The Ten Nights of Dream

10 filmmaking geniuses portray the world of the literary magnate, Soseki Natsume’s short stories series “TEN NIGHTS OF DREAM”, by making 10-minutes’ image of animation, monochrome films, or dances for each story. Their images all represent a dream-like, mysterious world….

Synopsis

First Episode: The deceased director Akio Jissoji portrays the 100-year love between a husband and wife. Second Episode: A samurai suffers to achieve enlightenment while being forced by a Zen Buddhist to do so – ironically portrayed by the filmmaking giant Kon Ichikawa. Third episode: Takashi Shimizu portrays a lunatic father wandering in a forest to abandon a blind infant. Fourth Episode: A mysterious old man lures some children to an unknown world. Fifth Episode: A woman whirls to her beloved man but is blocked by a monster. Sixth Episode: Some nerds gather to have a glimpse of a charismatic sculptor’s work. Seventh Episode: A man suffering from loneliness finally decides to commit suicide. Eighth Episode: The imaginary world in a novelist’s mind trying to write his next work is portrayed. Ninth Episode: A wife prays for the safety of her husband at warfront, but the husband is…. Tenth Episode: The most handsome man in town who seriously considers that ugly women should all die ends up in a tragic situation.
[The First Night]

A writer Hyakkan and his wife Tsugumi is living peacefully in a home at the back of Nezu Gongen shrine. While Tsugumi is working in the tea shop located at the kitchen floor of their home, Hyakkan is writing at his desk, but is struggling in putting his ideas into words. In fact, he was feeling as if time was going backwards. After a while, Tsugumi quietly takes her clothing off and lies down, and says, “You have cared for me for a hundred years. Surely you can wait for me for another hundred years, can't you?” She then takes her last breath as if her existence had disappeared into thin air.

The master director portrays the love between the two beyond the 100-year time and space with a surreal atmosphere. The script is written by the deceased great producer and writer Mitsuhiko Kuze. Kyoko Koizumi, whose reputation as an actress is growing more and more every year, plays the sophisticatedly sexy heroine Tsugumi. Suzuki Matsuo, who also directs "the Sixth Night", plays the writer Hyakkan with a hint of the original author, Soseki Natsume.

[The Second Night]

When the man enters the room and sits down, he suddenly notices that there is a priest in the room, and that the man is a Samurai himself. The priest provokes him by saying “if you are a Samurai, you should be able to achieve enlightenment”. Although the man tries hard to achieve enlightenment, no such thing is attained and he keeps on trying in vain. The Samurai after all decides to achieve enlightenment before the next strike of clock and then cut the head of the priest off, and to die himself if he cannot achieve enlightenment. Still, the priest appears ever so ridiculing to him, and the Samurai's murderous intent gets more and more mounted....

The genius director portrays the agony of the Samurai in an ironical style using black-and-white silent film. Tsuyoshi Ujiki plays the Samurai, appearing in director Ichikawa’s film for the second time after appearing in "Kah-chan" (01). Umenosuke Nakamura, who practices in a wide variety from playing in Kabuki to appearing in TV dramas, acts as the priest.
One summer night, Soseki, a writer, is struggling to keep on writing with the children noisily playing around him. He even felt indescribably irritated. His wife Kyoko, who is pregnant with their sixth child, tells him a weird story that night, saying that she had dropped the head of a Ksitigarbha statue by mistake when she was a child, and had been seeing dreams of that Ksitigarbha ever since that time, but then she had seen another dream recently, putting the head of the Ksitigarbha back again. When she had said that, the baby starts wailing all of a sudden. Soseki carries the baby on his back and takes a walk to cradle the baby to sleep, and ….

The flagman of Japanese horror filmmaking portrays the deep psyche of Soseki in a scary tone. Keisuke Hattori, who appears in a wide variety of fields such as in variety programs, films, and on stages, plays the role of Soseki. Yu Kashii, who is attracting most attention among the young actresses plays the wife of Soseki, making her first challenge as a role of a women in her 30s.

Soseki arrives at a rural town to hold a lecture. Although he had intended to get off the bus at the bus stop “Town Council Hall”, the bus stop he had gotten off turned out to be “Omokage-bashi 4-chome (Images Bridge Town No. 4)”. The town was notorious for people getting spirited away, and Soseki sees children running after an old man who is shouting “watch now, watch now, it'll turn into a snake!” Soseki follows them without thinking, and then he arrives at a town which looks very familiar to him. The town had reminded him of his younger days when he was a boy, and the sweet, nostalgic, but bitter memory of when he had been together with a certain girl….

A disciple of director Jissoji, director Atsushi Shimizu portrays Soseki’s dream where he had wandered into the nostalgic world of his memories. Koji Yamamoto, who is a highly-acclaimed actor for TV dramas and on stages, plays the leading character Soseki. Director Shimizu is also directing the prologue and epilogue of these films.
Masako was woken by the sound of the phone ringing. The voice of the caller sounds familiar, and then the caller says, “The dawn breaks, wait for the rooster to crow ….” Masako becomes anxious of what may happen to her husband, Shotaro. When she goes to the living room, she finds a man and a child who aren’t supposed to be there, and then an uncanny Amanojaku (a character who appears in the Japanese ancient myth. A symbol of someone who does everything contrary to the others’ intention and of messing things around) appears in front of her. Masako, frightened to death, whacks the Amanojaku with a golf club, and then gets on a horseback to find Shotaro before the break of dawn ….

The film portrays the hidden part of man in a suspenseful atmosphere by mixing up the past with present, and nightmares with the real world. Mikako Ichikawa, an actress popular with a reputation of being “unique”, plays the multiple-sided woman, Masako. Kouji Ohkura, an actor belonging to the theater company “Nylon 100°C” popular for acting in films too, costars with her.

People are gathering to see the sculptor Unkei carve the face of Nio statue, but when Unkei arrives, he suddenly starts dancing animation dance. The dance was a totally new way of carving out the figure hidden inside of the material wood. The crowd gasps at the carved face of Nio statue in admiration. A man who had been watching the whole scene in the crowd starts to think that he must be able to do the same thing, and tries to do so when he returns home ….

A stylish black-and-white comedy film full of the genius director Suzuki Matsuo’s sense of fun. Sadawo Abe, the main actor of the theater company “Otona Keikaku” demonstrates his ultra-funny acting. TOZAWA, a street dancer and choreographer, plays Unkei.
[The Seventh Night]

A traveler is traveling in an enormous ship, but he does not even know where the ship is heading to. He feels awfully lonely and starts thinking of committing suicide. Then he meets a girl at the deck board. She seemed to feel insecure and uneasy, too. Then all of a sudden, she disappears. The traveler proceeds into the inside of the ship, and sees the girl playing the piano at a salon full of people with a man next to him singing to her piano. The traveler feels uncomfortable seeing the scene, and returns to the deck board and throws himself into the sea ....

A fantasy film portraying the loneliness and sense of solitude common for all mankind with exquisite 3D CG animation. Narration is made entirely in English by famous figures in Japanese FM radio programs such as Sascha and Fumika Hideshima, and their voices allure you into another world.

[The Eighth Night]

Children are playing in the rice field. A child among them named Mitsu catches a strange tubular creature as large as 10 meters long, and takes it back home, naming it Riki. When Mitsu's grandfather Shozo proceeds into the room, he sees visions flickering in front of him. Shozo struggles not to be deluded by the vision, and finally makes his way to the bunk bed to lie down .... Soseki had wild imagination appearing and re-appearing in his mind while sitting in front of writing pad.

A silly comedy film full of nonsense humor and unbridled imagery. The script is written by Kennichiro Nagao, a comic artist who is the author of “Oshare Techo (Fashion day planner)”. Hiroshi Fujioka plays both Shozo and Soseki with immense presence.
[The Ninth Night]

The father of the infant boy had gone to war leaving him and his mother behind. While mother visits the shrine to make 100-visits to the shrine to pray for the safety of his father, the boy will have to wait for her at the shrine. While his mother is praying, the boy gets tired and peeps into the shrine building, and finds his own father who he thought had gone to war. He jingles the shrine bell to call his mother, and keeps on trying so by climbing up the bell pull.

The notable female director mysteriously portrays a son and his mother praying for the safety of his father and her husband who had left home, and the unexpected truth underlying his absence. Tamaki Ogawa, an actress with an intellectual atmosphere, plays the mother of the son. Pierre Taki, an actor showing his unique presence in CMs, costars with her.

[The Tenth Night]

The most handsome man in town Shotaro loves beautiful women but believes ugly women are not worth living. One day, Shotaro arrives home with an appearance as if on the verge of death. He had followed an incredibly beautiful woman called Yoshino a few days before, and was taken to a restaurant where they serve pork bowl only. The pork bowl was so delicious that Shotaro had several bowls, but the way they were cooked turned out to be somewhat nauseating. After that, Yoshino reveals her true form.

A strange and unique film full of “Yudai-original” jokes. The script is written by Man☆Ga Taro, a manga (comic) artist close to director Yamaguchi. Kennichi Matsuyama, a highly-acclaimed young actor, is playing the leading character. Manami Honjo plays the abnormal heroine with a tremendous effort as an actress. Koji Ishizaka is making a guest appearance for the role of Gennai Hiraga.