

SUFFERING OF NINKO



a Norihiro NIWATSUKINO film

ORIGINAL TITLE: 仁光の受難 / NINKO NO JUNAN

70 MIN/ JAPAN/ 2016/ FICTION/ COLOR/ JAPANESE/ DCP/ 24 FPS/ 1.78/ STEREO



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SYNOPSIS

Ninko, a young diligent Buddhist monk, has a serious problem: women are attracted to him (and some men too). After a troubling encounter with a naked masked woman, he starts a journey to “purify” himself of those sexual advances and the fantasy he now has. One day he arrives in a village decimated by a rapacious mountain Goddess, Yama-onna, who seduces and kills the men of the valley. Finally it seems that Ninko has a quest to fulfill...



DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

"New and unexpected film experience is what I always want to offer to my audience. I want to show them what they have never seen before. I want to lure them into an unknown world. In order to achieve this, I played with the genre and features of SUFFERING OF NINKO. The film can be seen as a Kaidan story: a Japanese ghost, specter or monster story. But I made sure that it didn't turn into a horror film. Let's say, this is the kind of story you may find in one of the Japanese traditional 'Hyakumonogatari', the series of 100 ghost stories: a fateful story confined in a specter painting, scary at time but with a comical expression sometimes too. It's neither terror nor mystery, but amusement and wondering, that's why the Kaidan telling are so entertaining. I also wanted to add a layer to the experience of the main character, Ninko, by bringing his inner world as a live-action, a Ukiyo-e (a Japanese traditional woodblock print) animation and a mandala animation."

Norihiro NIWATSUKINO

FESTIVAL QUOTE

"We're in the ancient Japan of the Hyaku-monogatari (the classical ghost-story anthology The Hundred Tales), but you've never seen a Japanese period movie like this before. (...) Niwatsukino's wildly enjoyable debut is crammed with humour and visual surprises. At a time when 95% of Japanese indies are about the emotional and sexual-identity problems of young people, it is (to say the least) refreshing to find a movie that goes for broke with a subject that blows genre conventions apart while offering gutsy storytelling, vivid performances and a fabulous sense of cinema's possibilities. Buddhists will love it, but so will most everyone else".

— Tony Rayns, Vancouver IFF notes



DIRECTOR'S BIOGRAPHY

Born April 6, 1981, Norihiro NIWATSUKINO started filming while attending the Kyushu Institute of Design in Fukuoka. After graduating from the Graduate School of Design at Kyushu University in Fukuoka, NIWATSUKINO moved to Tokyo and started working as a freelance director and also a screen writer. He has directed various video works includes live-action, music video, animation... His short film STRAWBERRY JAM (2010) was invited to various film festivals in Japan. NIWATSUKINO followed with his first animation series ONIZUSHI. SUFFERING OF NINKO (2016) is his first feature film.

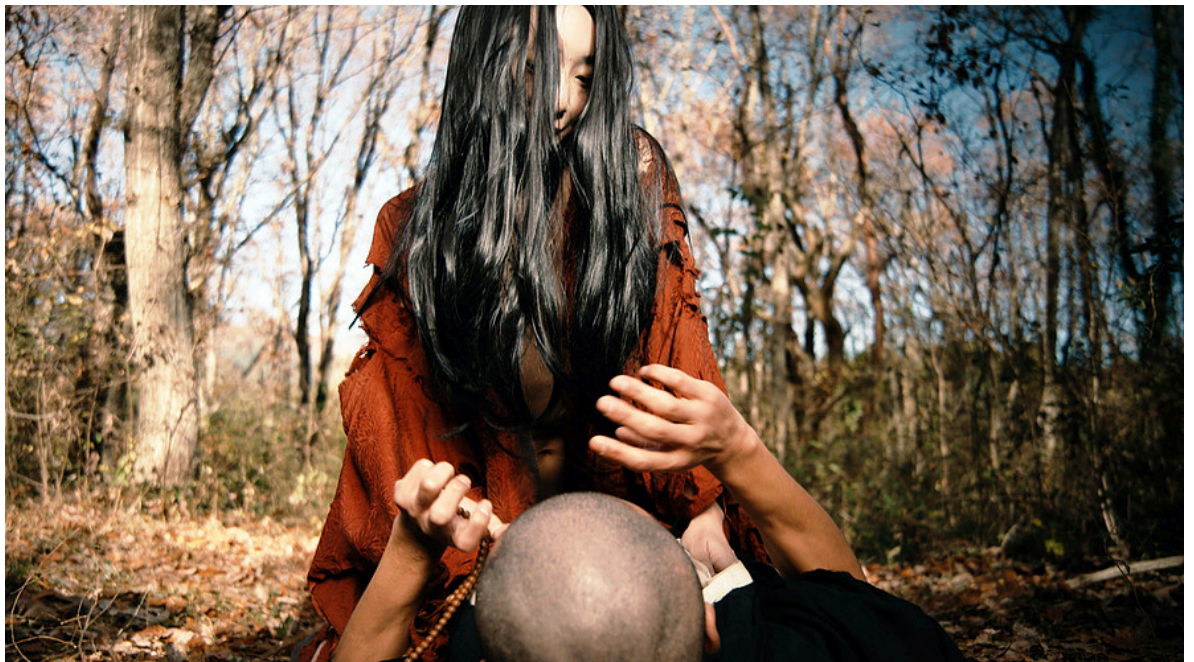


DIRECTOR'S FILMOGRAPHY

SUFFERING OF NINKO 2016, feature

ONIZUSHI, 2016, short animation

STRAWBERRY JAM 2010, short



CAST

Masato TSUJIOKA
Miho WAKABAYASHI
Hideta IWAHASHI
Yukino ARIMOTO
Chris KATO
Hitoshi MURAKAMI
Qyoko KUDO

CREW

Script	Norihiro NIWATSUKINO
DoP	Takayuki OKAZAKI, Shun-ichiro YAMAMOTO
Editor	Norihiro NIWATSUKINO
VFX	Norihiro NIWATSUKINO
Animation	Norihiro NIWATSUKINO
Music	OFFICE HIGUCHI Inc.
Gaffer	Katsuyuki TAKEMOTO
Produced by	Norihiro NIWATSUKINO, Katsuyuki TAKEMOTO
Production	TRICYCLE FILM (Organization)
International Sales	ASIAN SHADOWS

