

Persmap



13 ASSASSINS

Een film van Takashi Miike

Japan · 2009 · actie · 126 min

Rustige tijden in Japan worden verstoord door de macht van de wrede landheer Naritsugu. Omdat hij de broer van de 'Shogun' (de Japanse veldheer) is, voelt hij zich verheven boven de wet. Hij verkracht en vermoordt mensen, maar houdt geen rekening met de '13 moordenaars'. Deze moordenaars, met ieder hun eigen dodelijke vaardigheid, ondernemen een zelfmoordmissie om de landheer te vermoorden. Wanneer de landheer begint aan een gevaarlijke reis, blokkeren de moordenaars zijn vluchtroute en lokken hem in de val. Het loopt uit op een bloedbad..



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Persmap en foto's staan op: www.cinéart.nl

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CAST

Koji Yakusho	Shinzaemon Shimada
Takayuki Yamada	Shinrokuro (Shinzaemon's Nephew)
Yusuke Iseya	Koyata (13th Assassin from the Forest)
Goro Inagaki	Lord Naritsugu Matsudaira
Masachika Ichimura	Hanbei Kitou (Naritsugu's Head Samurai)
Mikijiro Hira	Sir Doi (Top Shogun Official)
Hiroki Matsukata	Kuranaga
Ikki Sawamura	Mitsuhashi
Arata Furuta	Sahara (Samurai Who Requests Payment)
Tsuyoshi Ihara	Hirayama (Shinzaemon's Apprentice)
Masataka Kubota	Ogura (The Youngest Samurai)
Sousuke Takaoka	Hioki (Kuranaga's Subordinate)
Seiji Rokkaku	Otake (Kuranaga's Subordinate)
Koen Kondo	Horii (Mitsuhashi's Subordinate)
Yuma Ishigaki	Higuchi (Mitsuhashi's Subordinate)
Kazuki Namioka	Ishizuka
Kazue Fukiishi	Tsuya/Upashi
	(Shinrokuro's Wife/Koyata's Lover)
Koshiro Matsumoto	Yukie Makino (Lord Owari's Subject)
Mitsuki Tanimura	Chise Makino (Uneme's Wife)
Takumi Saito	Uneme Makino
Shinnosuke Abe	Genshiro Deguchi
	(Servant Who Fetches Visitor List)
Masaaki Uchino	Zusho Mamiya
	(Akashi Elder Who Commits Hara-Kiri)
Ken Mitsuishi	Asakawa (Naritsugu's Henchman)
Ittoku Kishibe	Tokubei Sanshuya

LONG SYNOPSIS

Peaceful times in feudal Japan are threatened by the bloody rise to power of cruel Lord Naritsugu. Above the law because he is the Shogun's brother, the sadistic young Lord rapes and kills at whim.

Distressed by the Lord's murderous rampage, top Shogun official Sir Doi secretly calls on esteemed samurai Shinzaemon Shimada to assassinate the evil Naritsugu. Outraged by Lord Naritsugu's vile acts, noble Shinzaemon willingly accepts the dangerous mission. Shinzaemon gathers an elite group of samurai, each with their own deadly skill, including his gambler nephew Shinrokuro and devoted ronin Hirayama. Together they plot to ambush Lord Naritsugu on his annual journey home from Edo. The courageous samurai know it's a suicide mission because the Lord is closely protected by a lethal entourage led by ruthless Hanbei, Shinzaemon's longtime nemesis.

After weeks of training and preparation, Shinzaemon and his samurai ride stealthily through the mountains. On their perilous journey, they recruit a wild young mountain man, Koyata. The skilled group then take over a small village, transforming it into an intricate death trap to snare Lord Naritsugu.

But when the Lord finally arrives, Shinzaemon and his loyal samurai discover they are outnumbered fifteen to one. The day has come for our 13 fearless assassins to face death in a bloody showdown, a monumental battle of fiery explosions, showers of arrows and clashing swords.



DIRECTOR TAKASHI MIIKE



Takashi Miike has become synonymous with the promise of a unique onscreen experience, regardless of the genre. Highly prolific, Miike is credited with over 80 films since making his directorial debut in the early 90s.

Landmark films in Miike's illustrious career include: AUDITION, ICHI THE KILLER, ONE MISSED CALL, THE GREAT YOKAI WAR, THE CITY OF LOST SOULS, VISITOR Q, GRAVEYARD OF HONOR, SUKIYAKI WESTERN DJANGO, YATTERMAN, the CROWS ZERO films and the DEAD OR ALIVE yakuza trilogy.

Although his films are often associated with black humour, inventive violence and audacious style, Miike has shown his versatility in other genres: children's films (ZEBRAMAN), sensitive dramas (THE BIRD PEOPLE IN CHINA), period pieces (SABU) and even a horror musical (THE HAPPINESS OF THE KATAKURIS).

Born in 1960 near Osaka, Miike harboured a passion for motorbike racing and a disdain for academics growing up. He attended the Yokohama Vocational School of Broadcast and Film and then worked for nearly a decade in television. Miike became an assistant director in film to directors like Shohei Imamura and Hideo Onchi, and Japan's "V-Cinema" (direct to video) boom of the early 90s helped his break into directing his own films. For years, he alternated between V-Cinema and higher budget productions.

In 2005, Miike directed "Demon Pond," a Kabuki-style play. Miike has also occasionally appeared as an actor in his films as well as others', notably Eli Roth's HOSTEL.

FILMOGRAPHY TAKASHI MIIKE

2010 13 ASSASSINS
2010 ZEBRAMAN 2: ATTACK ON ZEBRA CITY
2009 CROWS ZERO II
2009 YATTERMAN
2008 GOD'S PUZZLE
2008 CROWS ZERO
2007 DETECTIVE STORY
2007 SUKIYAKI WESTERN DJANGO
2007 LIKE A DRAGON
2006 SUN SCARRED (AKA SCARS OF THE SUN)
2006 IMPRINT (for "Masters of Horror" series)
2006 WARU
2006 BIG BANG LOVE, JUVENILE A
2005 THE GREAT YOKAI WAR
2004 IZO
2004 THREE EXTREMES ("Box" segment)
2004 ZEBRAMAN
2003 ONE MISSED CALL
2003 YAKUZA DEMON (AKA KIKOKU)
2003 YAKUZA HORROR THEATER (AKA GOZU)
2003 THE MAN IN WHITE
2002 VIOLENT FIRE (AKA DEADLY OUTLAW: REKKA)
2002 GRAVEYARD OF HONOR
2002 SABU
2002 DEAD OR ALIVE: FINAL
2001 THE HAPPINESS OF THE KATAKURIS
2001 ICHI THE KILLER
2001 VISITOR Q+
2000 DEAD OR ALIVE 2
2000 THE CITY OF LOST SOULS
2000 MULTIPLE PERSONALITY DETECTIVE PSYCHO (TV mini-series)
1999 WHITE COLLAR WORKER KINTARO
1999 DEAD OR ALIVE
1999 AUDITION
1999 LEY LINES
1998 YOUNG THUGS: NOSTALGIA
1998 ANDROMEDIA
1998 BLUES HARP
1998 THE BIRD PEOPLE IN CHINA
1997 FULL METAL YAKUZA
1997 RAINY DOG
1997 YOUNG THUGS: INNOCENT BLOOD
1996 FUDOH: THE NEW GENERATION
1996 THE WAY TO FIGHT
1995 SHINJUKU TRIAD SOCIETY (AKA CHINESE MAFIA WAR)
1995 THE THIRD GANGSTER
1994 SHINJUKU OUTLAW
1993 BODYGUARD KIBA
1992 A HUMAN MURDER WEAPON

COMMENTS FROM DIRECTOR TAKASHI MIIKE

SWORD + LOVE

Sword-fighting scenes are about LOVE. Without brotherly love, we could not shoot such violent sword-fighting scenes. Of course, I worked with the Fight choreographer scene-byscene. That is also LOVE... The sets whipped up the fighting spirit among the actors. But the sets were created with the actors' safety in mind. Needless to say, thanks to the instructions from our very talented art director and his talented staff.

YAMAGATA

I love the food of Yamagata, where the shooting took place. Eating simply is always best. The location was not practical, but it was well-matched with the scenery. I loved the outdoor set which we found and re-created.



BLOOD + VIOLENCE

Planning the amount of blood and violence in a film can only be decided by inevitability.

REMAKE

For any film that I make, I never see similar films for reference. The most important thing about remaking a classic movie is how much you respect the original movie. I didn't worry about putting my own mark on the remake since I respected the original film. I have never sought to impose my personality on a film. My philosophy as a director has always been to set aside my ego and just enjoy making the film.

JIDAIGEKI

There is no hard historical proof to back up this legendary battle in 13 ASSASSINS. However, I do believe it's true that samurai did not fear risking their lives, and they fought against their enemies regardless how many they were. The pleasure of making a Jidaigeki (samurai period drama) film is that the characters can achieve in only one night what would otherwise take 100 days in a contemporary story... I always seek universal themes when making a Jidaigeki film. Love beget Revenge and Justice beget Violence.

SOUND + MUSIC

I have worked with the same sound team in several films. The team pretty much understands my goal when they see the edited film. Even if there are misunderstandings, that only brings something new to the film... I have been working with composer Koji Endo for more than 10 years. He's a genius when it comes to hearing what the film needs.

CGI

Like the sound team, I usually work with the same CGI team. I do give very detailed instructions, but the team understands my basic taste even if I don't elaborate. With CGI, I do not create things that are not possible to create in reality. I only create real things that just look better when created with CGI.

NIGHTMARE

Not only for this film, but I always wish that there was no such thing as an alarm clock. If I'm late, I blame whoever invented the snooze function.

ADDICTION

I love the act of shooting itself and I am always seeking something in which I can get absorbed. It's like an addiction.

WILD

I may be chasing a dream that I might never accomplish. I find creative freedom through low budget projects. I seek out even more freedom through the experiences of making films like 13 ASSASSINS. And I think it's about time to go wild once again!

PHOTOGRAPY

Principal photography for 13 ASSASSINS was accomplished in Summer 2009 on a large open-air set in Tsuruoka in the Yamagata Prefecture in northern Japan. The film is a remake of Eichi Kudo's 1963 black-and white movie of the same name, Jûsan-nin no shikak u. 13 ASSASSINS was executive produced by Toshiaki Nakazawa (producer of Depart ures, 2009 Academy Award Winner for Best Foreign Film) for Japan's Sedic International, Jeremy Thomas (Bernardo Bertolucci's The Last Emperor, Nagisa Oshima's Merry Christmas Mr Lawrence , Takeshi Kitano's Brother) for Recorded Picture Company (UK), and Takashi Hirajo of Japan's TV Asahi Corporation. Nakazawa previously worked with Miike on Sukiyaki Western Django , Andromedia , Yakuza Demon and The Bird People in China.

KOJI YAKUSHO as SHINZAEMON SHIMIDA

Koji Yakusho is recognized as one of Japan's finest actors after his many acclaimed performances in domestic as well as international productions, such as Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's BABEL, Rob Marshall's MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA and Francois Girard's SILK.

Yakusho is a frequent collaborator with director Kiyoshi Kurosawa, having appeared in several of his films: TOKYO SONATA, RETRIBUTION (SAKEBI), DOPPELGANGER, SEANCE, CHARISMA, LICENSE TO LIVE and CURE. He has also appeared in several films by Masato Harada: THE CHOICE OF HERCULES, SPELLBOUND (JUBAKU), KAMIKAZE TAXI and BOUNCE KO-GALS.

Born in 1956 near Nagasaki, Japan, Yakusho began his career in theater and TV in the early 80s. He was introduced to international audiences by his roles in the now classic Japanese films such as Shohei Imamura's THE EEL (UNAGI), Masayuki Suo's SHALL WE DANCE? and Juzo Itami's TAMPOPO.

Yakusho's other film credits include Tetsuya Nakashima's PACO AND THE MAGICAL BOOK, Satoshi Isaka's WALKING MY LIFE, Masayuki Suo's I JUST DIDN'T DO IT, Koki Mitani's SUITE DREAMS (THE UCHOTEN HOTEL), Shinji Higuchi's LORELEI, Izuru Narushima's THE HUNTER AND THE HUNTED, Mamoru Hoshi's UNIVERISTY OF LAUGHS, Kon Ichikawa's DORAHEITA, Imaura's WARM WATER UNDER A RED BRIDGE, Kichitaro Negishi's KIZUNA, Shinji Aoyama's EUREKA and LAKESIDE MURDER CASE, Yoshimitsu Morita's LOST PARADISE (SHITSURAKUREN) and Toshio Goto's UNDER AURORA.

Yakusho made his directorial debut in 2009 with TOAD'S OIL, in which he also starred. Yakusho will next be seen in Shigemichi Sugita's THE LAST RONIN.



CREW

Director	Takashi Miike
Original Story by	Shoichirou Ikemiya
Screenplay	Daisuke Tengan
Music	Koji Endo
Executive Producers	Toshiaki Nakazawa (Sedic International Inc. - Japan) Jeremy Thomas (Recorded Picture Company - UK) Takashi Hirajo (TV Asahi Corporation - Japan)
Cinematographer	Nobuyasu Kita
Lighting Designer	Yoshimi Watabe
Sound Recordist	Jun Nakamura
Art Director	Yuji Hayashida
Set Decoration	Akira Sakamoto Osamu Kubota
Editor	Kenji Yamashita
Sound Effects	Kenji Shibasaki
Character Designer	Isao Tsuge
Costume Designer	Kazuhiro Sawataishi
Producers	Michihiko Umezawa (TV Asahi Corporation) Minami Ichikawa (Toho Co., Ltd) Toichiro Shiraishi (Dentsu Inc.) Takahiro Ohno (Sedic Deux Inc.) Hirotsugu Yoshida (Sedic Deux Inc.) Shigeji Maeda (Rakueisha Co., Ltd) Co-Producers Kazuomi Suzaki (TV Asahi Corporation) Hisashi Usui (Toho Co., Ltd)
CGI Producer	Misako Saka
Line Producers	Toshiki Komatsu Tatsuya Mukai
Casting Director	Yuriko Kitada
Producer (Shonai Unit)	Masaaki Ujo
Assistant Directors	Kimiyoshi Adachi Takuma Yoshimi
Production Manager	Shinya Zenda