



聖テロリズム

Saint Terrorism

Masashi Yamamoto

Written and directed by Masashi Yamamoto. Director of photography Masashi Yamamoto, Nobuhiro Suwa.

With Rubi, Shigenari Sugawara, Mikiko Tsunoda.

DCP, colour. 127 min. Japanese.

Outsiders, criminals and prostitutes populate the oeuvre of Masashi Yamamoto, whose 1982 *Carnival in the Night* also made a name for him outside of Japan. Two years before, he made the largely unknown 8mm feature *Saint Terrorism*, which anticipated the nihilism and disgust for society evident in his later films. A girl who lives alone and wears a pink and yellow outfit shoots innocent people seemingly at random through her white handbag. One of her victims comments on his murderer's moral conduct from the other side in a stifled voice: "Just look at her angelic face." The girl confesses to a stranger that she's bored of shooting. When she meets burglar and poisoner Nami, the two of them swap her revolver for poison, with fatal consequences for the Shinjuku apartment building where the film's protagonists live: a father who feeds the penguins at Ueno Zoo; two prostitutes and their partners/pimps with whom they appear in a sex show; an older man who stares at the night sky through a telescope; uniform-wearing cult members who were spotted previously taking away bodies. A daily newspaper announces: "Globalisation is hitting Japan."

Christoph Terhechte

Masashi Yamamoto was born in Oita Prefecture, Japan in 1956. He studied Theatre Studies at Meiji University and began making 8mm films in 1979. During the 1980s, he also produced records and organised music festivals. In 1998, Yamamoto spent a year in New York. In 2012, he opened the Cinema Impact workshop, through which he has produced fifteen films by thirteen directors.

Films

1980: *Hijiri Terorizumu / Saint Terrorism*. 1982: *Yami no kanibaru / Carnival in the Night* (108 min., Berlinale Forum 1983). 1987: *Robinson no niwa / Robinson's Garden* (107 min., Berlinale Forum 1987). 1990: *What's up Connection* (118 min.). 1996: *Atlanta Boogie* (108 min.). 1997: *Junk Food* (105 min., Berlinale Forum 1998). 2000: *Limousine Drive* (87 min.). 2005: *Days* (58 min.), *Cycle* (48 min.). 2006: *Man and Woman and Wall* (87 min.). 2011: *Three Points* (85 min.). 2012: *One Nation Story* (35 min.), *Night in Tacos* (25 min.). 2014: *Mizu no koe o kiku / The Voice of Water* (129 min., Berlinale Forum 2015).