

A FILM BY JOE ODAGIRI

THEY SAY NOTHING STAYS THE SAME



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SYNOPSIS

In the debut directorial feature by actor Joe Odagiri, **THEY SAY NOTHING STAYS THE SAME** follows Toichi (Akira Emoto), an old ferryman in a remote Meiji-era community. His life is a peaceful, cyclical existence, given meaning by the essential role he plays in transporting people, livestock and goods across the water, connecting villages and lives. When news arrives that a bridge is being built, it's clear that his services will no longer be needed. Meanwhile, his life will be equally transformed by the appearance of a mysterious young woman whom he saves from drowning. Shot by star cinematographer Christopher Doyle and featuring an array of cameos from Japan's top stars, **THEY SAY NOTHING STAYS THE SAME** is a refreshingly old-fashioned work of classical cinema, its formal qualities mirroring its thematic concern with those fondly-remembered traditions sacrificed in the name of progress.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

I had doubts about the capitalist world. Capitalism created a competitive society, and I feel that we value convenience more than anything else.

The really important things seem to be swept away by the value of time and money. This brought me a lot of uncertainty and discomfort about how I am currently living my life.

There are many things vanishing as civilization develops. As the world becomes more convenient, the sublimity of tradition and culture is discarded. As nature is gradually destroyed we lose something precious.

I sought to figure out what true happiness is and what is most important in life, through the character of the boatman.

JOE ODAGIRI

CAST PROFILE

AKIRA EMOTO (as Toichi)

Born in 1948 in Tokyo. Akira Emoto started his career as an actor in the stage troupe “Jiyu Gekijo”. In 1976, he created his own stage troupe, “Tokyo Kandenchi,” which he serves as the chairperson. Since then he has been active in films, stages and TV dramas. In 1998, he acted the main role of Shohei Imamura’s *Doctor Akagi*, which was selected in Cannes Film Festival, and won the Best Actor Award at the 22nd. Japan Academy Awards. In 2003, he acted a supporting role of Takeshi Kitano’s *Zatoichi*, which was selected in Venice Film Festival, and won the Best Supporting Actor Award at 58th Mainichi Film Awards. His recent appearances in the films include *Shin Godzilla* (2016) by Hideaki Anno, *Mukoku* (2017) by Kazuyoshi Kumakiri, *Shoplifters* (2018) by Hirokazu Kore-eda.

Selected Filmography

1997 EEL by Shohei Imamura
1997 DOCTOR AKAGI by Shohei Imamura
1999 BOOTLEG FILM by Masahiro Kobayashi
2003 ZATOICHI by Takeshi Kitano
2003 DOPPELGANGER by Kiyoshi Kurosawa
2007 THREE FOR THE ROAD by Hideyuki Hirayama
2008 ALL AROUND US by Ryosuke Hashiguchi
2008 TEACHER AND THREE CHILDREN by Kaneto Shindo
2010 GOLDEN SLUMBER by Yoshihiro Nakamura
2013 THE UNFORGIVEN by Lee Sang-il
2015 JOURNEY TO THE SHORE by Kiyoshi Kurosawa
2016 SHIN GODZILLA by Hideaki Anno
2017 MUKOKU by Kazuyoshi Kumakiri
2018 SHOPLIFTERS by Hirokazu Kore-eda
2019 THEY SAY NOTHING STAYS THE SAME by Joe Odagiri

DIRECTOR'S PROFILE

JOE ODAGIRI

Born in 1976 in Okayama, Japan, Joe Odagiri started his career as an actor in 2000, and acted the main role of Kiyoshi Kurosawa's *Bright Future* (a.k.a. *Jellyfish*), which was selected in the competition of Cannes Film Festival in 2003. Since then he has been acting in various films including the films by world renowned filmmakers, such as Seijun Suzuki's *Princess Raccoon* (2005), Miwa Nishikawa's *Sway* (2006), Katsuhiro Otomo's *Bugmaster* (2006), Kim Kiduk's *Dream* (2007), Yu Lik-wai's *Plastic City* (2007), Tian Zhuang-zhuang's *The Warrior and the Wolf* (2009), Kang Je-gyu's *My Way* (2011), Kohei Oguri's *Foujita* (2015), Jenny Suen & Christopher Doyle's *The White Girl* (2017) and Lou Ye's *Saturday Fiction* (2019). In 2009, he directed a middle-length film *Looking for the Cherry Blossoms*, which was selected in Rotterdam Film Festival. *THEY SAY NOTHING STAYS THE SAME* is his first feature-length film as the director.

Director Filmography

2009 LOOKING FOR THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS (middle-length film)
2019 THEY SAY NOTHING STAYS THE SAME

CAST

Akira EMOTO	(as Toichi)
Ririka KAWASHIMA	(as A Girl)
Nijiro MURAKAMI	(as Genzo)
Tsuyoshi IHARA	(as A Man from the Construction Site)
Jun MURAKAMI	(as A Merchant)
Yu AOI	(as Geisha)
Tadanobu ASANO	(as A Regular Customer)
Takashi SASANO	(as A Man with a Cow)
Mitsuko KUSABUE	(as An Woman on the Boat)
Haruomi HOSONO	(as Nihei's Father)
Masatoshi NAGASE	(as Nihei)
Isao HASHIZUME	(as Doctor)

CREW

Written & Directed by	Joe ODAGIRI
Executive Producer	Naoya KINOSHITA
Producers	Shozo ICHIYAMA Takuro NAGAI Yusaku NAKAJIMA
Director of Photography	Christopher DOYLE
Costume Designer	Emi WADA
Music Composer	Tigran HAMASYAN
Lighting	Kenjiro SO
Sound	Mitsugu SHIRATORI
Production Designer	Takashi SASAKI
Editors	Masaya OKAZAKI Joe ODAGIRI
Produced by	Kinoshita Group

CONTACTS

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