

organ

35mm / 105min / Color / Stereo/ 1996 Japan

A Film by

Kei Fujiwara

Starring

Kimihiko Hasagawa

Takeomi Nasa

Kei Fujiwara

Ryo okubo

Shouzou Toujima

Yoshiaki Maekawa

Yasuyuki Mineta

Yugo Sawada

Reona Hirota

Distribution Contact: Ko Mori



Eleven Arts, Inc.

2932 Wilshire Blvd., Ste204 Santa Monica, CA 90403

Phone: 310.264.0818 Fax: 310.264.0868

contact@elevenarts.net www.elevenarts.net

organ

Story (Long)

1992: According to a report by the special commission for brain death research, advances are being made in the surgical care of multiple organ networks. 1994: The first successful organ transplant is performed. However, a shortage of donors has invited incidents of complaints from donors' family members regarding transplant surgeons, and even today the serious problems involved with medical transplants have not been resolved. 1995, Tokyo: In a city of crime, a commercial group swimming in the stench of death – the black market organ trade – stirs in the calm of the night.

Two detectives take up the case: Numata, rumored to be a corrupt officer who uses unlawful means to conduct his investigations, and the young, zealous, and popular Tosaka. The two park behind an emergency room in the middle of the night, and lie in wait. Yasuda, the hospital clerk on duty, finds a young boy on the verge of death who has been deserted by his delinquent friends. Yasuda stuffs the boy into his car and kidnaps him. When Numata follows them, he arrives at long last at the black market's organ processing plant in the warehouse district. He comes up from behind and knocks down Tosaka, who had strayed from the pursuit, and successfully slips into the gang of organ traders. A chill hangs in the air within the treatment plant. Without hesitation, a man in the gang referred to as "Sensei" – a cripple whose face is hidden behind a mask – slices open the dying boy and pulls out his organs. Silent, Numata watches with contempt. Suddenly Tosaka, who had posed as a delivery man after the kidnapping, bursts into the room and begins making a spectacle to distract them. Pretending to be a part of the gang, Numata pins down Tosaka, but a woman with one eye sees through his act and, at Sensei's orders, injects a drug into his neck. Numata fires a single shot that short circuits the wiring in the treatment plant, flooding the building and posing the danger of electric shock. A severed cord falls to the operating table and electrocutes the young boy, leaving his body warped and disfigured. Tosaka draws closer to the leader, who has picked up the boy's fallen organs. The entire area is engulfed in flames. As Numata, slowly losing consciousness, crawls along the floor to make his escape, he hears Tosaka's screams echo in his ears. A few days later, there is a man with a limp named Saeki, a biology teacher at an all-girl private high school in the city. Rumors had been circulating about him that he was somehow involved with the disappearance of a female student, and he was being watched by the school's guidance counselor.

Around the same time, Numata decides to revisit the plant where they processed human flesh, in spite of the fact that he has been placed under house arrest. There he sees a vision of Tosaka with his skin torn off. Tosaka's twin brother, Shinji, and Numata's boss, Takagi, are there, and they drive Numata away for returning to the crime scene even though he has been expelled from the investigation. At that very moment, in the biology laboratory Saeki is absorbed in making a butterfly specimen. Deep in the lab, in a small greenhouse concealed by a mosquito net, Tosaka has been dismembered and stuffed alive into a wooden box. And then Saeki takes a young high school girl as his new sacrifice, gutting and raping her in front of the imprisoned Tosaka.

Disregarding his suspension from work, Numata continues his own investigation. His former partners, who harbor a great deal of resentment against him, go to his empty house and rape his wife. Completely unaware, Numata is on the verge of getting some important information. He has snuck into a building contractor's employee housing facility called Kaneshiro-gumi order to contact a middle-aged man named Nakanishi, who had raised the one-eyed woman and her crippled younger brother. It is there that he unexpectedly comes across Yasuda, the drug dealer who had been hiding out in the building.

It is summer break, and the girls' school has no sign of life. Saeki has been shut into the greenhouse by his older sister, the one-eyed woman named Yoko, and is gasping for air from drug withdrawal. In his confused semi-consciousness he dredges up painful memories from his childhood. Young Saeki, crying out in pain as his genitals are savagely bitten. Yoko, whose left eye has been gouged out by their stepmother in her struggle to protect her younger brother. And the two young children, huddled

together in a midsummer forest, covered in blood. Their stepmother's dead body, which has tumbled just a few feet away, her stomach sliced open. A memory of insects attracted by the corpse's putrid stench, and butterflies swarming around her exposed intestines. Pus drips from Saeki's old wounds that won't heal. The medicine he takes to suppress his memories causes wild delusions, turning Saeki into a man who can only derive sexual satisfaction through brutal slaughter. And he has forced Tosaka, who has now turned his violent hatred and disdain inward, to become addicted to the drugs as well, and Saeki is observing his victim's physical and mental changes.

The elder twin, Shinji, opposes the ceremony commemorating Detective Tosaka for death in the line of duty, and he decides to pursue his younger brother's case independently. He had been staking out in front of the Kaneshiro-gumi housing building, the behind-the-scenes headquarters of the organ trading market. However, someone from the Kaneshiro-gumi Gang tries to kill him by stuffing him into the building's dumpster, attempting to make the murder appear to be an accident. Shinji escapes from the police hospital and heads directly to Numata's house. A foul stench lingers in the air, and he is shocked to find Numata's wife lying in a pool of urine in the middle of her room. Then, he discovers Yasuda handcuffed in the bathtub. The screams and cries of his wife flash through Numata's mind as he staggers drunkenly down the road.

Shinji puts Yasuda in his back seat and heads towards the Kaneshiro-gumi housing facility. When he arrives at the entryway he sees the one-eyed Yoko, who jumps on the back of her motorcycle and drives off. In the midst of the pursuit Yasuda becomes frightened and begins to panic, and Shinji throws him still handcuffed from his car. He stops in front of a bar in the city's club district when he sees Yoko's motorcycle parked outside, but when he runs inside a group from the Kaneshiro-gumi gang are lying in wait for him.

At the same time, at the police station, Numata has beaten the men who raped his wife to a bloody pulp in the bathroom, and nearly strangled his boss Takagi, who had been working with the Kaneshiro-gumi gang. He learns that Tosaka has been kidnapped and is still alive, and he heads toward the girl's school where Saeki teaches.

Meanwhile, Yoko has run after Yasuda after his escape, and has gone underground below an overhead structure. There she meets the traitor of the Kaneshiro-gumi gang, who kills her companion. Just when he is on the verge of dealing Yoko a finishing blow, Shinji, who has escaped from the mob, hits the man from the Kaneshiro-gumi gang with his car and kills him.

Lead by the school's guidance counselor, Numata breaks into the biology laboratory along with his boss Takagi. However, Saeki's adoptive father, Nakanishi, had carried away Tosaka's body, and the box where he was being held is now completely empty. Numata, who had been suspicious of the counselor's behavior, follows her to the counseling office in a corner of the deathly silent school, where Saeki is quietly huddling inside. Having never seen "Sensei's" face, Numata now observes the situation before his eyes: the sight of the female counselor provokes Saeki's perverse sexual urges, and he slices open her stomach. He has finally shown Numata his true colors. Numata kicks the door down and rushes into the room, then pulls out the knife protruding from the counselor's stomach and stabs it into the smirking Saeki's leg. Looking to exact revenge, Numata taunts Saeki as he suffers, and asks him where Tosaka is. Then, the counselor turns toward Numata and groans that she saw Tosaka dead. Shocked, Numata drops the knife. He leans back on the window in a daze, as if confused and overwhelmed by what she said.

Shinji follows Yoko to the laboratory, where he sees the empty box that held Tosaka. Becoming crazed with wrath, he draws closer to Yoko. Even though she is wounded and on the verge of death, she is concealing a pistol and pins Shinji to the ground. After telling him in brutal detail about what had happened to Tosaka in the wooden box, she shoots him to death.

Numata hears the sound of the pistol, and jumps from the second story window clinging to the female counselor. He crashes to the ground, but just barely manages to survive by using the woman as a cushion beneath him. In the greenroom, Yoko is lying in a sea of blood. It is there that her adoptive father, Nakanishi, appears. He had suffered a serious wound when he had tried to get Yoko out of the Kaneshiro-gumi gang, but he persuades Yoko to atone for her crimes. Refusing to listen, Yoko points the

pistol at her adoptive father and pulls the trigger, but the barrel is empty and Nakanishi seizes the gun from her. Saeki then reveals himself and stabs Nakanishi. Determined to kill Yoko and Saeki, Nakanishi is instead slaughtered by his two foster children. Just as they had done in the midsummer forest long ago, the two embraced each other in sea of blood, each on the verge of death.

The following day: Numata, covered in wounds, slowly crawls down the stairs to the police hospital's underground ward. With a smirk on his face Takagi leads him to an isolation ward, where a completely transformed Tosaka lies wrapped in bandages, like a soft caterpillar. When Takagi leaves the two of them alone Numata approaches the bedside, and Tosaka, who is supposedly unconscious, just barely speaks. "Why? Why? Why am I... Why didn't this happen to you?" Tosaka gazes at the shocked Numata with hatred in his eyes. Frozen with horror, Numata's entire body begins to tremble.

organ

Synopsis

Detective Numata, who is pursuing an organization engaged in the illegal trade of human organs, finds a way to infiltrate the group's secret headquarters. There, he sees the horrific figure of a man having his organs removed while still alive. However, when another detective, Tosaka, makes the mistake of trying to save him, their attempt to infiltrate the organization fails. A one-eyed woman named Yoko sees through their disguise and foils their plan. Numata flees the hideout, leaving Tosaka, who is marred by a large burn, behind. Many days later, Tosaka's dismembered body is stuffed alive into a wooden box in the greenhouse of a girl's school. His body is hidden there by the school's biology teacher, Saeki, who uses the greenhouse as a surgical room where he slices open the abdomens of young schoolgirls. In his pursuit of the organization and his search for Tosaka, Numata visits a middle-aged man named Nakanishi, who had raised the siblings Yoko and Saeki after taking them from their abusive mother, to get information about the background of the two of them. He locates the school where Saeki is hiding, and goes to confront the cursed brother and sister.

organ

EXPLANATION

This began with a mere staff of 7 people. Kei Fujiwara formed the theatre group “Organ Vital” after her other groups, “Monster Theatre” and “Karagumi.” Under her direction, the supporting actors Kimihiko Hasegawa and Takeomi Nasa came together, and in 1994 they started the production of Organ. “We wanted to produce a film as a means of expression, to try and make a movie.” So, the theatre group completed the entire film by hand. The members of the troupe all worked part-time to raise money for the production. Even when they finished shooting and editing, they still did re-shoots and spent over two years to complete the film. They showed a live premier once in 1995 and another in 1996, but still did additional shooting and reorganization to use in the 1996 “Yuubari International Fantastic Film Festival. Again, in the same year, they arrived at the final, completed film with the “long version with extreme violence,” which they submitted at the Tokyo International Fantastic Film Festival. It was a record hit in theatres across the country, and premiered in over twenty film festivals, including the Toronto International Film Festival, Vancouver Film Festival, and London Film festival. Dubbed “The Cronenberg of Japan,” Fujiwara received international acclaim. In regards to the film on which she worked so diligently, the director states in an American interview, “I can’t make it truly perfect, to the point where I’m completely satisfied. It’s still only about 40% there” (FANGORIA #190 2000. 3 Interview excerpt). In the commercially released “Ultimate Edition,” she says that “we cut out some of the excess, and so it’s a bit closer to completion.” Kei Fujiwara’s extraordinary sentiments towards Organ, as the film’s director, are presented here as the Ultimate Edition, giving the film new life so that it may once again take the world by storm!

Organ

KEY STAFF/CREW

Kei Fujiwara (Director)

Actress, Writer, Producer, Film Director

Born in 1957, she studied under Karajuro starting in 1981. She enrolled in "Circumstantial Theatre," and appeared in "The Tale of the Chimney Ghost," "Golden Bat," and "The Tale of Shinji City."

Between 1985 and 1987, she formed "Monster Theatre" with Shinya Tsukamoto, and began her filmmaking career.

Organ

TECHNICAL CREDITS

-STAFF-

Director/Screenplay, Cinematographer, Art DirectorKei Fujiwara
Lighting/ Art Director Kimihiko Hasegawa
Editing/ Sound Supervisor..... Takeomi Nasa
Co-production Yasuyuki MinetaHAL
Music.....VIDEO RODEO
Planning..... Organvital

Organ

TECHNICAL CREDITS

- CAST -

YokoKei Fujiwara
Saeki..... Kimihiko Hasegawa
Numata.....Takeomi Nasa
Aoki Okubo Ryo
Yasuda..... Toujima Shouzou
Yokoyama Yoshiaki Maekawa
Hiroshi..... Yasuyuki Mineta
Onda..... Yugo Sawada