

Pale Moon

(Original Japanese title: Kami no Tsuki)

DRAMA / SUSPENSE / Japan / Color / Running time: TBC

Original novel: Mitsuyo KAKUTA ("Kami no Tsuki" – Kadokawa Haruki Corporation)

Starring: Rie MIYAZAWA, Sosuke IKEMATSU, Satomi KOBAYASHI

Director: Daihachi YOSHIDA (*The Kirishima Thing*, *FUNUKE Show Some Love, You Losers!*)

An ordinary, upstanding housewife embezzles a fortune.
Did she do it to satisfy her greed? Or to keep her younger lover?
And when she becomes a fugitive, what sight awaits at her final destination?
Sympathy, guilt, disgust, release... All of these emotions are connected.
Experience the debauchment and downfall of a woman
who unwittingly falls into a trap that none of us are safe from.

INTRODUCTION

Paper Moon (original title: *Kami no Tsuki*) is based on the bestseller novel of the same title by Naoki Prize-winning author Mitsuyo Kakuta. This film adaptation is the eagerly anticipated new work from prodigiously talented director Daihachi YOSHIDA, whose superb *The Kirishima Thing* (original title: *Kirishima, Bukatsu Yamerutte yo*) won the Japan Academy Prize for best film and several other categories in 2013. Internationally he is best known for his first film in 2008, *FUNUKE, Show Some Love, You Losers!* which was selected for Cannes' Critics Week as well as numbers of other international film festivals to follow. For his latest effort, he fully utilizes his unique visual sensibility and technique to create a fast-paced, exhilarating depiction of a woman's debauchment and downfall. As often so in many films by Coen Brothers and by Martin Scorsese, there's a thin line between pleasure and ruin. The criminals in their films are charming and attractive, as they enjoy their lives like no other, despite their troubled situation. People may experience despair in their happiest moment and also find hope through the worst moment in a dead-end situation.

The film delivers non-stop suspense to the viewers, and represents the pinnacle of modern Japanese filmmaking. Prepare to witness an exquisite and challenging masterwork of cinematic entertainment!



STORY

The year is 1994, in the aftermath of the collapse of Japan's economic bubble. Rika Umezawa (Rie Miyazawa), an ordinary housewife who lives with her husband, works as a contract employee for a bank and performs fieldwork such as collecting account holders' passbooks and delivering documents. Many of her clients are elderly people living on their own, and they praise her for her considerate and attentive approach to her work which gradually gains her the trust of not only her customers, but also her superiors. Rika appears to want for nothing, but below the surface, she feels an emptiness growing within her due to her husband's lack of interest. Then one day, she meets a university student several years her junior named Kota (Sosuke Ikematsu) and eventually falls into an adulterous relationship with him. The more time she spends with him, the more she is tempted to dip into her clients' money. As she splurges on expensive goods, fine cuisine, and consecutive nights in luxury hotel suites, her attitudes to money and her daily life become increasingly distorted. Rika begins by borrowing a mere 10,000 yen (US\$100), but gradually graduates to full-blown embezzlement as her predicament spirals out of her control...

STAFF & CAST

Director: **Daihachi YOSHIDA** (*The Kirishima Thing*, *FUNUKE Show Some Love, You Losers!*)

Starring: **Rie MIYAZAWA** (*The Twilight Samurai*, *Tony Takitani*, *Face of Jizo*)

Sosuke IKEMATSU (*The Last Samurai*, *Story of Yonosuke*)

Satomi KOBAYASHI (*Kamome Diner*, *Glasses*)

Yuko OSHIMA (from AKB48 / *The Suicide Song*)

Seiichi TANABE (*Ring O: Birthday*, *HUSH!*)

Renji ISHIBASHI (*Sukiyaki Western Django*, *Outrage*)

PROJECT RELEASE

Autumn 2014 (in Japan)

