



A FILM BY HIDEO GOSHA

TOKYO BORDELLO

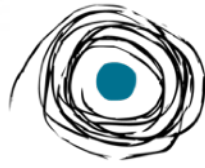
吉原 炎上

A TOEI COMPANY LTD. PRODUCTION "TOKYO BORDELLO" starring YUKO NATSUKI RINO KATASE JUNPACHINEN SAORU NINOMIYA MAHORO FUKU
SCREENPLAY BY KAZUO KASAHARA "SOSUJI BAKAJIN" MICHIO SHIMIZU SAKI MITSUO MASARU SATO DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY FUMIO MURATA EDITOR YOSHIO MASUDA
MUSIC BY KENJIRO KIKUCHI PRODUCED BY YOSHIO MASUDA DIRECTED BY HIDEO GOSHA



© 1978 TOEI COMPANY LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

FILM MOVEMENT
LABORATORY



FILM MOVEMENT[®]
CLASSICS

presents

A FILM BY HIDEO GOSHA

TOKYO BORDELLO

炎吉
上原

HD RESTORATION FROM THE ORIGINAL 35MM NEGATIVE

“Almost every scene is visually striking... a sympathetic rather than salacious look at the lives of the young women so continually and often casually sacrificed to the ‘entertainment’ system that grew up in the Tokugawa era.”

—Japan on Film

Japan | 1987 | Japanese with English Subtitles
Drama | 133 minutes | 1.85:1 | 2.0 Stereo

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

Set around the turn of the twentieth century in Tokyo's red light district Yoshiwara, master director Hideo Gosha (*Samurai Wolf*, *Violent Streets*, *Onimasa*) continued his 1980s focus on tenacious women with this mesmerizing chronicle of steadfast sex workers. Sold into a brothel by her destitute businessman father, demure ingenue Hisano soon learns the ways of her new world from the popular establishment's top three courtesans. Her coming of age is trial by fire as she eventually rises up the ranks, juggling lovers and her own personal drama with the turbulent escapades of her tight-knit female comrades. Bolstered by gorgeous production design and an incredible ensemble cast, Gosha brings his brash and bold style to this "fabulously lush film" (*Japan on Film*).



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

Hisano Ueda
Kikugawa
Shinsuke Furushima
Yoshizato
Hisashige

Yuko Natori
Rino Katase
Jinpachi Nezu
Mariko Fuji
Sayoko Ninomiya

CREW

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

Hideo Gosha
Kazuo Kasahara, Sadao Nakajima
Shinichi Saito
Masaru Sato
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.

