

The Museum of Modern Art

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NEW JAPANESE FILM TO HAVE MUSEUM PREVIEW

The Japanese film "Double Suicide," recently shown at the Venice Film Festival, will have a special preview, 8:00 p.m., Thursday, October 30th, at The Museum of Modern Art. Made by Masahiro Shinoda, considered one of the best of Japan's younger directors, "Double Suicide" is also slated to be shown at the London Film Festival in November.

Shinoda's work has been seen only once before in this country, when "With Beauty and Sorrow" was part of a New Japanese Film Series presented by the Museum a few years ago. A major Japanese Film Retrospective is now in the process of being organized by Donald Richie, Visiting Curator, who was responsible for the earlier Japanese program.

"Double Suicide" is an excellent example of the artistic and serious film work now being done in Japan. It is based on a play written in 1720 by Monzaemon Chikamatsu, "the Japanese Shakespeare," for the famed Bunraku Puppet Theatre. Puppets are used in "Double Suicide" to serve the role that the chorus does in classic Greek dramas.

Variety describes the film, as having "no sentimentality" but rather "dignity and erotic beauty." Director Shinoda is not well known in the western world but in his own country The Japan Times refers to him as "a genius" and calls his film "pure cinema."

The director's wife, Shima Iwashita, plays the dual female role in the film. The male lead is the Kabuki actor, Kichiemon Nakamura.

Additional information available from Elizabeth Shaw, Director, and Lillian Gerard, Film Coordinator, Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53 Street, New York, New York. 10019. 956-7501, 7296.