Go beyond Kurosawa and discover an up-to-date and rigorous examination of historical and modern Japanese cinema

In *A Companion to Japanese Cinema*, distinguished cinematic researcher David Desser delivers insightful new material on a fascinating subject, ranging from the introduction and exploration of under-appreciated directors, like Uchida Tomu and Yoshimura Kozaburo, to an appreciation of the Golden Age of Japanese cinema from the point of view of little-known stars and genres of the 1950s.

This Companion includes new resources that deal in-depth with the issue of gender in Japanese cinema, including a sustained analysis of Kawase Naomi, arguably the most important female director in Japanese film history.

Readers will appreciate the astute material on the connections and relationships that tie together Japanese television and cinema, with implications for understanding the modern state of Japanese film. The Companion concludes with a discussion of the Japanese media’s response to the 3/11 earthquake and tsunami that devastated the nation. The book also includes:

• A thorough introduction to the History, Ideology, and Aesthetics of Japanese cinema, including discussions of Kyoto as the cinematic center of Japan and the Pure Film Movement and modern Japanese film style

• An exploration of the background to the famous story of Taki no Shiraito and the significant and underappreciated contributions of directors Uchida Tomu, as well as Yoshimura Kozaburo
• A rigorous comparison of old and new Japanese cinema, including treatments of Ainu in documentary films and modernity in film exhibition

• Practical discussions of intermediality, including treatments of scriptwriting in the 1930s and the influence of film on Japanese television


---

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**

**David Desser** is Emeritus Professor of Cinema Studies, Comparative and World Literatures and East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Illinois, USA. He has authored or edited over a dozen books on Japanese and Hong Kong cinema, including *The Cinema of Hong Kong: History, Arts, Identity and Eros Plus Massacre: An Introduction to the Japanese New Wave*.

---

**SERIES**

*Wiley Blackwell Companions to National Cinemas*

To purchase this product, please visit [https://www.wiley.com/en-us/9781118955321](https://www.wiley.com/en-us/9781118955321)