

## DVD press release



### More Yasujiro Ozu Dual Format Edition releases from the BFI on 17 January

In July 2010 the BFI launched **The Ozu Collection**; all 32 of the world-renowned Japanese director's surviving films made for the Shochiku Studio will be issued over the next three years. Following *Tokyo Story*, *Early Summer* and *Late Spring*, the next titles to be released in Dual Format Editions (both a Blu-ray and a DVD disc in one box) are **Equinox Flower** (1958) and **Good Morning** (1959) on 17 January 2011.

As previously packaged, each feature is accompanied by an early Ozu film that has never been available in the UK before.

#### **Equinox Flower (Higanbana) & There Was a Father (Chichi Ariki)**

Yasujiro Ozu's first colour film, *Equinox Flower* is a deft comedy that takes an ironic glance at the decline of paternal authority. Shin Saburi plays Wataru Hirayama, an old-fashioned father whose outwardly liberal views on marriage are severely tested when his daughter tells him she wants a love-match. Outwitted and outflanked by his wily female relatives, Hirayama stubbornly refuses to admit defeat. The director's playful use of colour, poetry and arch humour combine to make this tale of old versus new at once deeply moving and razor-sharp.

Paternal authority is unquestionably ascendant in Ozu's powerful war-time drama *There Was a Father* which is included here. Shuhei Horikawa (Chishu Ryu) sacrifices his teaching career after an unfortunate accident but refuses to sacrifice the education of his only son.

#### **Special features**

- Standard Definition and High Definition presentations of *Equinox Flower* and *There Was a Father* (DVD & Blu-ray)
- Fully illustrated booklet with newly commissioned sleevenote essays by Asian cinema expert Tony Rayns
- New and improved English subtitles

#### **Good Morning (Oyaho) & I Was Born, But... (Umarete wa mita keredo)**

A bright Tokyo suburb buzzing with gossip is the backdrop to Ozu's cheerful comedy, *Good Morning*. Disillusioned with the seemingly meaningless talk of the adults around them, two brothers take a vow of silence when their parents refuse to buy them a television. With a dexterously woven plot, built on mishaps and misunderstandings, *Good Morning* pokes fun at the silliness of everyday chatter whilst gently acknowledging its fundamental necessity.

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Also included here is Ozu's superb early comedy *I Was Born, But...* The forerunner of *Good Morning*, this silent masterpiece contains many similar themes but a darker edge. As brothers Ryoichi and Keiji struggle to outwit the local bully and scale the pecking order in their new neighbourhood, they find out that injustice does not end with school.

### Special features

- Standard Definition and High Definition presentations of *Good Morning*
- Standard Definition presentation of *I Was Born, But...* (DVD only)
- Newly recorded score for *I Was Born, But...* by composer Ed Hughes and the New Music Players
- Illustrated booklet with newly commissioned sleevenote essay by silent film curator Bryony Dixon and contemporary review by Jonathan Rosenbaum
- 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](http://www.image.net) under BFI DVD & Blu-ray 2011

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](http://www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore)

### Technical information

**Good Morning** Cat. No. BFIB1070, region B, RRP £19.99

Japan / 1959 + 1932 / colour + black and white / Japanese language, English subtitles / 94 mins + 87 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 (320kbps)

**Equinox Flower** Cat. No. BFIB1071, region B, RRP £19.99

Japan / 1958 + 1942 / colour + black and white / Japanese language, English subtitles / 118 mins + 87 mins / Cert U / 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)

### About Yasujiro Ozu

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 for which he made the vast majority of his films) 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 Ozu began to formulate his own distinctive filmic style, a method of framing, pacing and cutting which was 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.