Hiroshi Shoji was born in Hiroshima Prefecture in 1986. His short film "Ken and Kazu" won the Encouragement Award at the SKIP City International D-Cinema Festival 2011. It was screened in four countries, including the International Film Festival Rotterdam. In 2016, he remade *Ken and Kazu* into a feature film, which won numerous awards for new directors, including the Tokyo International Film Festival's Japanese Film Splash Best Film Award, the Newcomer Award Silver Award, and the Newcomer Award from the Directors Guild of Japan. *Tatsumi* is his latest directorial feature.



Eight years after the release of my first film Ken and Kazu, my second feature, Tatsumi, is finally being released. I made this film with the desire to show how people honestly care about each other. Endo Yuya, Morita So, and the rest of the cast and crew came together to create a challenging, original story that tackles this universal subject with a yakuza as the protagonist. The result of their hard work is a film that is full of independent spirit and made with all our heart. I hope everyone will enjoy it. — Hiroshi Shoji

CAST BIOS

YUYA ENDO - Tatsumi



Born March 20, 1987, in Kanagawa Prefecture. He made his film debut in 2000, playing the protagonist as a child in the film *Juvenile* (directed by Takashi Yamazaki). He has since appeared in numerous dramas, films, and stage productions. Recent film appearances include the entire *High & Low: The Movie* series (2016-2017, directed by Shigeaki Kubo, Tsuyoshi Nakakuki), *Phantom Limb* (2014, directed by Michihito Fujii), *The Miracle of Crybaby Shottan* (2018, directed by Toshiaki Toyoda) and *Yakuza* (2020, directed by Kazuyuki Izutsu). In 2022, he starred in *Onoda: 10,000 Nights in the Jungle* (2021, directed by Arthur Harari), which won the 47th César Award for Best Original Screenplay. Since then, he has appeared in a variety of films, including *As It Flows* (2022, directed by Yasutomo Chikuma) and *Godzilla Minus One* (2023, directed by Takashi Yamazaki).

KOKORO MORITA - Aoi



Born February 11, 2000, in Tokyo. She made her film debut in 2009 with *The Flowers on Ghost Town* (directed by Jôta Tsuenehiro). She subsequently appeared in *The Anthem of the Heart* (2017, directed by Kumazawa Naoto). In 2017, she played her first leading role in *Ice Cream and the Sound of Raindrops*, directed by Daigo Matsui. Since then, she has appeared in many films, including *True Mothers* (2020, directed by Naomi Kawase), *Life: Untitled* (2019, directed by Kana Yamada), *Grown-Ups* (2021, directed by Takuya Kato) and *The Legend & Butterfly* (2023, directed by Keishi Otomo). In 2022, she won the Best Actress Award in the Foreign Film category at the Madrid International Film Festival for her starring role in *Lonely Glory* (directed by Keitaro Sakon).

CAST

Tatsumi Yuya Endo

Aoi Kokoro Morita

Aniki Goro Sato

Ryuji Tomoyuki Kuramoto

GotoTakenori GotoTakeshiRyo MatsumotoYamaokaRyuhei WatabeKyokoNanami KamedaInoTomomitsu AdachiKotaKisetsu Fujiwara

CREW

Written & Directed by Hiroshi Shoji

Producer Noboru Suzuki
Cinematographer Shuhei Yamamoto

Lighting Koji Toriuchi

Editor Tatsuma Furukawa, Hiroshi Shoji

Recording
Re-Recording Mixer

Sound Editor

Hiroyuki Ohono

Miki Nomura

Tatsuya Ohobo

Production Designer Kumiko Yoshinaga
Stylist Hiroaki Iriyama

Wardrobe Yumeno Kajiyama

Make-up Special Make-up Effects Erika Nakagaki

Assistant Directors Naoyuki Haga, Tatsuki Kajimoto

Kohei Harada

Music Yuji Iwamoto, Rina Okade