

For release on 11th Sep 2023

YTV-production Film “OHIKKOSHI (MOVING)” directed by Shinji Somai, won the Venice Classics Award for Best Restored Film



We are thrilled to announce that the YTV-production Film “OHIKKOSHI (MOVING)” 4K digitally remastered version directed by Shinji SOMAI won the Venice Classics Award for Best Restored Film at the 80th Venice International Film Festival, held from August 30 to September 9 2023, at Venice Lido in Italy.

The original 35mm negative film was restored by scanning in 4K this year, the 30th anniversary of the original film’s release.

Coincidentally, on the day of the Award Ceremony, September 9 was also the 22nd anniversary of director Somai's death, and this film won the award with flying colors.

At the world premiere screening on September 3, Federico GIRONI, the director of the Venice Classics, said “I wonder why director Somai still has not been widely recognized around the world”. Furthermore, Ryusuke HAMAGUCHI, the director of “AKU WA SONZAI SINAI (Evil Does Not Exist)” which won the Silver Lion Grand Jury Prize in the competition section, also introduced this film:

“The great thing about his film is that even his movie features the pop icon popular with teenagers, the pop star herself goes beyond the framework of the “Pop star movie” by her own vitality through Somai’s shooting. “Ohikkoshi” truly captures the moment when the child played by Tomoko Tabata grows up, and it’s wonderful. And we can feel the real Renko’s growth. I want you to listen to her voice sound filled with energy. Please enjoy the world of Shinji Somai.”

Most of the audience had never seen Somai's film before, but during the screening they were immersed in the story, laughing at the mischiefs of Renko and the children, and shedding tears during the scene where Renko comes to terms with her parents' divorce.

The power of the restored film with vivid images and beautiful sounds reached beyond the borders and the audience gave a big round of applause at the end.

mk2 films, an international distributor of “OHIKKOSHI (MOVING)” and many world-famous classics, commented:

“This award will play a pivotal role in promoting this profoundly moving story worldwide, featuring one of cinema's most memorable child characters. And makes it clear why his influential body of work holds a special place in the hearts of today's most esteemed Japanese directors, from Ryusuke Hamaguchi to Hirokazu Kore-Eda.”

It's 30 years since the original film's release in Japan and the screening in the Un Certain Regard selection at the 46th Cannes International Film Festival. The 4K digitally remastered version of the film will be released theatrically in France for the first time on October 25th. Guillaume Morel, an executive manager of **Survivance**, the film's distributor, commented: “This award will also shine a light on France. The universal story carried by Somai's dynamic direction and Tabata's imposing performance, will move audiences. We are delighted to be involved in this magnificent restoration project.”

【Ohikkoshi】

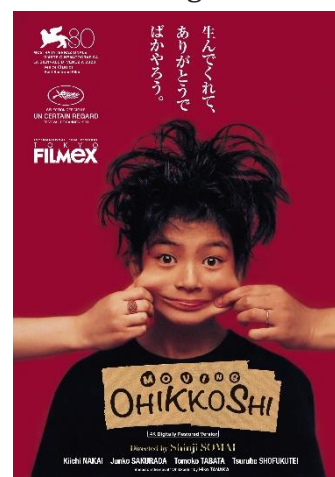
Cast: Kiichi NAKAI, Junko SAKURADA, Tomoko TABATA, Tsurube SHOFUKUTEI

Based on the Novel: “Ohikkoshi” by Hiko TANAKA

Director: Shinji SOMAI

Screenplay: Satoko OKUDERA, Satoshi OKONOJI

Produced by Yomiuri Telecasting Corporation



【Synopsis】

Renko is a bright and energetic 6th grade girl living in Kyoto. When her father Kenichi leaves them, Renko and her mother Nazuna begin life on their own. Nazuna sets new rules for their life, but Renko doesn't understand why Nazuna wants to change. She hides the divorce papers, plots a siege at home, and even arranges a short trip to Lake Biwa where they once vacationed as a family... A story about the emotional growth of a sensitive young girl caught between parents on the brink of divorce.





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【Direc'or's biography】

Born January 13, 1948 in Morioka City, Iwate Prefecture. Joined Nikkatsu Studios as an assistant director after dropping out of college.

Made his directorial debut in 1980 with the film, "Tonda Couple." Directed "Sailor Suit and Machine Gun" the following year, which became the No.1 box office hit in the Japanese film category.

Actively cast unknowns and amateur child actors and produced a succession of hits with his unique directing method characterized by long takes.

1985: "Typhoon Club" won Best Young Cinema '85 Award at the 1st Tokyo International Film Festival

1986: "Typhoon Club" won Best Director at the 8th Nantes Three Continents Festival

1993: "Moving" was an official selection for the Un Certain Regard section of the Cannes Film Festival

1998: "Wait and See" won the International Critics Federation Award at the Berlin International Film Festival

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