

SHANGRI-LA

(TOGENKYO NO HITOBITO)

Production Year: 2002

Domestic theatrical release (Japan): September 7, 2002

Running Time: Approximately 104 min

Aspect Ratio: 1:1.85



A non-stop film machine, Takashi Miike's effort here is a collaboration with the best selling comic book artist/novelist Yuji Aoki. Aoki knows the money game well, and his comic book "Naniwa Kinyu-do" (sold over 10,000,000 copies) made him popular nation wide. This is the first film adapted from his novel based on his autobiographical story. Miike tries to expand his range of film genres here as this con-game film has a touch of black comedy.

SYNOPSIS

A small printing company, Umemoto Insatsu is located on the edge of Osaka. Umemoto (Yu TOKUI) who is the owner of the company is living in peace with his family, but suddenly, the peace is broken. The biggest client, Uwazoko-Ya is bankrupt, which means that the payments from Uwazoko-Ya to Umemoto turn into dishonored bills. Umemoto rushes to the president of Uwazoko-ya, Mr. Kourishima (Akaji MARO) to get payment, but Kourishima ignores his pleas. As a result, Umemoto loses his money and house, and wanders around blankly.

A homeless peoples' community called "SHANGRI-LA" lies under the bridge of the river Yodogawa. An ex-assassin who is called the "VILLAGE CHIEF" (Show AIKAWA), is economically astute and respected by all of the "villagers." All the villagers are living free and comfortable (and cleanly!) under his protection. But, one day their calm life is suddenly interrupted. Tons of industrial scrap is illegally dumped on the village. Eventually, the bankrupt Umemoto joins this village, Shangri-la.

Then, under the command of the Chief as the leader, Umemoto and the people of Shangri-la decide to fight for vengeance against Kourishima and Uwazoko-ya organization. Thus, a money con-game begins!

DIRECTOR'S PROFILE

Born in Osaka on August 24, 1960, Takashi Miike is a graduate of Yokohama Academy of Broadcasting and Film (presently Japan Academy of moving Images). He has worked under directors Shohei Imamura and Hideo Onchi. He made his feature-film debut in 1995 with SHINJUKU KUROSHAKAI-CHINA MAFIA WAR, and drew attention at foreign film festivals with his next, FUDO: THE NEW GENERATION, made in 1996, and chosen as one of the Best Ten Movies of the year by TIME Magazine. Other works include GOKUDO KUROSHAKAI-RAINY DOG (1997), BLUES HARP, THE BIRD PEOPLE IN CHINA, ANDROMEDIA, NIHON KUROSHAKAI-LEY LINES (1998), DEAD OR ALIVE (1999), The City of Lost Souls, DEAD OR ALIVE2: BIRDS, THE GUYS FROM PARADISE, VISITOR Q (2000), ICHI THE KILLER, HAPPINESS OF THE KATAKURI'S (2001), DEAD OR ALIVE FINAL, AGITATOR (2002). Working in a wide span of genres from adolescent to Yakuza movies to fantasy stories, he is a young director who maintains his unique originality as an artist.

[SHANGRI-LA]

Directed by Takashi MIIKE ("AUDITION", "DEAD OR ALIVE", "ICHI THE KILLER")

Based on the novel by Yuji AOKI

Produced by Yoichi Arishige ("PING PONG BATH STATION")

Director of Photography by Hideo YAMAMOTO ("HANA-BI", "DEAD OR ALIVE")

Music composed by Koji ENDO ("The City of Lost Souls", "DEAD OR ALIVE" 1&3)

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Cast:

Show AIKAWA ("DEAD OR ALIVE" series, "SERPENT'S PATH")

Shiro SANO ("GODZILLA 2000", "PRINCESS BLADE")

Yu TOKUI ("Shall we Dance?", "WATER BOYS")

Akaji MARO ("SUICIDE CLUB", "ZIGEUNERWEISEN", "KT")

Shigeru MUROI ("HEROINE!")

Houka KINOSHITA ("ICHI THE KILLER", "YIN-YAN MASTER")

Nao OMORI ("ICHI THE KILLER", "QUARTET")

Takashi EBATA ("KAGEMUSHA", "DODESUKADEN")

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