

CINEMA

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In Review

Muddy River

Muddy River (Doro No Kawa), directed by Kohei Oguri (Japan, 1981).

A few days before screening **Muddy River**, I finally saw Francois Truffaut's **Small Change**, a 1976 film about children and growing up. It won my heart and my respect and I saw it again the next day. I doubted that I would see such a warm and honest portrayal of growing up for quite some time. Imagine my delight in discovering that **Muddy River** rates with **Small Change** as one of the finest movies I've seen about children.

Muddy River is director Oguri's first film. It was nominated for Best Foreign Film at the Academy Awards and has won a number of awards internationally. It is a low-budget, black-and-white film which uses nonprofessional children and ensemble actors. Based on a novel by Teru Miyamoto, **Muddy River** tells with quiet simplicity and meditative style the story of the nine-year-old son of a couple who run a small restaurant on a river bank in Osaka in 1956. The boy meets a boy his age who lives with his older sister and widowed mother aboard a houseboat, and they become friends. The insightful drama which ensues is about the lives of ordinary people, about friendship and love, about the far-reaching effects of war on people's lives, and about a child coming to awareness in an adult world.

Muddy River is a subtle portrayal of universal human qualities. It stands out as one of the highlights of the Eugene Summer Film Festival, and as an exciting indication of filmmaker Oguri's talent, sensitivity and fortitude.

—Cathy Sarkowsky



Muddy River, a look at childhood, plays this week at Cinema 7. This Japanese film was nominated for Best Foreign Film in 1981, and this year won praise at the Portland Film Festival.

MOVIES THIS WEEK

Baby, It's You: Bijou. John Sayles' portrait of teenage love in the 60's. 686-2458.

Burden of Dreams: Cinema 7, Sept. 14-15. A filming of the entire many months-long making of Werner Herzog's Fitzcarraldo, in the Amazon jungle. If you were wondering how Herzog made such an extraordinary on-location film, here's your answer. Plays with **Lightning Over Water**. 687-0733.

Camelot: Cinema World. Opens Friday. 342-6536.

Celeste: Cinema 7, Sept. 8-13. Elegant and witty film based on the memoirs of Marcel Proust's housekeeper. From West Germany (1981). 687-0733.

Cujo: Springfield Quad. Showing with **Death Stalker**. 726-9073.

Death Stalker: Springfield Quad. Second feature, **Cujo**. 726-9073.

Easy Money: Springfield Quad. A Rodney Dangerfield comedy. 726-9073.

Flashdance: Mayflower. Some super dancing. 345-1022.

Gandhi: Oakway Cinema. Award winning portrayal of India's great leader. 342-5351.

High Road to China: Fine Arts. Showing with **Twilight Zone**. 747-2201.

Lightning Over Water: Cinema 7, Sept. 14-15. Wim Wenders' tribute to director Nicholas Ray, who, dying of cancer, describes to Wenders a story he would like to film. Plays with **Burden of Dreams**. 687-0733.

Max Dugan Returns: Cinema World. 342-6536.

Mr. Mom: McDonald, still showing. As title implies, Dad's taking care of the kids while Mom pursues her career. 344-4343.

Muddy River: Cinema 7, Sept. 8-13. From Japan, a film about children. See review. Plays with **Celeste**. 687-0733.

Risky Business: Springfield Quad. A model teenager steps out. 726-9073.

Snowy River: Cinema World. Adventure story of a young man, filmed in the rugged Australian mountains. 342-6536.

Strange Brew: Springfield Quad. 726-9073.

Trading Places: Cinema World. 342-6536.

Twilight Zone: Fine Arts. With **High Road to China**. 747-2201.

Vacation: Cinema World. A National Lampoon comedy with Chevy Chase. 342-6536.

War Games: National. Computer fantasy gets confused with reality when a boy and his computer begin to play Global Thermonuclear War. 344-3431.

English Film Festival Shows Work by Local Filmmaker

I'd Rather Be a Cowboy, a locally produced documentary on cattle ranching in Eastern Oregon, made for KEZI-TV, has been selected for the Tyneside Film Festival in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, England. Produced and written by Sharon Genasci of Rainbow Video and Film Productions, and shot by Rick Cullis, a local cameraman, this piece takes you on a cattle drive, documenting the struggles of small, independent ranchers and cowboys as they try to maintain a 100-year-old lifestyle.

The festival features the works of independent filmmakers who "exemplify the potential of independent filmmaking, and as a

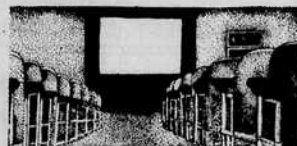
result contribute to the diversity, complexity and pleasure of film, and to the role of independent cinema in all its forms and practices."

I'd Rather Be a Cowboy has also been chosen for airing on **Independent Focus**, a program on WNET in New York.

Other works by Genasci include **Company Town**, which documents the plight of mill workers in Oakridge and Westfir when the mill there was closed; **Oregon Work**, also dealing with the closure of small businesses in Oregon; and, still in progress, **Women and Work**, on middle-aged housewives and mothers entering the work force for the

first time. Currently under way is a spot for the upcoming Eugene Celebration.

Oregon Work is scheduled to be shown on National Public Television under the name **Hard Times** in the near future. Watch your TV listings for an opportunity to see it. It, along with all these works, represent some of Eugene's finest video and film productions.



CINEMA 7 presents
the eugene summer film festival
September 8-13
Atrium Bldg. 687-0733

Muddy River
Director Kohei Oguri (Japan 1981)
29 min 125 minutes
Shows Thurs-Sat 7:30 PM
Sun-Thurs 7:00 PM
Sun Matinee 2:00 PM

Celeste
Shows Thurs-Sat 9:30 PM
Sun-Thurs 9:00 PM
Sun Matinee 4:00 PM



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