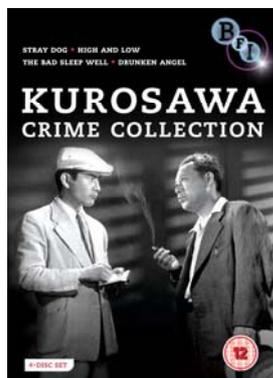


DVD press release



Kurosawa Crime Collection 4-disc box set

Akira Kurosawa, one of cinema's greatest *auteurs*, has inspired filmmakers as diverse as George Lucas and Sergio Leone. This 4-disc box set, one of two new BFI Kurosawa box sets released this month, highlights his mastery of the crime genre, bringing together four of his finest thrillers.

Packaged with an illustrated booklet of notes and credits, the films are **Drunken Angel**, **Stray Dog**, **The Bad Sleep Well** and **High and Low**. While previously available individually, this handsome box set offers an opportunity to own the films for half their original price and is an ideal gift.

Drunken Angel (*Yoidore Tenshi*), 1948, 94 mins

Toshiro Mifune, in his first major screen role, plays a small-time *yakuza* who embarks on an uneasy friendship with an alcoholic slum doctor, played by Toho regular Takashi Shimura. *Drunken Angel* is part gangster, part melodrama and part social critique, and establishes the on-screen chemistry and dynamics of these two leading men that Kurosawa was to explore in further films.

Stray Dog (*Nora Ino*), 1949, 117 mins

A masterful mix of *film noir* and police thriller set on the sweltering mean streets of occupied Tokyo. Kurosawa favourites, Mifune and Shimura, are paired for the second time as a rookie detective and his senior in a desperate hunt for a shooter with the former's stolen police pistol.

The Bad Sleep Well (*Warui Yatsu Hodo Yoku Nemuru*), 1960, 105 mins

The first feature brought out under the aegis of Kurosawa's own production company, *The Bad Sleep Well* is an impressive tale of corporate greed and corruption starring Mifune as a grieving son seeking revenge for his father's 'suicide'. It is a powerful indictment of the dark side of business and politics with distinct overtones of *Hamlet*.

High and Low (*Tengoku to Jigoku*), 1963, 143 mins

Based on an Ed McBain novel, *High and Low* is a gripping police thriller in which a wealthy industrialist, Mifune, faces an agonising choice when a ruthless kidnapper, aiming to snatch his young son, takes the chauffeur's boy by accident.

Release date: 24 October 2011

RRP: £39.99 / cat. no. BFIV934 / Cert 12 / 4-disc box set
Japan / 1948-1963 / black & white / Japanese with English subtitles /
mixed aspect ratios

Available from DVD retailers & BFI Filmstore Tel: 020 7815 1350 or
www.bfi.org.uk/filmstore

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