



雨女

## The Rain Women

**Shinobu Yaguchi**

Written and directed by Shinobu Yaguchi. Director of photography Shinobu Yaguchi.

With Kayoko Komaba, Miwa Makii.

DCP, 35mm, colour. 72 min. Japanese.

Shinobi Yaguchi is known for his anarchistic comedies and made his debut in 1990 with the wonderfully melancholy *The Rain Women*. The first part ("Rain") is fanciful and carefree, showing two women sharing an apartment, racing through a convenience store on bikes, wearing out numerous umbrellas by scrambling through soggy landscapes and sharing a teeth-cleaning scene that feels like the longest in film history. In the second part ("Sunshine"), they perform "Singin' in the Rain" as a popular J-pop duo, separate, experience personal tragedies. Blood replaces water as a metaphor. A bicycle burns, another shrivels up. At the very end, the rain luckily begins to fall once again.

*Christoph Terhechte*

Shinobu Yaguchi was born in Isehara, Japan in 1967, and studied Graphic Design at Tokyo University of the Arts. As a student, he worked part-time as a production design assistant, and started making his own films on 8mm and video.

### Films

1990: *Ame onna / The Rain Women*. 1993: *Hadashi no pikunikku / Down the Drain* (92 min.). 1996: *Himitsu no hanazono / My Secret Cache* (83 min., Berlinale Forum 1997). 1999: *Adrenaline Drive* (112 min., Berlinale Forum 1999). 2001: *Waterboys* (91 min.). 2002: *Parco Fiction* (65 min.). 2004: *Suwingu garuzu / Swing Girls* (105 min.). 2008: *Happy Flight* (103 min.). 2012: *Robo ji* (111 min.). 2014: *(Ujjobu) Kamisari nana nichijo / Wood Job!* (116 min.).