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## Hong Kong 2012 Diary: Tribute - The Aesthetics of Discordance: Kawashima Yuzo



[caption id="attachment\_6661" align="alignleft" width="290"  
caption="The Sun in the Last Days of the Shogunate"]



[/caption]

Before his premature death at the age of 45, **Kawashima Yuzo** directed, with great commercial and critical success, 51 films in 19 years and was a

major influence on future generations of Japanese auteurs, including new wave legend **Imamura Shohei**, who credited Kawashima as his greatest mentor. But for many years, he was surprisingly overlooked internationally. This retrospective, shown on exquisitely restored prints, aims to correct that and introduce new audiences to the delights of Kawashima's world.

Born in 1918 in Aomori, Kawashima apprenticed as a **Shochiku Studio** assistant under masters such as **Ozu Yasujiro** and **Kinoshita Keisuke**. Later, as director, he developed a reputation for finely textured tragicomedies that explore the lives and landscapes of working-class Tokyoites. But across his oeuvre, Kawashima's characters are complex, spirited humans torn between desire and duty, even in the bourgeois family satire *Burden of Love* and the period burlesque *The Sun in the Last Days of the Shogunate*, which is regularly chosen by critics as one of the 10 best Japanese films of all time. Kawashima's gravestone bears the line from one of his films: "Saying goodbye is all life is." But perhaps, through his cinema, we can make our acquaintance with this master once again.

Films include *Our Doctor, Our Chief; Between Yesterday and Tomorrow*; *Burden of Love*; *Suzaki Paradise: Red Light*; *The Sun in the Last Days of the Shogunate*; and *Elegant Beast*.

*(from the site)*

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