

KINO
INTERNATIONAL

PRESENTS

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'RING' AND 'DARK WATER'

CHAOS

A Film by Hideo Nakata

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I N T E R N A T I O N A L

CHAOS

PRODUCTION CREDITS

-CAST-

Goro Kuroda.....Masato Hagiwara
Satomi Tsushima.....Miki Nakatani
Takayuki Komiyama.....Ken Mitsuishi
Detective Hamaguchi.....Jun Kunimura

-CREW-

Executive Producer.....Naoki Kai
Producers.....Takeo Kodero , Satoshi Kanno and Kimio Hara
Directed by.....Hideo Nakata
Screenplay by.....Hisashi Saito
Based on the novel by.....Shogo Utano
Cinematographer.....Tokusho Kikumura
Music.....Kenji Kawai

CHAOS

Country: Japan

Year: 2000

Format: 35mm

Color – 90 mins – 1:1.85

Japanese with English subtitles

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INTRODUCTION

After the successes of "Ring" and "Ring 2," famed horror director Hideo Nakata returns to the screen with a psychological thriller that integrates the styles of Japanese suspense, neo-noir and the erotic thriller into a mesmerizing, brilliant cocktail.

A corporate wife stages her own kidnapping in order to dispel doubts about her husband's fidelity. To ensure the kidnapping's plausibility, she forces the hired henchman to tie her up. When the kidnapping evolves into a perverse, erotic role-playing game between the consensual abductor and abductee, the two discover a mutual interest in masochism and bondage. However, hints begin to surface indicating that things are not that simple and nobody is quite who they seem. Has the extorted husband been unfaithful? Is the wife who she claims to be? Is the henchman a pawn, manipulated by all to cover up the husband's even more heinous crime? The emergence of each puzzle piece answers old questions, and at the same time poses new ones.

As the film progresses, Nakata uncovers the complex 'in media res' timeline collage, exposing the truth behind this tangled web of murder, manipulation, secrets and lies. With the police and the audience hot on their trail, the henchman and husband battle to outwit each other and win the lady's favor--even as she plots her own psychotic, destructive path through their lives.

Nakata's use of light and reflection frames the film in a visual Neo-Noir style mindful of the genre's formal conventions. The film's femme fatale heroine, played superbly by Miki Nakatani, calls to mind such brilliant noir performances as Kathleen Turner's Matty Walker in *Body Heat* and Rita Hayworth's Rosalie Bannister in *The Lady from Shanghai*. Nakata takes an academic understanding of the genre and adds a fresh twist, complimenting the formula with his own style rooted in Japanese horror, suspense and erotic cinema (a subtle homage to Masaru Konuma).

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ABOUT THE FILMMAKER

HIDEO NAKATA (DIRECTOR)

Hideo Nakata was born in Okayama, Japan in 1961. After graduating in 1985 from Tokyo University, Nakata started his career as an assistant director at Nikkatsu Film Studios. In 1992, he made his debut as a director with TV dramas "The Haunted Inn," "The Cursed Doll" and "The Ghost of the Waterfall." In 1993, Nakata traveled to England on a Japanese government scholarship and, while studying British cinema, he planned and shot "The Man with Four Names," a documentary on film director Joseph Losey.

Returning to Japan in 1994, Nakata made his feature film debut with "Don't Look Up" (1996), a horror movie set in an old film studio, much like the one in which he once worked. In 1998 and 1999, Nakata quickly ascended to mega-director status with two enormous horror-entertainment hits "Ring" and "Ring 2." Both films have been released in many Asian countries, and have come to be highly regarded by both audiences and critics around the world. In 2000 he began working on "Sleeping Bride," adapted from the comic by Tezuka Osamu, and "Sadistic and Masochistic," a documentary film about one of Nakata's heroes, director Onuma Masaru.

FILMOGRAPHY – Hideo Nakata

Last Scene (2002)
Dark Water (2002)
Sadistic and Masochistic (2000)
Garasu no nou (1999)
Chaos (1999)
Ringu 2 (1998)
Ringu (1998)
Don't Look Up (1996)
Ghost Actress (1996)

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THE CAST

MASATO HAGIWARA (GORO KURODA)

Masatao Hagiwara was born in Kanawaga, Japan in 1971. In 1990 he started his career as an actor in the TV series "High School Rakugaki 2" (High School Graffiti 2). Since then he has acted in films, television dramas and advertisements. His rich expression has attracted a wide range of audiences and earned him many awards, including the Japan Academy award and the Blue Ribbon award for acting. In 1997 he skillfully portrayed the invisible madness and violence of a charismatic psycho-killer in Kiyoshi Kurosawa's "CURE," a role for which he received praise from critics and audiences around the world. In "Chaos" he plays Goro Kuroda, a henchman drawn into a complex web of deceit by a seductive, manipulative femme fatale.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

Rain of Light (2001)
Go (2001) Policeman
Sebunzu feisu (2000) Uchiyama
Chaos (1999)
Cure (1997)
Dream Stadium (1997)
Marks (1995)
Hero Interview (1994)
Tropical People, The (1994)
Class to Remember, A (1994)
Many Happy Returns (1993)
All Under the Moon (1993)

KEN MITSUISHI (TAKAYUKI KOMIYAMA)

Ken Mitsuishi was born in Fukuoka, Japan in 1961. He made his debut on screen in 1978. Since then he has appeared in many Japanese and American films as a supporting actor. Among these films are Shinji Aoyama's "Eureka" (2000), which earned an invitation to the Cannes Film Festival, and Terence Malick's "Thin Red Line" (1999). In "Chaos" he plays Takayuki Komiyama, the unfaithful husband caught in the web of manipulation, extortion and murder.

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THE CAST -Continued-

MIKI NAKATANI (SATOMI TSUSHIMA)

Miki Nakatani was born in Tokyo, Japan in 1976. In 1993 she appeared on television as a guest actor in the TV series "Hitotsuyane no Shita" (Under a Roof). Many people noticed her transparent beauty in this role. The following year she was selected to portray Japanese oil major Nippon Sekiyu's image character. This role made her a nationally recognizable celebrity in Japan. She has appeared in a variety of television dramas and advertisements, and has released five albums and eight singles as a pop singer, produced by Ryuichi Sakamoto. In 1995 Miki earned her big screen debut in the film "Berlin." Since then she has enjoyed great success playing roles in Hideo Nakata's horror hits "Ring," "Rasen" (Spiral) and "Ring 2." In "Chaos" she plays Satomi Tsushima, the femme fatale who loses her sanity in the false kidnapping she has planned.

SELECTED FILMOGRAPHY

"Believe" (2002) TV Series
"R-17" (2001) TV Series
Keizoku - The Movie (2000) Jun Shibata
"Manatsu no Merry Christmas" (2000) TV Series Haru Hoshino
Chaos (1999) Saori
"Keizoku" (1999) TV Series Jun Shibata
Ring 2 (2002)
Ring (2000)
Spiral, The (1998/II)
Berlin (1995) Kyoko
Dai shitsuren (1994)

JUN KUNIMURA (DETECTIVE HAMAGUCHI)

Jun Kunimura was born in Osaka, Japan in 1955. He first appeared on film in 1981, in Kazuyuki Izutsu's "Gaki Teikoku." His works include Takashi Miike's "Audition" (2000) and Junji Sakamoto's "Face" (2000). In "Chaos" he plays Detective Hamaguchi, the office who investigates the complicated case calmly.

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EXTRACTS FROM HIDEO NAKATA INTERVIEW

Q: You changed the original story and made the female character play the main part of the movie just like you did in your prior movie "Ring." Is this easier for you?

Nakata: I just like to see and also to make movies that spotlight female characters. The original story of this movie "A woman who wanted to be kidnapped" was written from a man's viewpoint and Satomi acts like Komiyama's puppet. Just like Hitchcock's "Vertigo," men are used by women and the story ends when men hound women too close.

Q: Do you instruct acting to actors and actresses?

Nakata: Yes. I think I tell them in details...especially to actresses. In ratio, 90% of my attention is paid to actresses. The rest is 10%. Actors are OK if they do not have any mistakes.

Q: Why does 90% go toward actresses?

Nakata: Maybe I am essentially a woman. I do not know. I like directors, who are best at depicting the life of women in the figure of the main actress, such as Hitchcock, Max Ophuls and George Cukor very much. I search something I do not have in women. There is some urge.

Q: Why did you start to make a series of horror movies?

Nakata: It was accidental. Eight years ago before I went to Britain to research Joseph Losey, I directed a TV series. At that time the producer told me to bring some of my works to show people there and he let me make three episodes of a short TV series. Those happened to be horror.

Q: Your first horror movie, "Don't Look Up," is a project that comes from your experience at a film studio.

Nakata: It was a project I came up with, but I had to start a new project in order to obtain funding to finish the documentary film on Joseph Losey, which I was making at the time (as opposed to my really wanting to make a horror movie). I actually had lots of new projects--horror is one of those. So my motivation to make horror movies is not pure.

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EXTRACTS FROM HIDEO NAKATA INTERVIEW
-Continued-

Q: People say "Ring" revived the horror movie boom.

Nakata: I think anxiety and fear are enjoyable as entertainment in a theater that is enclosed in a safe space. Its popularity changed over time, but the feeling has always been there since the birth of the movie, over one hundred years ago when the Lumiere Brothers projected "Arrival of Train" and the audience ran away. To the audience of the time, it was fearful. The birth of film and birth of fear cannot be separated. It is the same as provoking a tear or laughter. As long as film exists as something that provokes the human's essential emotions, horror films will continue to exist.