



東京白菜関 K 者 Tokyo Cabbageman K

Akira Ogata

Written and directed by Akira Ogata. Director of photography Sogo Ishii, Yoshiharu Tezuka, George Iida.

With Katsuro Onoue (Chinese Cabbage Head), Kazushi Hosaka (Nagoya Tohoku), Shigeru Muroi (Nina Hagen).

DCP, colour. 59 min. Japanese.

In Akira Ogata's cult film *Tokyo Cabbageman K*, a young man named K discovers one morning that his head has been replaced by a huge Chinese cabbage. If you're going to mutate into something, wonders a friend, why a cabbage head and not a vampire? K's new appearance quickly turns him into a media star and sex object. Yet this soon becomes too much for him, so he plants himself in a cabbage patch. Music from Vivaldi to Sheena & The Rokkets provides the roaring soundtrack to this crazy story, with one of the characters even calling herself Nina Hagen.

Christoph Terhechte

Akira Ogata was born in the prefecture of Saga, Japan in 1959. He studied at Fukuoka University in Tokyo, where he met Sogo Ishii and made his first short film, *Tokyo hakusai kankeisha / Tokyo Cabbageman K* (1980). Following his studies, he first worked as an assistant director, then began making music videos, television movies, and documentaries. In 2000, he directed his first full-length feature film, *Dokuritsu shoneb gasshoudan / The Boy's Choir*. Akira Ogata occasionally works as an actor, for instance in Sogo Ishii's *Gyakufunsha kazoku / Crazy Family* (1984).

Films

1980: *Tokyo hakusai kankeisha / Tokyo Cabbageman K*. 2000: *Dokuritsu shonen gasshodan / The Boy's Choir* (129 min.). 2006: *Itsuka dokusho suruhi / The Milkwoman* (127 min.). 2010: *Nonchan noriben / Noriben: The Recipe of Fortune* (107 min.), *Shikeidai no erebeta / Elevator to the Gallows* (111 min.). 2013: *Tomodachi to aruko / Walking with a Friend* (89 min.).