

Nijusseiki Shonen Dokuhon

("Circus Boys")

Japan : 1989 : dir. Kaizo Hayashi :

: 106 min

prod: Kaizo Hayashi & Riyuzo Shirawaka : scr: Kaizo Hayashi : dir.ph.: Yuichi Nagata

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Hiroshi Mikami; Moe Kamura; Michiru Akiyoshi; Yuki Asayama; Yoshio Harada;
Sanshi Katsura; Xia Jian

Ref:	Pages	Sources	Stills	Words	Ω	8	≠	M	♀	Copy on VHS	Last Viewed
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Film Review (volume indeterminate):

"Made in 1989, Kaizo Hayashi's second film (his first was **"TO SLEEP SO AS TO DREAM"**) confirms his talent for unique and memorable movies. A magical story (filmed in black-and-white) which mixes gangsters with the circus, flowing effortlessly to the exciting, beautifully photographed and directed chase climax. First shown London (ICA) 14 June 1991." – FDM

Radio Times Guide to Films review:

"One of the finest films to come out of Japan in years, this provides conclusive proof that cinema is much the poorer for the passing of black-and-white film. Yuichi Nagata's imagery has an austerity and clarity that few cinematographers could surpass, whether it's capturing the action in the big top, the disappointments behind the scenes or the deceptions of life on the open road. Director Kaizo Hayashi is similarly in total control of his art, conveying the passage of time with subtle symbolism and drawing a superb performance out of Hiroshi Mikami as the

trapeze artist who turns to petty crime after a fall. In Japanese with English subtitles. **** "

Cast:

JintaHiroshi Mikami
OmachaMoe Kamura
MariaMichiru Akiyoshi
SayokoYuki Asayama
Yoshirn OtoYoshio Harada
WataruXia Jian
SamejimaSanshi Katsura

[no listing in "Halliwell's Film Guide", "Leonard Maltin's Movie and Video Guide 2001", "Bloomsbury Foreign Film Guide", "The Critics' Film Guide", "Movies on TV and Videocassette 1988-89", "Rating the Movies (1990)", "The Time Out Film Guide", "TV Times Film & Video Guide 1995", "Variety Movie Guide 1993", "Video Movie Guide 1993" or "The Virgin Film Guide"]

No further information currently available. Not to be confused with the Russian 2002 documentary released on video as **"CIRCUS BOYS"**. As memory serves, the boyhood of the lead and his small brother account for only the first fifteen minutes or so, but further comment must await another viewing. Growing up in the circus would have been thought the height of adventure fifty years ago, and numerous films and TV shows reflect this, but by 1989 – surely also in Japan – the traveling circus was as quaint and passé as the steam train. The trapeze artist and high-wire walker went the way of the arctic explorer and Great White Hunter.

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