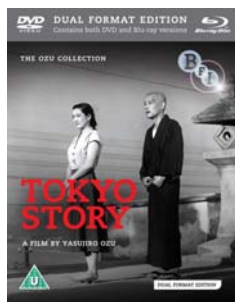


DVD press release



BFI launches The Ozu Collection on DVD 32 films to be released, beginning with *Tokyo Story*, *Early Summer* and *Late Spring* on 19 July 2010

Following its recent hugely popular theatrical retrospective of world-renowned Japanese director **Yasujiro Ozu**'s entire surviving films, the BFI will release all 32 films on DVD over the next three years. At least seven of these films will also be made available on Blu-ray for the first time.

The Ozu Collection launches on 19 July with the Dual Format Edition releases (both Blu-ray and DVD discs in one box) of **Tokyo Story** (1953), **Early Summer** (1951) and **Late Spring** (1949). Extra features with each of these three titles, and with subsequent releases, will include an early Ozu film that has never been available in the UK before.

Yasujiro Ozu came into the Japanese film business in 1923; he was 19 at the time and a huge film buff, having spent much of his teenage life watching imported Hollywood films. He joined Shochiku (the company he stayed with all his life) as a camera assistant and soon went on to become an assistant director and script collaborator. He learned his craft on the job and quickly became competent in framing shots, staging scenes and building gags in the conventional Hollywood manner. Some five or six years into his career as a director, though, Ozu began to formulate his own distinctive filmic style, a method of framing, pacing and cutting which was soon unique in both Japanese and world cinema. It was a style he pursued right up to his death in 1963.

In film after film, Ozu focused on the everyday lives – at home, at work, in bars or in school – of ordinary people, deploying stories shorn of big melodramatic moments, and balancing gentle comedy with a poignant awareness of life's limitations and transience.

Tokyo Story (Tokyo Monogatari)

A constant fixture in critics' polls, Ozu's most enduring masterpiece is a beautifully nuanced exploration of filial duty, expectation and regret. From the simple tale of an elderly husband and wife's visit to Tokyo to see their grown-up children, Ozu draws a compelling contrast between the measured dignity of age and the hurried insensitivity of a younger generation.

Ozu's incisive satire, the rarely seen *Brothers and Sisters of the Toda Family* is also included here as an extra.

Special features:

- Standard Definition and High Definition presentations of *Tokyo Story* (DVD & Blu-ray)
- *Brothers and Sisters of the Toda Family* (1941, 100 mins, DVD only)
- Illustrated booklet features newly commissioned sleeve note essay by Professor Joan Mellen and Ozu biography by Tony Rayns
- New and improved English subtitles

Cont...

Early Summer (Bakushu)

When family, friends and colleagues pressure Noriko – played with enigmatic brilliance by Setsuko Hara (*Tokyo Story*, *Late Spring*) – to marry, they provoke a surprising decision with wide-reaching consequences. A wonderfully poised ensemble work, *Early Summer* presents the intricacies and contradictions of three generations who have lived through the end of an era and are looking towards the new.

Included as an extra is Ozu's rare comic pre-war feature, *What Did the Lady Forget?*, which plays with the themes of emasculation and feminine assertion.

Special features:

- Standard Definition and High Definition presentations of *Early Summer* (DVD & Blu-ray)
- *What Did the Lady Forget?* (1937, 73 mins, DVD only)
- Illustrated booklet features newly commissioned sleevenote essay by Michael Atkinson, Ozu biography by Tony Rayns and actor Chishu Ryu on working with Ozu.
- New and improved English subtitles

Late Spring (Banshun)

Ozu's hugely influential award-winning masterpiece, *Late Spring*, is a tender meditation on family politics, sacrifice and the status quo. Noriko (Setsuko Hara) and her father, Professor Somiya (Chishu Ryu) live together in perfect harmony but old certainties are put at risk when an interfering aunt raises the question of marriage. Introducing Ozu's popular Noriko character, *Late Spring* poignantly examines the gradual compromise between modernity and tradition.

Against the backdrop of depression-era Japan, Ozu's first sound film, *The Only Son*, is a powerful tale of sacrifice and hope.

Special features:

- Standard Definition and High Definition presentations of *Late Spring* and *The Only Son* (DVD & Blu-ray)
- Fully illustrated booklet features newly commissioned sleevenote essay by James Bell (*Sight & Sound*) and Ozu biography by Tony Rayns
- New and improved English subtitles

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For further information and review copies please contact:

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Images are available at www.image.net under BFI DVD & Blu-ray 2010

BFI DVDs are available from all good DVD retailers; by mail order from the BFI Filmstore

Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore

Tokyo Story Cat. No. BFIB1056, region B, RRP £19.99

Japan / 1953 / black and white / Japanese language, English subtitles / 130 mins / Cert U / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / Disc 1: BD25 / 1080p / 24fps / PCM mono audio (48k/16-bit) / Disc 2: DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital mono audio (192kbps)

Early Summer Cat. No. BFIB1069, region B, RRP £19.99

Japan / 1951 / black and white / Japanese language, English subtitles / 125 mins / Cert U / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / Disc 1: BD25 / 1080p / 24fps / PCM mono audio (48k/16-bit) / Disc 2: DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital mono audio (48k-16-bit)

Late Spring Cat. No. BFIB1068, region B, RRP £19.99

Japan / 1949, 1936 / black and white / Japanese language, English subtitles / 108 + 83 mins / Cert U / DVD9 / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1 / Disc 1: BD50 / 1080p / 24fps / PCM mono audio (48k/16-bit) / Disc 2: DVD9 / PAL / Dolby Digital mono audio (320kbps)