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Wednesday August 22, 2012

69th VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

**Leading Japanese director Kiyoshi Kurosawa returns to the international stage
with epic psychological crime drama SHOKUZAI (PENANCE)**

Tokyo, Japan - Kiyoshi Kurosawa's SHOKUZAI (PENANCE) marks the celebrated director's anticipated return to the international festival circuit after the success of 2008's TOKYO SONATA, which won a string of awards including the Un Certain Regard Jury Prize at the Cannes International Film Festival.

About the Film

Based on the best-selling novel by Kanae Minato (CONFESSIONS) SHOKUZAI was produced as a television mini-series by Japanese satellite broadcasting channel WOWOW and aired in January 2012. It will screen as a world premiere in the Out of Competition section at Venice in a specially re-edited 270-minute version.



Although such a presentation is a rarity in the film world, the high quality of SHOKUZAI quickly secured its slot at Venice as well as a string of other upcoming major international film festivals including Toronto, San Sebastian and Busan.

Director's Statement

"As SHOKUZAI was originally produced as a five-hour long TV series I'm extremely honored and grateful to the Venice International Film Festival for their bold decision to screen it as a film. With such a fantastic original novel, cast and crew it's now clear SHOKUZAI has the opportunity to be seen by a global audience." - Kiyoshi Kurosawa

Synopsis

After an elementary school girl is violated and murdered under mysterious circumstances her mother Asako (Kyoko Koizumi) holds a lifelong grudge against her daughter's four young classmates for not aiding with the investigation despite witnessing the girl's killer. The guilt they bear weighs heavily on the four women into their adult lives, leading to a chain of tragedies. Will their individual downfalls satisfy the penance Asako demands or is there a larger atonement she must pay herself?

SHOKUZAI reunites TOKYO SONATA co-stars Kyoko Koizumi and Teruyuki Kagawa, joined by an ensemble cast of some of Japan's leading actors including Yu Aoi (TOKYO FAMILY), Eiko Koike (20TH CENTURY BOYS films), Sakura Ando (LOVE EXPOSURE), Chizuru Ikewaki (BUNNY DROP) and Ryo Kase (OUTRAGE BEYOND).

Press Screening Schedule

Tuesday August 28th 2:30PM - SALA PERLA
Wednesday August 29th 2:00PM - SALA PERLA
Friday September 7th 7:30PM - SALA DARSENA

Official Screening Schedule

Thursday August 30th 2:30PM - PALABIENNALE

Press Conference

Date & Time: Thursday August 30th 12:00PM

Venue: Press conference room at Palazzo del Casino - 3rd Floor

In Attendance: Kiyoshi Kurosawa (Director), Tomomi Takashima (Producer)

(*Photo call will follow the press conference)

Director Kiyoshi Kurosawa is available for interviews on August 31st and September 1st.

For Inquiries:**Press Attaché for International Media:**

Eiko Mizuno Gray - Loaded Films Ltd.

eikomg@loadedfilms.jp

<http://www.loadedfilms.jp>

World Sales / Press Attaché for Japanese Media:

Free Stone Productions - Miyuki Takamatsu

+81-90-9102-8671

miyukit48@live.jp

<http://freestone.main.jp/>