

# The Museum of Modern Art

West 53 Street, New York, N.Y. 10019 Circle 5-8900 Cable: Modernart

(SILENCE HAS NO WINGS (TOBENAI CHINMOKU)- Japan, 1965

Directed by Kazuo Kuroki

Screenplay: Yasuo Matsukawa, Hisaya Iwasa, Kazuo Kuroki

Photography: Tatsuo Suzuki

Music: Teizo Matsumura; Title Song: Naozumi Yamamoto

Production: Nippon Eiga Shinsha, Ltd.

Distribution: Toho Co. Ltd.

Cast: Mariko Kaga, Hiroyuki Nagato, Fumio Watanabe, Toshie Kimura, Kuni Tanaka,  
English subtitles Minoru Hiranaka

Black and white

Running time: 103 minutes

SILENCE HAS NO WINGS is a feature film attempting to show, through the eyes of a caterpillar, how desperately Man craves true love and how great the consequences of its absence can be.

"On the old theme of the object which passes from hand to hand -- here it is a caterpillar, which turning into a butterfly, will be killed by a child -- Kuroki succeeds in fact in tying together in an irregular fashion, with a crescendo of tension, the facts and characters of present day Japan, whose common denominator is perhaps finally the obsession of the past (the war, Hiroshima) and death. The caterpillar thus is loaded with ulterior significances...and is caught in the middle of a struggle between gangs who believe that it is the bearer of a coded message with priceless information. The caterpillar becomes a butterfly, a butterfly as beautiful as the young girl who plays almost all the female roles in the film, perhaps she herself is the butterfly, and the cycle closes on the hand of a child with an expressionless face...It is a film of sympathetic irrationalism...fascinating in its strangeness." -- POSITIF, Oct. 1966.

Director Kazuo Kuroki was born in Miyasaki Prefecture, Kyushu, in southern Japan. After graduating from Doshima University, he entered the field of documentary film production. Now 35, he has to his credit an imposing list of documentaries, both short and feature length.

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