

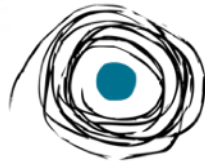
A FILM BY HIDEO GOSHA

VIOLENT STREETS

暴力街

FILM MOVEMENT CLASSICS AND TOEI COMPANY LTD. PRESENT A HIDEO GOSHA FILM VIOLENT STREETS STARRING NOBORU ANDO AKIRA KOBAYASHI ISAO NATSUOGI BUNTA SUGAWARA
TEISURO TANBA ASAO KOIKE MADAME JOY HIDEO MIYOTA MIYOKO AKAZA MINAMI NAKATSUGAWA IDEA BY HIDEO GOSHA SCREENPLAY MASAHIRO KAKEFUDA NOBUKI NAKAJIMA
MUSIC MASARU SATO CINEMATOGRAPHER YOSHIKAZU YAMAZAWA EDITOR FUMIO SODA ART DIRECTOR SHUICHIRO NAKAMURA PRODUCER TORU YOSHIDA DIRECTOR HIDEO GOSHA





FILM MOVEMENT®
CLASSICS

presents

A FILM BY HIDEO GOSHA

VIOLENT STREETS



2K RESTORATION

“One of the wildest, bloodiest and most visually stunning Yakuza yarns ever made. A masterpiece, plain and simple. One of Gosha's best (just maybe his very best) and one of the crowning achievements in Japan's Yakuza cycle of the '70s. A must see.”

—Films from the Far Reaches

Japan | 1974 | Japanese with English Subtitles
Action / Crime / Drama | 96 minutes | 2.35:1 | Mono

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SYNOPSIS

After making his name in the samurai genre, master filmmaker Hideo Gosha (THREE OUTLAW SAMURAI, SAMURAI WOLF) turned his camera to the world of the yakuza, and the violent streets they control. Legendary gangster-turned-actor Noboru Ando plays Egawa, a retired yakuza underboss, now nightclub owner, who gets pulled back into the life when his old comrades demand control of his club. Meanwhile, a gang war quietly roiling behind the scenes erupts into open violence in response to a high-profile kidnapping, lending unimaginably high stakes to Egawa's reemergence onto the yakuza scene. The result is a kinetic and stylish explosion of deception, mayhem, and death that leaves no one safe – and a masterpiece of 1970s yakuza cinema.



HIDEO GOSHA BIOGRAPHY

While lesser known in the west, Hideo Gosha was arguably one of Japan's greatest filmmakers. He first made his mark in the samurai and yakuza film genres, and left behind a diverse oeuvre of groundbreaking films.

Gosha was born in Tokyo in 1929. After serving in the navy during WWII he earned a business degree from the prestigious Meiji University. He began his career as a reporter at Nippon television in 1953. In 1957 he was hired by then newly established Fuji Television where he worked his way up to producer and director.

A lifelong fan of jidaigeki (samurai period pieces) and chambara (samurai sword fighting action), Gosha made his breakthrough as a director with the hit television show, *Three Outlaw Samurai*. He was then hired to adapt it into a theatrical feature by the famed Shochiku film studio in 1964.



He followed his debut with many more successful samurai films including the dynamic spaghetti western informed *Samurai Wolf*, *Goyokin*, a gritty, now-classic opus about stolen gold starring Tatsuya Nakadai; the historical masterpiece *Hitokiri*, starring Shintaro Katsu (titular lead of the popular Zatoichi film series) as a ruffian pawn of feudal corruption. Gosha streamlined the action in his films with innovative sound design and spellbinding choreography, both of his actors and the camera, for which he was dubbed "The Chambara Revolutionary."

In the 70's, Gosha started to work more and more in the crime genre. He masterfully essayed themes of corruption and avarice with visceral depictions of unbridled violence and overt sexuality. After all, the main subjects of these films were often contemporary yakuza, prostitutes and other denizens of the underworld. *Violent Streets* (1974) is a prime example of the then new jitsuroku (true document) subgenre of yakuza films. Unlike the previous decade's very popular ninkyo eiga (films of chivalrous yakuza) the jitsuroku films exposed gangsters as the cold blooded killers and thieves that they were known to be in real life.

In contrast with his earlier work, Gosha started to employ more saturated colors to capture the flashy and lurid lifestyles of downtown Tokyo, where he himself grew up. His distinctive style and sense of realism are thus exemplified in later films including *Onimasa* (1982), starring Tatsuya Nakadai as a megalomaniacal self-made gangster boss. In this period he also focussed on the perils of women in a man's world with films such as *The Geisha* (1983), the box office smash *Yakuza Ladies* (1986) about gangster's wives who proved tougher than their male counterparts, and *Tokyo Bordello* (1987).

Gosha worked up until his death in 1992. The following year he was posthumously honored with a lifetime achievement award from the Japanese Academy Film Prize Association (the Japanese Academy Awards). His legacy lives on as his films are finally starting to reach wider and wider audiences.

CAST BIOGRAPHIES

NOBORU ANDO

A former Kamikaze pilot and yakuza boss, Noboru Ando made his breakthrough in Japanese cinema playing gangsters. He starred in his own biographical film, *Blood and Rules* in 1965. Following its commercial success, he appeared in countless yakuza films, including Hideo Gosha's *Violent Streets*. He brought a world-weary intensity from his own life experience to his roles that made him one of the most iconic stars of Japanese cinema.

AKIRA KOBAYASHI

Akira Kobayashi made his acting debut at the age of six. When he was sixteen he won the Nikkatsu New Face talent audition of the famed studio. He dropped out of Meiji University and made his screen debut in Yuzo Kawashima's *Hungry Soul* in 1956. Other notable film appearances include Toshio Masuda's noir-influenced *Rusty Knife*. Kobayashi would soon emerge as one of the major stars of the "Nikkatsu Action" boom of the 1960s. He played chivalrous yakuza, modern day criminals, intrepid adventurers and even singing cowboys. He also became known as a singer and sometimes sang the theme songs of his own films. In the early 70s Kobayashi signed on with Toei where he joined their "true document" yakuza film bandwagon, making his mark in Kinji Fukasaki's groundbreaking gangster films as well as Hideo Gosha's kinetic *Violent Streets*. He currently runs his own YouTube channel under his nickname Maito Gai (Might Guy).

ISAO NATSUYAGI

While attending the prestigious Keio University, Isao Natsuyagi started attending the Bungakusha actors school to pursue his passion for drama. After some supporting film roles he made his breakthrough starring as the titular antihero of Hideo Gosha's *Samurai Wolf* in 1966. His dynamically eccentric performance proved him a great talent and he went on to have a long and storied filmography, including his part as a ruthless yakuza thug in Gosha's *Violent Streets*.

BUNTA SUGAWARA

A law school dropout turned model, Sugawara soon landed film roles and bounced around from studio to studio. By the late 1960s he found his place at Toei where he starred in some of Kinji Fukasaki's breakthrough yakuza films including the legendary *Battles Without Honor and Humanity* series, which catapulted him to stardom. He continued to make his iconically stoic mark in other great crime films, such as Gosha's *Violent Streets*. He also proved his comic abilities as well in the popular *Truck Rascals* series where he played a salty truck driver. In his later years Sugawara took to organic farming and advocated for environmental awareness until his death in 2014.

TETSURO TAMBA

Bilingual and classically masculine, Tetsuro Tamba made a mark across international screens. Tamba is best known in the West for his role as Tiger Tanaka, the head of the Japanese Secret Service, in the 1967 James Bond movie, *You Only Live Twice*. He was in countless films and worked with some of Japan's greatest filmmakers, including starring roles in Hideo Gosha's *Three Outlaw Samurai* and *Violent Streets*.

CAST

Egawa
Yazaki
Hama
Gizagoro's dragon
Shimamura Kansai
Yoshii Haruo
Transvestite Killer
Mochizuki
Yuko
Minami

Noboru Ando
Akira Kobayashi
Isao Natsuyagi
Bunta Sugawara
Tetsuro Tanba
Asao Koike
Madame Joy
Hideo Murota
Miyoko Akaza
Minami Nakatsugawa

CREW

Directed by
Idea by
Screenplay by

Producer
Music
Cinematographer
Editor
Art Director

Hideo Gosha
Hideo Gosha
Masahiro Kakefuda
Nobuaki Nakajima
Toru Yoshida
Masaru Sato
Yoshikazu Yamazawa
Fumio Soda
Shuichiro Nakamura



ABOUT FILM MOVEMENT

Founded in 2002 as one of the first-ever subscription film services with its DVD-of-the-Month club, Film Movement is now a North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films based in New York City. It has released more than 300 feature films and shorts culled from prestigious film festivals worldwide. Film Movement's theatrical releases include American independent films, documentaries, and foreign art house titles. Its catalog includes titles by directors such as Hirokazu Kore-eda, Maren Ade, Jessica Hausner, Andrei Konchalovsky, Andrzej Wajda, Diane Kurys, Ciro Guerra and Mélanie Laurent.

In 2015, Film Movement launched its reissue label Film Movement Classics, featuring new restorations released theatrically as well as on Blu-ray and DVD, including films by such noted directors as Eric Rohmer, Peter Greenaway, Bille August, Marleen Gorris, Takeshi Kitano, Arturo Ripstein, Sergio Corbucci and Ettore Scola.

For more information, please visit www.filmmovement.com.

