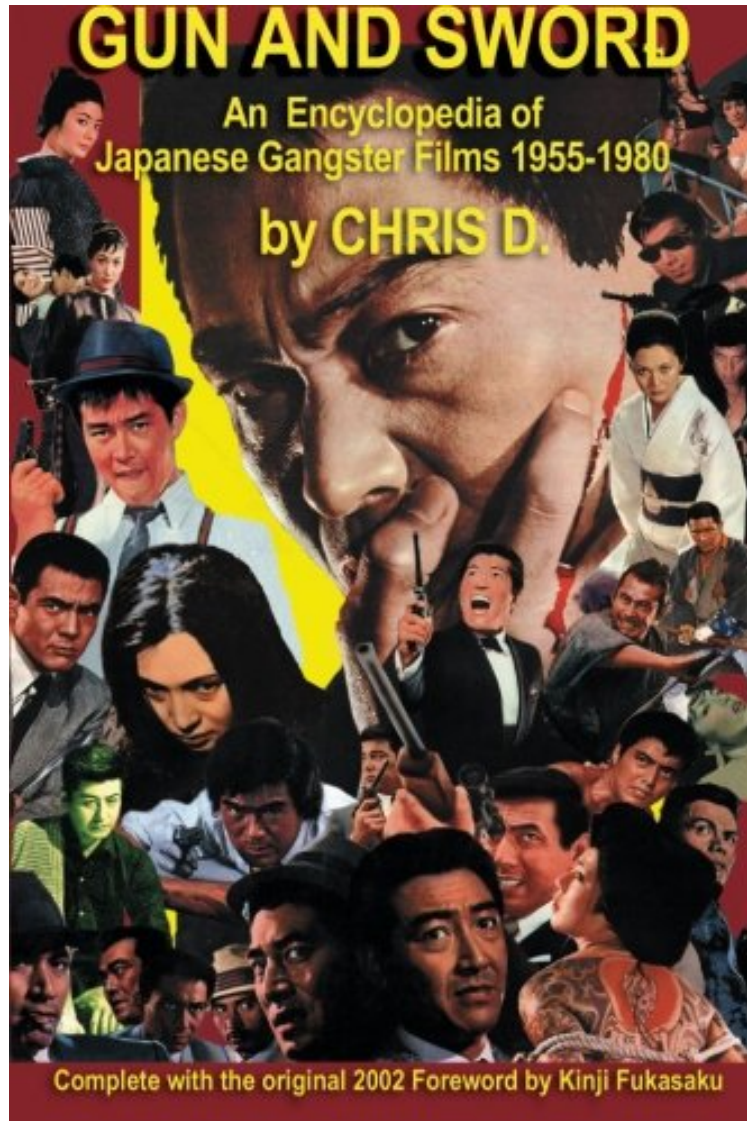


GUN AND SWORD: An Encyclopedia of Japanese Gangster Films 1955-1980

Chris D.

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Chris D. : **GUN AND SWORD: An Encyclopedia of Japanese Gangster Films 1955-1980** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised GUN AND SWORD: An Encyclopedia of Japanese Gangster Films 1955-1980:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Thank you Chris D.By Count DeRolaI've been waiting for a book like this for a long time. Similar in layout as Thomas Weisser's Asian Cinema books but much more comprehensive

and without all the glaring mistakes. Heavily illustrated with original posters (black and white but finely detailed). Movies like *Red Silk Gambler* finally get their due. His rating system is definitely his own and not popular opinion (Halfbreed Rika gets 4 stars while *Lady Snowblood* gets 3 1/2) and you could play a drinking game every time he uses "grand guignol" in italics - but I respect these eccentricities. He also spends a great deal of time recapping the entire plot in each entry. This is helpful in discerning whether you just watched *Girl Boss 5* or *Girl Boss 6*. I've enjoyed Chris D's essays and commentaries over the years and this book will be enjoyed just as much. Warning: you will be overwhelmed. There are so many films in here that you know and so many you don't know and many you want to know more about. I wish he'd give Pinku Eiga the same treatment! 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Essential and Exhausting By Steve C. Chris D. strikes again this time with an incredibly researched, highly informative reference guide to some of the greatest motion pictures ever made. Not just great Japanese films, but great and significant works within the total scope of World Cinema. His tireless dedication to the material and perceptive insights are invaluable. It's amazing how so many of these hundreds (thousands?) of films still languish in relative obscurity while worldwide film markets are still dominated by many grossly overrated Hollywood films of the past and present. In Chris D.'s encyclopedia of Japanese Gangster films (including some overlapping roman porno and period films) treasure after filmic treasure is unearthed and examined. Mostly great films here, mostly forgotten but there are popular works included that everyone knows as well as the inevitable garbage. Going further, every single sub-genre is covered and even the most peripheral films are included and indexed. Chris D. provides curt, concise commentary where he can and in doing so, cements himself as a leading authority on these films. Heroic work, by a great writer long overdue for recognition. You need this book. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An awesome feat of research and a terrific guide to the genre By Bob Deis I was already a fan of Chris D's novels, but wasn't aware of his vast knowledge of Japanese gangster films until I saw and bought *GUN AND SWORD*. It's an awesome feat of research that's fascinating to read whether you know a lot or a little about the genre. If you only know a little, *GUN AND SWORD* will get you oriented. And, if you are an aficionado of Yakuza movies, *GUN AND SWORD* is a true must have. It's a terrific guide to the genre that I give an enthusiastic 5-star rating.

Chris D. began watching yakuza films, writing the initial drafts of *GUN AND SWORD*, the definitive encyclopedia of the Golden Age of Japanese gangster films, in 1990. In 1997, he traveled to Japan, doing research and collecting illustrations. With 95% of the main text completed in 2002, several publishers were interested but only if the book was cut by 300 pages. It still took another ten years for this astounding reference guide to come to final fruition in its unexpurgated form a fount of fascinating insights and information for both the seasoned Japanese genre film fan and the curious newcomer. All types of the Japanese gangster movie made between 1955-1980 are covered: the swordfighting ninkyo sagas set in the 1890-1940 period, the modern jitsuroku ("true story") bloodbaths, the matatabi (wandering samurai gambler) pictures, plus the juvenile delinquent subgenres: sukeban (girl boss), taiyozoku ("sun tribe") and bosozoku ("violent tribe" or biker). Complete with the original 2002 foreword written by famed yakuza film director Kinji Fukasaku (*The Yakuza Papers*, *Blackmail is My Life*, *Graveyard of Honor*, *Battle Royale*), and literally hundreds of illustrations. "All movie genres deserve ardent completists as well as astute critical observers. With Chris D. the reader gets both. His informed passion matches an eagle's eye for small but critically important details and cinematic-literary-historical-industrial connections. Rich in primary, groundbreaking research, *GUN AND SWORD* is an invaluable reference." Stuart Galbraith IV, author of *The Emperor and The Wolf: The Lives and Films of Akira Kurosawa and Toshiro Mifune* "Chris D.'s exhaustive research and dry wit gives us the sense of a dark city detective leading us through the dangerous terrain of an exotic mystery...packed with rare stills and essential, new information on the genre...it is an awesome tome in the true sense of the word." Kier-La Janisse, author of *House of Psychotic Women*