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FESTIVAL DE CANNES

CRUEL STORY OF YOUTH

-Digitally Restored version-

DRAMA / Japan / Color / 1960 / 2014 / Running time: 96min
Original title: Seishun Zankoku Monogatari
Starring: Miyuki KUWANO / Yusuke KAWAZU / Yoshiko KUGA
Director: **Nagisa OSHIMA**



**Nagisa OSHIMA's shocking tale of youthful delinquency in post Hiroshima.
The film has been digitally restored in 4K.**

Story

Makoto and Kiyoshi's generation follows their desires. Makoto is in high school when a university student, Kiyoshi, rescues her from a middle-aged man's assault. The next day Kiyoshi takes out Makoto, with alternately cruel and tender, insists roughly on sex, and then discards her. A week later she calls him; waiting for him at a bar, two pimps accost her. Again Kiyoshi rescues her, and their affair begins in earnest. She moves in with him, continues school, and they support themselves by extorting money from men who offer her a ride and then make a pass: Kiyoshi shows up to beat them. Things are semi-OK until pregnancy and a short stay in jail change their relationship.

About Restoration

The Cruel Story of Youth is a film by Nagisa OSHIMA that is a monumental achievement of Nouvelle Vague (New Wave) filmmaking. Made in 1960, the film was produced as a blatant challenge to the Shochiku "Ofuna style" of the Shochiku Ofuna Studios. The film has been restored in full 4K resolution, with image supervision by Takashi KAWAMATA, who was Oshima's cameraman during that period and one of his closest friends, and Masashi CHIKAMORI, cameraman for *The Little House* (Directed by Yoji YAMADA, Silver Bear Award for Best Actress at Berlin International Film Festival 2014). The faded colors of the negative have been restored to their vivid intensity, the dark areas have regained their profound depth, and scratches and other damage have been repaired. A small, hand-held camera was used to film the outdoor scenes, so any dust that had adhered to the negative has been removed. Noise resulting from the sound recording circumstances has also been removed. This restored version represents the highest possible level of digital restoration.



Cast & Staff

Miyuki KUWANO (*Equinox Flower, The Shape of Night*) as Makoto Shinjo
Yusuke KAWAZU (*The Sun's Burial*) as Kiyoshi Fujii
Yoshiko KUGA (*Equinox Flower, Ohayo*) as Yuki Shinjo
Fumio WATANABE (*Human Condition, The Castle of Sand*) as Toru Akimoto
Shinji TANAKA (*The Shape of Night, The Lighthouse*) as Yoshimi Ito
Toshiko KOBAYASHI (*Carmen Comes Home, Twenty-Four Eyes*) as Teruko Shimonishi
Hiroshi NIHONYANAGI (*Early Summer*) as Gentleman
Shinko UJIIE (*Night and Fog in Japan*) as Masae Sakaguchi
Jun HAMAMURA (*Human Condition, The Burmese Harp*) as Masahiro Shinjo
Kei SATO (*Harakiri, Samurai Spy*) as Akira Matsuki

Producer : Tomio IKEDA
Cinematography : Takashi KAWAMATA
Art Direction : Koji UNO
Music : Riichiro MANABE
Recording : Shujuro KURITA
Editing : Keiichi URAOKA
Written and Directed by Nagisa OSHIMA

Nagisa OSHIMA's Biography

Born on March 31, 1932, in Kyoto. After studying law at Kyoto University, he entered Shochiku Ofuna Studio and worked as an assistant director with Masaki Kobayashi and Hideo Oba. Oshima made his feature-film directorial debut in 1959 with *Ai to Kibo no Machi (Street of Love and Hope)*. Next year, Oshima released his landmark *Seishun Zankoku Monogatari (Cruel Story of Youth)* and *Taiyo no Hakaba (The Sun's Burial)*. His next film *Nihon no Yoru to Kiri (Night and Fog in Japan / 1960)* was considered too political and it was pulled from circulation just three days after its release, which made Oshima leave the studio to become an independent producer. He made a lot of controversial and ambitious works, including *Shiiku (The Catch / 1961)*, *Gishiki (The Ceremony / 1971)* and *Ai no Korida (In the Realm of the Senses / 1976)*, with which Oshima gained international acclaim. With *Ai no Borei (Empire of Passion)*, he won the Best Director Award at the Festival de Cannes in 1978. For the first time in 13 years after Oshima made *Max, mon amour (1987)*, he released his last film *Gohatto (Taboo)* and the film made its world premiere at the Festival de Cannes in 1999.

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