

Udine's Far East Film Festival

BLACK DRAGON AWARD(Critic's Award) WINNER

“碁盤斬り (GOBAN-GIRI)”

BUSHIDO

SYNOPSIS

A man is separated from his daughter by a false accusation and risks his pride as a samurai to seek revenge.

Kakunoshin Yanagida, a ronin, is accused of a crime he does not commit and mourns the death of his wife. He is forced to leave his hometown, the Hikone domain, and lives with his daughter, Okinu, in a poor tenement house in Edo (Tokyo). Even under such circumstances, he does not lose his pride as a samurai. His only pleasure is to play the game of Go, which he plays without pretense. His way of playing Go reflects his sincere character. One day, Kakunoshin finds the truth behind a tragic false accusation by an old clan acquaintance and decides to take revenge. To support her father, Okinu chooses to sacrifice herself. A father and daughter's battle for pride begins.

Based on a classic rakugo work (Japanese verbal entertainment), "BUSHIDO" breaks the conventional image of the samurai drama. Amidst a whirlwind of suspicion and intrigue, the film is a moving epic depicting a samurai's dignity and the love between a father and his daughter. It offers a spectrum of human emotions and genres within a single narrative: a heart-wrenching drama, suspense, and action.

The director is Kazuya Shiraishi, who is making his first period drama in his illustrious career. Shiraishi has been highly acclaimed in the film industry for such films as "The Blood of Wolves," which won the 42nd Japan Academy Prize for Best Director.

Actor Tsuyoshi Kusanagi, who plays Kakunoshin, has melancholic eyes and an overwhelming charisma. He has made a strong impact as a transgender man who awakens to maternal love in "Midnight Swan," for which he won the Best Actor Award at the 44th Japan Academy Award.

Kakunoshin's attempt to live up to the principles of BUSHIDO is delicately expressed in his fingertips as he plays the game of Go and is imbued with a noble beauty. After suffering many tragedies, he awakens to take an

act of revenge. Kusanagi succeeded in creating an unconventional character of a samurai.

DIRECTOR: Kazuya Shiraishi

Born in Hokkaido in 1974, he studied under Koji Wakamatsu. After working as an assistant director, he directed “The Devil’s Path” (2013), which won numerous awards in Japan and was screened at many international festivals, including Montreal and Taipei Golden Horse. His filmography also includes “Birds Without Names”(2017), "The Blood of Wolves"(2018), and “Lesson in Murder” (2022).

STAFF:

Director: Kazuya Shiraishi (The Blood of Wolves)

Screenplay: Masato Kato

Cinematography: Jun Fukumoto

CAST:

Tsuyoshi Kusanagi (Midnight Swan)

Jun Kunimura (Like Father, Like Son/ The Wailing / The Round Up: No Way Out)

Kaya Kiyohara (In the Wake / We made a Beautiful Banquet)

Taishi Nakagawa

Kyoko Koizumi

Takumi Saitoh

Eita Okuno

Takuma Otoo

Masachika Ichimura

Produced by Kinoshita Group & CULEN

Japanese distributor: Kino Films

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World sales: Bitters End

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