

TOKYO-GA



Excerpt of Wenders's narrating voice: "If there were still sanctuaries in our century... if there was something like a holy treasure of cinema, for me, that would be the work of Japanese director Yasujiro Ozu. He made 54 films. Silent movies in the 1920s, black and white films in the 1930s and 1940s and finally color films until his death on the 12th December 1963, on his 60th birthday.

Although these films are distinctly Japanese, they are also global. In them I recognized all families, in all the countries in the world, as well as my own parents, my brother and myself. Never before and never again was film so close to its essence and its purpose. Showing an image of the human in our century. A useable, true and valid image, one in which he cannot only see himself but rather learn something about himself.

Ozu's work doesn't need my appraisal. And such a "holy treasure of cinema" is just imaginary. So my journey to Tokyo was no pilgrimage. I was curious to see if I could discover something from this time, whether something was left of his work, images perhaps, or people even... Or if in the 20 years since Ozu's death so much changed in Tokyo that there was nothing left to be found.

TOKYO-GA

West Germany/USA 1983-85

FESTIVALS & AWARDS

1985 London Film Festival (Outstanding Film of the Year)

1985 Cannes International Film Festival (Un Certain Regard)

FORMAT

Length: 92 min, 1007 m

Format: 16mm; Eastmancolor; 1:1,37; sound

Original language: English, Japanese

4K Scan and 2K Restoration 2014

Music:

Dick Tracy: Laurent Petitgand, Mèche Mamecier, Chico Rojo Ortega

Production Assistant:

Lilyan Sivernich, Ulla Zwicker

In cooperation with:

Westdeutscher Rundfunk (Cologne)

First Release (DE):

10/1985, International Film Festival Hof

First TV-Broadcast (US):

26.04.1985

First TV-Broadcast (DE):

13.11.1988, West 3

CREDITS

Production:

Wim Wenders Produktion (Berlin), Chris Sievernich Filmproduktion (Berlin), Gray City Inc. (New York)

Director:

Wim Wenders

Producer:

Wim Wenders, Chris Sievernich

Director of Photography:

Edward Lachman

Editor:

Wim Wenders, Solveig Dommartin, Jon Neuburger

Sound:

Hartmut Eichgrün

Cast:

Chishu Ryu, Yuharu Atsuta, Werner Herzog

Narrator:

Wim Wenders