

# The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Tel. 956-6100 Cable: Modernart

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## THE SAMURAI GIVE WAY TO YAKUZA GANGSTER FILMS FROM JAPAN

Japanese gangster films, known as yakuza films, a relatively new and extremely popular form of entertainment in that country, will be introduced to New Yorkers on Thursday, October 17, when three examples of the genre will be shown at 2:00, 5:30 and 8:00 P.M. at The Museum of Modern Art. Paul Schrader, film critic, screenwriter and author of an article on yakuza films, will introduce the 8:00 P.M. showing.

Yakuza films evolved from samurai films during the early 1960s, according to Schrader. The samurai films had been set prior to 1868, the year in which the sword was outlawed, because the samurai code could not be properly assigned to any individual who was an outlaw.

A yakuza protagonist, an outlaw by definition, must always choose between duty and humanity, whereas the samurai must embody both qualities simultaneously.

Typical yakuza films are made in three weeks on low budgets. Most have the same basic plot structure, with the end involving an inevitable bloodbath of swordplay in which the protagonist dies or after which he goes off to prison. The films are set in the twentieth century.

Besides articles on film, Paul Schrader has written a book, Transcendental Style in Film, published in 1972 by the University of California Press, and several screenplays, among them The Yakuza, a Warner Bros. production directed by Sydney Pollack, to be released next year.

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Additional information available from Mark Segal, Assistant, Department of Public Information, or Lillian Gerard, Special Projects Coordinator, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York 10019. Phone (212)956-7296, -7295.

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