

Into A Dream

DV / 103min / Color / 2005 Japan

A Film by
Sion Sono

Starring

Tetsushi Tanaka
Yuna Natsuko
Joe Odagiri
Jun Murakami

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Synopsis

Suzuki Mutsugoro, the talentless actor, and Taeko are living together. The two had been actors in the same theatre troupe, but Takeo had fallen in love with him and quit the theatre to begin their life together. However, after ten years he still has not taken a single break from acting, and she is growing tired of him.

Mutsugoro is in love with Ranko, an actress from a third-rate theatre group. Ranko, meanwhile, is involved with the group's leader, Machida, who does not think well of her relationship with Suzuki.

On a day like any other Mutsugoro has come to the theatre practice for his next scene. The director of the play is humming the Inoue Yousui tune, "Into a Dream," as if it were a monologue. Nobody thinks that the scene will go well. As he walks in, Mutsugoro has an accident – he has pain when he urinates. It quickly dawns on him that he might have a sexually transmitted disease. The face of two women float before the philanderer's eyes: Ranko, and one other actress. Which is it, he wonders? Mutsugoro calls his friend Keiji to ask what he thinks, but he has no idea either. Later, he walks into the restroom with another member's of Ranko's theatre troupe and notices that the other man looks in pain when he tries to urinate. The incident makes him suspicious of Ranko, so he confronts her about it when the two of them are alone together. However, she angrily turned him away, driving him out of the room. When Mutsugoro returns home, Taeko is packing her things and about to leave him.

After a long, hectic day Mutsugoro collapses into a deep sleep, and in his dreams has an unexpected vision of himself as a terrorist. The terrorist Mutsugoro has a bloodstained bullet wound in his shoulder, and his friends Yuji and Keiji, and even Taeko – who all appear to be terrorists as well – are there attempting to save him. When he awakes from this nightmare Mutsugoro examines his surroundings. He sees his father, a terrifying man, and for some reason the theatre director is there as well. They yell at Mutsugoro as if they are conducting some sort of investigation, but he has no idea what it is about.

When Mutsugoro opens his eyes again, Taeko is gone. She has left him, and is staying at a friend's house.

Mutsugoro, looking for an excuse to leave Tokyo, decides to attend a class reunion. His father had also strongly requested that he return home every once in a while.

Riding on the train back to his parents' home, Mutsugoro has more and more dreams – terrorist dreams, dreams where he is being investigated. In all of them, the people from his hometown have become either detectives or fellow terrorists. Mutsugoro gradually becomes eaten away by his nightmares. In one, he speaks to Taeko, who is also a terrorist, and tells her, "Today, I had the weirdest dream. I dreamt that I was a terrible actor, and I was living with you." In another, he is mobbed by a strange man and woman. Eventually, he becomes unable to differentiate between his dreams and reality.

When he arrives home, Mutsugoro revives his friendships with Yuji and Keiji, and sees his father and younger sister for the first time in many years. But on the night of his class reunion, everything erupts. He becomes filled with a burning hatred for the life he has lived until now. His dream self declares an end to everything, and flees shouting from the reunion.

Mutsugoro continues screaming down the evening road, singing "Into a Dream" as he runs.

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KEY STAFF/CREW

Sion Sono (Director)

Born in Aichi Prefecture, Sion Sono developed an interest in poetry during high school, and had a number of submissions published in a variety of newspapers, including "Eureka" and "Modern Poetry Journal." After coming to Tokyo he strove to be a manga artist, but then he discovered the art of moviemaking. As soon as he enrolled in University he also joined a film production group, and began making films. That same year he produced the 8 mm film "I am Sion Sono!", and later published "Otoko no Hanamichi / A Man's Runway." For two consecutive years he entered the PIA Film Festival and was awarded the PFF Scholarship. With this scholarship he produced the 1988 16 mm film "Jitensha no Toiki / Bicycle Sigh." Starring Sono himself, the film received overwhelming acclaim nationally and internationally for its youthful poetic sensibility. In 1993 he produced the 35 mm film "Heya / The Room," followed by "Keiko Desu Kedo / Yes, I'm Keiko" in 1997. He has received invitations to numerous film festivals, beginning with the Berlin Film Festival.

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TECHNICAL CREDITS

-STAFF-

Director/Screenplay Sion Sono
Producer.....Hiroataka Asano, Tsuyoshi Suzuki
Director of cinematography.....Hiroo Yanagida
Sound Recording Hikari Onishi
EditorJunichi Ito

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TECHNICAL CREDITS

- CAST -

Suzuki Mutsugoro	Tetsushi Tanaka
Taeko	Yuna Natsuno
Keiji	Jun Murakami
Yuji	Joe Odagiri
Ranko	Miwako Ichikawa