



はなされる GANG Hanasareru Gang

Nobuhiro Suwa

Written and directed by Nobuhiro Suwa. Director of photography Nobuhiro Suwa.

With Takayuki Kamura (Kamura), Rie Ito (Rie).

DCP, colour. 85 min. Japanese.

Hiroshima-born Nobuhiro Suwa has been more or less a French director ever since presenting *H Story* in 2001, which was both a remake of and engagement with Alain Resnais's *Hiroshima mon amour*. But Suwa already revealed a predilection for the style and motifs of the Nouvelle Vague in his first feature, which was shot in the winter of 1983–84 on 8 mm film. *Hanasareru Gang* actually encapsulates three titles in one, for when written without Kanji characters, it can describe a gang that is “on everyone’s lips”, “flowery” or “separated from one other”. The film plays with these different meanings to tell the not strictly chronological story of a fun-loving young woman who joins up with a pair of petty criminals. After they steal a car containing a suitcase full of bank notes, they must go their separate ways. When the characters comment on the action in voiceover, ask how much more time the film is going to give them, quote from “The Adventures of Tom Sawyer” or suddenly jump back and forth between tragedy and slapstick in tune with the music, one might think that Pierrot le fou got lost and ended up in Japan.

Christoph Terhechte

Nobuhiro Suwa was born in 1960 in Hiroshima, Japan and studied Film at Zokei University in Tokyo. He began making his own films in the 1980s and worked as an assistant director for filmmakers such as Sogo Ishii and Masasahi Yamamoto. After making a series of documentaries for television, he returned to directing feature films at the end of the 1990s. In addition to his work as a director, Nobuhiro Suwa is also currently a professor at the Tokyo University of the Arts.

Films

1982: *Santa ga machi ni yatte kuru/Santa Comes to Town*. 1984: *Hanasareru Gang*. 1997: *2/Dyuo/2/Duo* (90 min.). 1999: *M/Other* (147 min.). 2001: *H Story* (111 min.). 2002: *A Letter from Hiroshima* (37 min.). 2005: *Un couple parfait* (103 min.). 2009: *Yuki & Nina* (92 min., Berlinale Generation 2010). 2011: *Black Hair*.