



## Akira Kurosawa, Samurai Collection

5 films by Akira Kurosawa

This indispensable Blu-ray box set, released by the BFI on 25 August 2014, features digitally remastered presentations of five of Kurosawa's greatest films. These critically acclaimed films are accompanied by contextualising extras including interviews with directors George Lucas and Alex Cox, feature-length audio commentaries and original theatrical trailers.

### ***Seven Samurai*** (1954)

When the residents of a small Japanese village seek protection, they hire seven unemployed 'ronin' (masterless samurai). Paid only in handfuls of rice, the samurai remain distant from the villagers, knowing that their assignment may prove to be fatal. Unanimously hailed as one of cinema's greatest masterpieces, *Seven Samurai* has inspired countless films, and was re-made in 1960 as *The Magnificent Seven*.

### ***Throne of Blood*** (1957)

In this brilliant re-imagining of Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, Toshiro Mifune plays a samurai fated to betray his friend and master in exchange for the prestige of nobility. Kurosawa's bloody tale is a triumph of economic style, and the climactic battle scene is full of remarkable, and brutal, imagery.

### ***The Hidden Fortress*** (1958)

In this classic collaboration between Kurosawa and star Mifune, a warrior and a princess try against all odds to return to their homeland with their fortune. Acknowledged by George Lucas as the inspiration for *Star Wars*, *The Hidden Fortress* combines an epic tale of struggle and honour with modern comic sensibilities to masterful effect.

### ***Yojimbo*** (1961)

A drifting samurai for hire plays both ends against the middle with two warring factions, surviving on his wits and his ability to outrun his own bad luck. Eventually the samurai seeks to eliminate both sides for his own gain and to define his own sense of honour. *Yojimbo* provided the inspiration for *A Fistful of Dollars*.

### ***Sanjuro*** (1962)

This comedy of manners that follows a man fighting corruption in local government, offers a twist on the classic Samurai tale by gently, but perfectly parodying the conventions of the Japanese period action movie tradition.

### **Special features**

- All films presented in High Definition
- Original theatrical trailers
- *The Art of Akira Kurosawa* (2013, 49 mins): Asian-cinema expert Tony Rayns discusses Kurosawa's career and influence

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- Interview with filmmaker George Lucas (2001, 8 mins)
- Interview with filmmaker Alex Cox (2003, 9 mins)
- Introduction to *Sanjuro* by Alex Cox (2003, 5 mins)
- Full-length audio commentary for *Throne of Blood* by Japanese-film expert Michael Jeck
- Full-length audio commentary for *Yojimbo* by film critic Philip Kemp
- Fully illustrated booklet with essays by Philip Kemp and Nigel Andrews, contemporary reviews and full film credits

#### **Product details**

RRP: £59.99 / cat. no. BFIB1200 / Cert 12

Japan / 1954-1962 / black and white / Japanese language, with optional English subtitles / 660 minutes / BD50 x 4 / PCM mono audio (48k/24-bit)

*Seven Samurai*: Japan / 1954 / 207 mins / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1

*Throne of Blood*: Japan / 1957 / 109 mins / Original aspect ratio 1.33:1

*The Hidden Fortress*: Japan / 1958 / 139 mins / Original aspect ratio 2.35:1

*Yojimbo*: Japan / 1961 / 110 mins / Original aspect ratio 2.35:1

*Sanjuro*: Japan / 1962 / 96 mins / Original aspect ratio 2.35:1

#### ***Seven Samurai* Blu-ray release**

Also re-released on Blu-ray on 25 August is Akira Kurosawa's *Seven Samurai* which was previously available in a Limited Edition SteelBook™ package.

#### **Product details**

RRP: £19.99 / cat. no. BFIB1199 / Cert PG

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Images are available at [www.image.net](http://www.image.net) under BFI DVD 2014

BFI DVD and Blu-ray releases are available from all good video entertainment retailers or by mail order from the BFI Shop Tel: 020 7815 1350 or online at [www.bfi.org.uk/shop](http://www.bfi.org.uk/shop)

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