



FILM MOVEMENT[®]
CLASSICS



NEW RESTORATIONS FROM THE ORIGINAL FILM ELEMENTS

“There is cool, cooler and then *The Red Peony Gambler.*” –Hong Kong Cinema

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RED PEONY GAMBLER

Japan | 1968 | 98 minutes | 2.39:1 | Japanese with English subtitles | Mono

SYNOPSIS

Produced during the heyday of ninkyo eiga (chivalrous yakuza films), the seminal *Red Peony Gambler* series has had a lasting influence on cult cinema. The illustrious Junko Fuji stars as the beautiful and badass Oryu, the eponymous and benevolent female gambler who uses her incredible might for right.

In the series' premiere, Oryu the Red Peony, so known for the tattoo on her shoulder, rambles into town searching for her father's killer with a wallet left at the crime scene as her only clue. At a card game she meets a kindred spirit, the noble and handsome yakuza Katagiri (Ken Takakura), when they team up to foil a cheating player. As their paths continue to cross she befriends a gang boss and other sundry denizens of the underworld who all join forces to guide her on a blood-soaked quest for vengeance.

With its fantastic tropes and charismatic stars this inaugural entry in the *Red Peony Gambler* series proved an influential watershed of the "chivalrous gangster" genre and was so popular that it spawned multiple sequels



RED PEONY GAMBLER

CAST

Oryu
Boss Kumatora
Fujimatsu, the Immortal
Otaka
Katagiri

Junko Fuji
Tomisaburo Wakayama
Kyosuke Machida
Nijiko Kiyokawa
Ken Takakura



CREW

Directed by
Screenplay
Music
Cinematography
Lighting
Sound
Art Direction
Editor

Kosaku Yamashita
Noribumi Suzuki
Takeo Watanabe
Shin Furuya
Hiroshi Watada
Masayoshi Mizoguchi
Yoshichika Amemori
Shintaro Miyamoto

RED PEONY GAMBLER 2

GAMBLER'S OBLIGATION

Japan | 1968 | 95 minutes | 2.39:1 | Japanese with English subtitles | Mono

SYNOPSIS

The second installment of the influential *Red Peony Gambler* series finds the titular heroine Oryu taken under the arm of the benevolent gang boss of a silk farming town. Soon ruthless loan sharks encroach on the business determined to enslave and exploit the workers. When their treachery leads to murder, it is Oryu's sworn duty to avenge her benefactor and exact justice. Meanwhile, she must also deal with a nefarious card-hustling couple who have infiltrated the local gambling scene as well as moral conflicts between her allies.

Noribumi (aka Norifumi) Suzuki, the screenwriter of the first film and a genre filmmaking stalwart in his own right, takes over the directorial reins with his patented style of taut action and drama inflected with ribald humor. Yakuza genre icons Koji Tsuruta and Bunta Sugawara guest star opposite the series' incomparable lead, Junko Fuji.



RED PEONY GAMBLER 2: GAMBLER'S OBLIGATION

CAST

Oryu
Boss Kumatora
Fujimatsu
Yukichi Togasaki
Shiraishi
Shutaro Kazama

Junko Fuji
Tomisaburo Wakayama
Kyosuke Machida
Kunio Murai
Bunta Sugawara
Koji Tsuruta



CREW

Directed by
Screenplay
Music
Cinematography
Lighting
Sound
Art Direction
Editor

Noribumi Suzuki
Tatsuo Nogami, Noribumi Suzuki
Takeo Watanabe
Shin Furuya
Yoshiaki Masuda
Masayoshi Mizoguchi
Akira Ishihara
Kozo Horiike

RED PEONY GAMBLER **3** THE FLOWER CARDS GAME

Japan | 1969 | 98 minutes | 2.39:1 | Japanese with English subtitles | Mono

SYNOPSIS

Maestro of Japanese cinema Tai Kato simultaneously satiates and transcends genre tropes in his masterful direction of the celebrated third film in the *Red Peony Gambler* series.

From its classically melodramatic opening set piece involving an oncoming train, the stage is set for a visually rich tale of good versus bad yakuza. While traveling in hopes of reestablishing her own clan, Oryu (Junko Fuji) finds herself in Nagoya, where she takes up residence with the noble Nishinomaru family just as they are preparing to host their traditional gambling competition. Naturally, their dishonest rival gang tries to usurp the event and sabotage its proceedings. It's up to Oryu to step in on the side of righteousness. Meanwhile, she must also contend with a card shark who is impersonating her, rescue a pair of star-crossed lovers and other quotidian travails of a legendary wandering female yakuza. Ken Takakura returns to the series as a mysterious stranger who allies with Oryu.

It is arguably, "the darkest, most complex and ultimately also the best part of the series" (*Nippon Cinema*).



RED PEONY GAMBLER 3: THE FLOWER CARDS GAME

CAST

Oryu
Boss Kumatora
Fujimatsu
Otaka
Shogo Hanaoka

Junko Fuji
Tomisaburo Wakayama
Kyosuke Machida
Nijiko Kiyokawa
Ken Takakura



CREW

Directed by
Screenplay
Music
Cinematography
Lighting
Sound
Art Direction
Editor

Tai Kato
Noribumi Suzuki, Motohiro Torii
Takeo Watanabe
Shin Furuya
Katsuyoshi Kaneko
Shigeji Nakayama
Jiro Tomita
Shintaro Miyamoto

ABOUT FILM MOVEMENT

Founded in 2002, Film Movement is a North American distributor of award-winning independent and foreign films based in New York City. It has released more than 300 feature films culled from prestigious film festivals worldwide including the Oscar-nominated films *Theeb* (2016) and *Corpus Christi* (2020). Film Movement's theatrical releases include American independent films, documentaries, and foreign-language arthouse titles. Its catalog includes works by directors such as Ryusuke Hamaguchi, Lee Isaac Chung, Hirokazu Kore-eda, Maren Ade, Jessica Hausner, Ciro Guerra, Bertrand Bonello and Mélanie Laurent.

In 2015, Film Movement launched its reissue label Film Movement Classics, featuring new restorations released theatrically as well as on digital platforms, Blu-ray and DVD, including films by such noted directors as Ang Lee, Chen Kaige, Luchino Visconti, Stanley Kwan, Peter Greenaway, Bille August, Marleen Gorris, Takeshi Kitano, Arturo Ripstein, King Hu, Lee Chang Dong, Hideo Gosha and Sergio Corbucci.

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