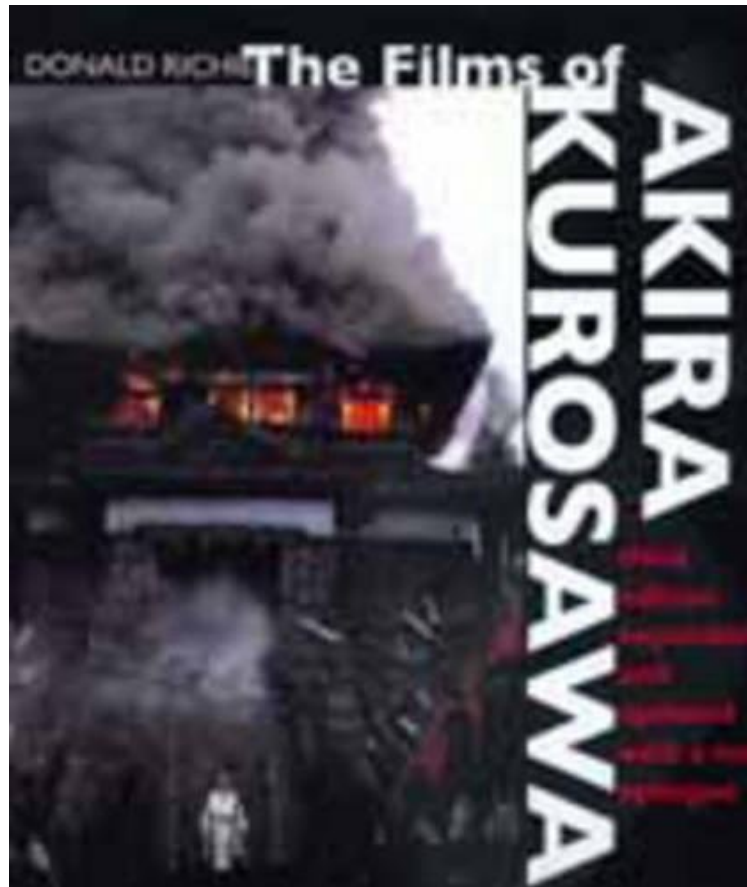


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The Films of Akira Kurosawa, Third Edition, Expanded and Updated

Donald Richie

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Donald Richie : The Films of Akira Kurosawa, Third Edition, Expanded and Updated before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Films of Akira Kurosawa, Third Edition, Expanded and Updated:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A good overview with some interesting criticism.By Roman Martell was drawn to this book after hearing Mr. Richie's commentary on the DVD of "Rashomon". In many ways this book is a continuation of that type of commentary. One of the great things about the book is that Richie provides plenty of interesting observations about the actual filming and reception of Kurosawa's films; since he was present for most of them. He tackles the films from several angles including actual quotes from Kurosawa, his cast and crew. He discusses the creation of the films from pre-productions up to release, and in some cases even discusses how the films were received. Richie also delves into the themes and ideas behind each film, covering them in great detail.Richie's opinions are just that, opinions. For the most part he is pretty balanced with is approach to the films. He points out the good and

bad, as he sees it in each film. He does assume you've seen the films, and while he does include a synopsis, he does refer to the films quite freely. Richie does delve into Kurosawa's successes and failures with equal skill. However Richie begins to lose steam after "Red Beard". He obviously doesn't like most of the films in the director's later period and goes to some length describing why they fail. This is a bit strange because I feel that some of the best Kurosawa (and certainly his most unique work) comes from this later period. Richie almost dismisses "Ran" as a retooling of "Kagamusha" something that I don't agree with at all. He also shrugs off "Dreams" as a summary film - and this is one of the most unique films Kurosawa attempted. This book is an interesting read for Kurosawa fans. While I don't always agree with Richie, he does make some excellent points about the themes of the films and offers some interesting stories surrounding the production and reception of the films. Definitely worth reading for a fan looking for more of Richie's take on the films of Akira Kurosawa. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great, undepth information By Denise Jensen I bought this as a gift for my husband who teaches a university course on Japanese film. He is so pleased with it. The author is the ultimate expert. Even though my husband already knew quite a lot about Kurosawa's films, this books added more. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Book By Benjamin D Morgan Very thorough and well written review of the films of the great Kurosawa. Nice photographs, format and excellent analysis of each film.

In an epilogue provided for his incomparable study of Akira Kurosawa (1910-1998), Donald Richie reflects on Kurosawa's life work of thirty feature films and describes his last, unfinished project, a film set in the Edo period to be called *The Ocean Was Watching*. Kurosawa remains unchallenged as one of the century's greatest film directors. Through his long and distinguished career he managed, like very few others in the teeth of a huge and relentless industry, to elevate each of his films to a distinctive level of art. His *Rashomon* one of the best-remembered and most talked-of films in any language was a revelation when it appeared in 1950 and did much to bring Japanese cinema to the world's attention. Kurosawa's films display an extraordinary breadth and an astonishing strength, from the philosophic and sexual complexity of *Rashomon* to the moral dedication of *Ikiru*, from the naked violence of *Seven Samurai* to the savage comedy of *Yojimbo*, from the terror-filled feudalism of *Throne of Blood* to the piercing wit of *Sanjuro*.

.com Here is a chance to read a terrific study of Kurosawa's films by the foremost critic of Japanese cinema and a man who had a personal acquaintance with the filmmaker. Newly revised and updated, this classic study now covers all of Kurosawa's films, surveying an extraordinary 50 year career. If you have any interest in Japanese cinema or in the art of movies in general, you can't go wrong viewing Kurosawa's films. Ritchie's book will guide you through them, teaching you about the man and his genius. From Library Journal This third edition of a work first published in 1965 covers the four films made since the second edition was released, including *Ran*, arguably Kurosawa's biggest hit in America. Kurosawa is acknowledged as one of the greatest artists of the sound era, and he is easily the best-known Japanese director to Western audiences. This book concentrates solely on the films themselves; other than a brief biographical section that ends when Kurosawa began directing and a closing analysis of his style and methods, no additional topic is covered. Each film is analyzed separately along the lines of characterization, story, camera, production, music, treatment, and so forth. Greater space is given to the masterpieces: *Rashomon*, *Seven Samurai*, *Ikiru*, and *The Throne of Blood*. Richie's expertise is hard to miss; surely he overlooks no aspect of these films. Given Kurosawa's age (he's 86) and the difficulties of financing in Japanese cinema, it is unlikely he will produce any more movies. Highly recommended for academic and film collections; public libraries should buy according to demand. ?Marianne Cawley, Enoch Pratt Free Lib., Baltimore Copyright 1996 Reed Business Information, Inc. "A perceptive, detailed, and richly illustrated volume, it examines Kurosawa's choice of themes, story-telling techniques, camera work, and directorial style."--"Cinema Canada