



YUSAKU MATSUDA

Actor, 9/21/1949 - 11/6/1989

Place of Birth: Shimonoseki, Japan

BIOGRAPHY

Matsuda joined the high profile acting school, BUNGAKU-ZA, in 1972. In the following year, Matsuda made a major debut by performing in a TV drama series “*TAIYO NI HOERO*” (“Roar At The Sun” by NTV). In that drama, Matsuda performed “Mr. Jeans” (detective), and had achieved ever-lasting popularity among Japanese fans. Also in the same year, 1973, Matsuda made his screen debut with “*OOKAMI NO MONSHO*” (Armor of a Wolf). Since then, Matsuda made outstanding appearances in various movies and TV dramas, “*RYOUMA ANSATSU*” (Assassination of Ryouma, 1974) and “*BOURYOKU KYOUSITSU*” (Violent Classroom, 1976) and established a steady position as a promising and popular young actor.

In 1977, Matsuda starred in a film, “*NINGEN NO SHOUMEI*” (Evidence as a human), and in 1978 Matsuda had a fateful encounter with the director, Toru Murakawa, and starred in the film, “*Mottomo Kiken Na Yuugi*” (The Most Dangerous Game) and displayed Matsuda’s originality as the action star.

Matsuda and Murakawa worked together to create cinematic masterpieces such as “*SATSUJIN YUGI*” (Murder Game, 1978), “*SHOKEI YUGI*” (Execution Game, 1979), “*YOMIGAERU KINRO*” (Golden Wolf Rising from Dead, 1979), “*YAJU SHISU BESHU*” (Savage Animal Shall Die, 1980), and all the movies were quite successful.

Apart from movies, Matsuda starred in TV drama series, “*TANTEI MONOGATARU*” (Detective Story), and Matsuda performed the role, detective Shunsaku Kudo, who was just back from the US, with lambency, and detective KUDO became a charismatic hero among younger generation, and made Matsuda’s position as a movie star unsurpassed success.

In 1981 Matsuda starred in films such as “*YOKOHAMA BJ BLUES*” directed by Eiichi Kudo, and “*KAGEROUZA*” (Heat Devil’s Place) directed by Seijun Suzuki, which helped Matsuda deepen his acting skills.

In 1983, Matsuda starred in the film, “*KAZOKU GAME*” (Family Game) directed by Yoshimitsu Morita, and won various Japanese film award including Kinema Junpo best actor award, Hochi Eiga Award, and reached his apotheosis as the actor. In 1985 Matsuda and Morita again worked together in the film “*SOREKARA*” (Since Then), and again, Matsuda won many movie awards.

In 1986, Matsuda directed and starred in the film, “*A HOMANS*”, and displayed Matsuda’s talent as a director. Matsuda kept improving his acting skills and career, performing for “*ARASHIGAOKA*” (Wuthering Heights) directed by Yoshishige Yoshida and “*HANA NO RAN*” (Chaos of Flowers, 1988) directed by Kinji Fukasaku.

And in 1989, Matsuda appeared in the film, “Black Rain” directed by Ridley Scott, and played the role, Sato, who was a ferocious Japanese mafia member chased as a murderer by Michael Douglas and Ken Takakura. Matsuda’s performance in Black Rain received a very high reputation domestically as well as internationally, and made the first and successful step in Hollywood as a Japanese actor. On November 6th of the same year, Matsuda deceased at the age of 40.

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