



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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68th CANNES INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (MAY 13-24, 2015)

**Cannes Classics selects director Kinji Fukasaku's masterpiece,
Battles Without Honor and Humanity, starring Bunta Sugawara!**



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TOKYO, JAPAN – The 68th Cannes International Film Festival's Cannes Classics program has selected 1973 Toei Studios production ***Battles Without Honor and Humanity***, directed by Kinji Fukasaku and starring legendary actor Bunta Sugawara, who passed away in November 2014. The digitally remastered edition of the film will screen as an international premiere.

Established in 2004, Cannes Classics showcases re-discovered and restored cinematic masterpieces. This year's selection of ***Battles Without Honor and Humanity*** marks the first Toei title to feature in the program.

*"Bunta Sugawara does not just belong to Toei, but is a treasure of filmdom and movie lovers everywhere. It is our greatest honor to have an opportunity to show Kinji Fukasaku's masterpiece, ***Battles Without Honor and Humanity***, to people across the world in the Cannes Classics program. Unfortunately, Mr. Sugawara passed away last year, but we couldn't be happier to share his glory with others."*

- Satoshi Shinohara, Managing Director, International Sales and Acquisitions, Toei Company Ltd.

About the Film

Based on the memoirs of a yakuza gang boss in the Western Japan port of Kure, Kinji Fukasaku's 1973 ***Battles Without Honor and Humanity*** is the first of a five-part series that depicted a real-life two-decade struggle for supremacy between rival gangs in Kure and Hiroshima. In stark contrast to the many previous films in the genre that glorified the noble outlaw who upheld the

traditional (and mostly mythical) gangster code of loyalty and self-sacrifice, Fukasaku's film depicted postwar gangsters as disciples of Machiavelli, scheming, lying and betraying each other with abandon. One of the truest-ever cinematic portraits of a postwar Japan scrambling to emerge from the poverty and chaos of defeat, **Battles** was intended as popular entertainment – and became an influential hit, as much for its explosive action and black humor as its gritty, documentary-like realism.

- Mark Schilling, author of "The Yakuza Movie Book: A Guide to Japanese Gangster Films"

Toei Classics

Following the passing of Toei stars Bunta Sugawara and Ken Takakura in November 2014, Toei studios accelerated plans to restore a number of classics featuring the two actors. Kinji Fukasaku's **Battles Without Honor and Humanity**, Yasuo Furuhata's beloved 1999 film *Poppoya (Railroad Man)*, starring Takakura, and Tomu Uchida's *A Fugitive from the Past* (1964), which features Takakura in a supporting role, are the first titles to be remastered.

CANNES OFFICIAL SCREENING SCHEDULE: TBA

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