



Watcher in the Attic

屋根裏の散歩者

NIKKATSU PRESENTS WATCHER IN THE ATTIC PRODUCED BY SHIGERU KURIBAYASHI AND YOSHIHIRO YUKI BASED ON THE NOVEL BY EDOGAWA RAMPO SCREENPLAY AKIO IDO
STARRING JUNKO MIYASHITA RENJI ISHIBASHI TOKURO WATANABE SHIRO YUMEMURA AONAKAJIMA HIROSHI CHO YOSHIHIRO ODA KOU YASHIRO REIKO AKITSU KYOCHI MIZUKI HARUKA TAJIMA
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY MASARU MORI EDITOR OSAMU INOUE ART DIRECTOR YOSHIE KIKUKAWA COMPOSER BIRU TATESHINA DIRECTED BY NOBORU TANAKA

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NUBUN



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a film by
NOBORU TANAKA

Japan | 1976 | Japanese with English subtitles
2.40:1 | 76 minutes

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SYNOPSIS

The second film in Noboru Tanaka's "Showa Era Trilogy," *WATCHER IN THE ATTIC* is an adaption of a short story by seminal Japanese novelist Edogawa Rampo. Starring Junko Miyashita (the second "Queen" of Nikkatsu's Roman porno series) as Lady Minako, owner of a shabby boarding house in 1920s Tokyo, the film is a deviously grotesque and unapologetically voyeuristic tale of murder, deceit and forbidden love between the bizarre cast of characters living within it.

When one of the tenants, Goda (Renji Ishibashi), secretly witnesses Lady Minako perform a truly heinous act while spying on her through one of his attic peepholes, he is overcome with desire and devises a murderous plot in order to demonstrate his love for her. Psychologically unbalanced, hauntingly atmospheric and ruthlessly erotic, *WATCHER IN THE ATTIC* is a full-tilt descent into a carnal, gothic nightmare with an ending you won't soon forget.



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

Junko Miyashita as Lady Minako **Renji Ishibashi** as Goda
Tokuko Watanabe **Shiro Yumemura** **Aoi Nakajima** **Hiroshi Cho**
Toshihiko Oda **Koji Yashiro** **Reiko Akitsu** **Kyoichi Mizuki** **Haruka Tajima**

CREDITS

Directed by
Based on the Novel by
Screenplay
Produced by

Director of Photography
Editor
Art Director
Composer

Noboru Tanaka
Edogawa Rampo
Akio Ido
Shigeru Kuribayashi
Yoshihiro Yûki
Masaru Mori
Osamu Inoue
Yoshie Kikukawa
Jiro Tateshina



