

EASTERN

A film by Nicky Coutts

DV-PAL 08:41 mins, 2010

Eastern' (2010) involves a re-enactment of the final scene in Sergio Leone's 'Once Upon a Time in the West', by locals who live near Zempukuji Park in the suburbs of Tokyo. Thirty non-professional actors and actresses took the role of either Charles Bronson or Henry Fonda. Each time an edit occurs a new face is seen. There is little continuity, but shot for shot there is a close imitation of Leone's original fatal dual between a man murdered and a man wronged.

Sergio Leone and Japanese director Akira Kurosawa were locked in a legal battle over the copyright of a story first presented as a Samurai film and then in the form of the Western (Kurosawa won). The cultural translations, interpretations and mis-interpretations at work in 'Eastern' look again at this debate of how East and West perceive each other, and how each uses the other's culture to confirm their own.

To make Eastern, props and wardrobe were made from what was immediately available. Even the dolly (an essential part of Leone's approach to filming) is made from rollerskates and plumbing tubes. Passersby amble in and out of shot and the music was made overnight by two local musicians met in a bar, improvising having heard Morricone's score.

CREDITS: Eastern 2010

Translator and interpreter: Yoshie Sasaki
Additional interpreter: Nahoko Kudo

Camera: Liz Murray

Camera stills: Masaru Yanagiba
Naoya Sugisawa
Morita Junten

Music: Taro Ishikawa
Satoshi Ikeda

Volunteer Coordinator and Props: Yuta Yamazaki
Chiharu Shizuno
Kanao Takagi
Charbel Ackermann

Additional Casting: Rieko Akatsuka
Micky Kobayashi
Risa

Catering: Sarah Woodfine

Thanks also to: Tamiko O'Brien
Mark Dunhill
Sam Stocker
Claire Hickman
Hiroko & Tatsuhiko Murata,
Youkobo Art Space
Danielle Arnaud



Keisuke Kawada as Henry Fonda in Eastern

As Charles Bronson: Kyoco Tamiyama
Osato Kazuki
Hirai Shinji
Shino Ebihara
Yamada Nyafuko
Yuichi Nakada
Yutaka Matsumo
Keiko Abe
Hiroko Murata
Hiromi Ogata
Jack McLean
Keisuke Teshima
Lei Arai
Naoya Sugisawa

As Henry Fonda: Takashima Ryozo
Katrin Paul
Satoshi Ikeda
Yuta Yamazaki
Maiko Hashiguchi
Michiaki Yamamoto
Noriyuki Miyamoto
Sanae Uchino
Seiko Ishiyama
Shinpe Nishioka
Showko Kato
Yoshimi Fujita
Jaime Humphrey
Keisuke Kawada
Akiko Iwamura



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