



男の花道

A Man's Flower Road

Sion Sono

Written and directed by Sion Sono. Director of photography Sion Sono.

With Sion Sono (Sion), Otomi Sono (Father), Izumi Sono (Mother), Michika Sono (Sister).

DCP, colour. 110 min. Japanese.

The brilliant opening of Sion Sono's first feature shows him dressed in nothing but a red rain cape running in hysterical fashion from a group of henchmen dressed in white coats, as the distorted soundtrack booms in the background. After escaping his pursuers momentarily, he takes a shit in a park before being picked up by the mythical "Kappa" water creatures in the historical canals of Tokyo.

The second part of the film is more or less autobiographical and considerably more introverted, beginning during a blackout at the Sono family home in a small locality in Greater Tokyo. It is a story of the restrictions of family life, the desire to break free, restlessness, helplessness and the fear of becoming an adult. At one point, a banner carrying naive drawings and the inscription "Home Movie" is draped behind the family dining table, whose members play themselves. Punk poet Sion Sono, who was only 24 at the time, then quotes Japanese film classics or presents old family photos in surprisingly touching fashion. At the end, we see him running through Tokyo again with a road marker in tow, spelling out the following on the asphalt of the tramline: "Life sucks".

Christoph Terhechte

Sion Sono was born in Toyokawa, Aichi Prefecture, Japan in 1961. He published his first poems at the age of seventeen. He started making 8mm films while a student at Hosei University in Tokyo. In 1985, he made his debut film, *Ore wa Sono Sion da!!/I Am Sion Sono!!* (1985). Since then, he has worked as a director as well as a producer, actor, writer, and performance artist.

Films

1985: *Ore wa Sono Sion da!!/I Am Sion Sono!!*. 1986: *Otoko no hanamichi / A Man's Flower Road*. 1988: *Kessen! Joshiryo tai danshiryo / Decisive Match! Girls Dorm Against Boys Dorm* (90 min.). 1990: *Jitensha toiki / Bicycle Sighs* (94 min., Berlinale Forum 1991). 1993: *Heya / The Room* (92 min., Berlinale Forum 1993). 1997: *Keiko desu kedo* (61 min.). 1998: *Kaze* (26 min.). 2000: *Utsushimi* (110 min.). 2002: *Jisatsu sakuru / Suicide Club* (99 min.). 2005: *Yume no naka e / Into a Dream* (103 min.), *Kimyo no sakasu / Strange Circus* (108 min., Berlinale Forum 2006), *Hazard* (103 min.). 2006: *Kikyu kurabu, sonogo / Balloon Club, Afterwards* (93 min.), *Noriko no shokutaku / Noriko's Dinner Table* (159 min.). 2007: *Ekusute / Exte: Hair Extensions* (108 min.). 2008: *Ai no mukidashi / Love Exposure* (237 min., Berlinale Forum 2009). 2009: *Chanto tsutaeru / Be Sure to Share* (109 min.). 2011: *Tsumetai nettaigyo / Cold Fish* (145 min.), *Koi no tsumi / Guilty of Romance* (144 min.). 2013: *Jigoku de naze warui / Why Don't You Play in Hell* (126 min.). 2014: *Tokyo Tribe* (116 min.). 2015: *Love & Peace* (117 min.), *Riaru onigokko / Tag* (85 min.), *Hiso hiso boshi / The Whispering Star* (100 min.).