

MURAI

"JIN NO SAMURAI"

Lion at Venice.



on, fury and suspense.

INTRODUCTION

This is a picture produced under the direction of Akira Kurosawa, director of "Rashomon" which won the Grand Prix at the Venice Film Festival in 1951, and is the only one turned out by him in 1954 after his "Ikiru" (Doomed) which has won many prizes including that of the Minister of Education in 1952.

The scenario is a joint product of Akira Kurosawa, Shinobu Hashimoto who cooperated with Kurosawa in "Rashomon" and "Ikiru" and Hideo Oguni who was also a co-worker in the production of "Ikiru." Such members of the production staff as Asaichi Nakai, director of photography, Takashi Matsuyama at director, Fumio Yanoguchi, in charge of sound recording, Shigeru Mori, in charge of lighting and Fumio Hayasaka, musical composer, are all outstanding artists whom the Japanese moviedom is proud of. In the field of the costumes and manners of living in the age when the incident depicted in this film is supposed to have taken place, Seiton Maeda and Kohei Ezaki, both eminent archaeologists, offered their services to make this photoplay as realistic as possible.

This picture depicts the chivalry of seven samurai helping the peasantry in a fight against a gang of warrior bandits with emphasis laid on the sufferings of the agricultural community due to the continued civil disturbances and the mental agonies of the samurai living in an age of civil wars. It is a spectacle picture rarely seen in Japanese filmdom.

The cast has been selected by Akira Kurosawa after his personal interview with every prospective player chosen from among the Japanese motion picture and theatrical circles. For the roles of seven Samurai, Toshiro Mifune (who appeared in "Rashomon"), Takashi Shimura, Minoru Chiaki, Daisuke Kato, Yoshio Inaba, Seiji Miyaguchi and Isao Kimura have been chosen, and for those of peasants Kokuten Kodo, Kamatari Fujiwara, Yoshio Kosugi, Bokuzen Hidari and Yashio Tsuchiya have been assigned. The other plays include Jun Tataru, Atsushi Watanabe, Sojin Kamiyama, Eijiro Tono and Jun Tazaki.

The appearance of Miss Keiko Tsushima, one of the best known film stars, as a peasant damsel is one of the big features of this photoplay.

This is surely the biggest masterpiece in 1954 upon which not only the people in the moviedom but also those in the literary circles and others interested in cultural activities will not stint their praise.

STAFF

Producer Sojiro Motoki
Scenario .. { Akira Kurosawa
Shinobu Hashimoto
Hideo Oguni
Director Akira Kurosawa
Director of
Photography.... Asaichi Nakai
Art Director
..... Takashi Matsuyama
Sound Recording
..... Fumie Yanoguchi
Lighting Shigeru Mori
Music Fumio Hayasaka
Art Consultants.. { Seiton Maeda
Kohei Ezaki

CAST

Kambei Takashi Shimura
Gorobei Yoshio Inaba
Kyuzo Seiji Miyaguchi
Heihachi Minoru Chiaki
Shichiroji Daisuke Kato
Katsushiro Isao Kimura
Kikuchiyo Toshiro Mifune
Gisaku Kuninori Kodo
Yohei Bokuzen Hidari
Mosuke Yoshio Kosugi
Manzo Kamatari Fujiwara
Rikichi Yoshio Tsuchiya
Shino, Manzo's daughter
..... Keiko Tsushima
Rikichi's Wife
..... Yukiko Shimazaki
Wife of Gisaku's son
..... Haruko Toyama
Masterless Samurai (A)
..... Gen Shimizu
Coolie Jun Tataru
Bun vendor .. Atsushi Watanabe
Grandfather
..... Toranosuke Ogawa
Wife Noriko Sengoku
Robber Eijiro Tono
Masterless Samurai (B)
..... Isao Yamagata
Big Samurai Jun Tazaki
Bandit boss Shimpei Takagi
Warrior bandit .. Kichijiro Ueda
" " Akira Tani

15 Reels 14439 ft.
Running time 161 m.

SYNOPSIS

Around the time of wheat harvesting, the wandering bandits come to raid the villages and the villagers tremble with fear and apprehension.

The only way to defend the village is to hire the samurai mercenaries. With the cooperation of a veteran fighter Kambei, Korobei, Kyuzo, Heihachi, Shichiroji, Katsushiro and Kikuchiyo are chosen, the last being a wild youth of farmer descent. The defense of the village is built up with the help of the samurai and combat training is started.

With the end of the harvesting of the corn, the raids by the bandits begin. The enemy number some 40 odd. Guided by farmer Rikichi, the mercenary samurai make a night attack on the bandits' camp. On this night Heihachi is lost.

With day break, the bandits launch repeated attacks on the village, but with the samurai as their mainstay, the farmers with hoe and pole fight with desperate courage.

In the midst of the raging battle, love is kindled in the hearts of the village maid and Katsushiro, but even the two young hearts cannot break the barrier that lies between the two classes of the samurai and the farmer.

The final decisive battle approaches. Reduced to only 13 by now, the bandits yet swarm into the village one rainy morning. Although Kyuzo, Gorobei and Kikuchiyo fall, the bandits are completely routed.

With the melody of the rice planting song still lingering in the ears of Kambei, Shichiroji, Katsushiro, the survivors now silently and sorrowfully stand before the newly made grave mounds.