

Twilight Phantom

35mm / 90 min / Color / VISTA/ Dolby Stereo / 2007 Japan

A Film by
Tsukasa Kishimoto

Starring

Maki Tamaru

Shugo Oshinari

Hiyajo Erika

Tokashiki Shogen

Takahi Yuki

Nahana

Distribution Contact: Ko Mori



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STORY

After an unfortunate accident, Misaki visits her boyfriend, Koichi Matsumura in Okinawa, the southern island of Japan. Traveling along the mountain trail, a strange bag hanging down from the fig tree branch catches Misaki's eyes. Upon inquiry, Jinsei and his son Jinta who is passing by explain that the bag actually holds the corpse of a cat. Although quite shocked by the local culture, Misaki forgets everything about the bag when she meets Koichi.

To welcome the arrival of Misaki, Jinsei holds a welcoming party at his house. At the party, Misaki learns from the wise granny about the legend behind the bag hanging from the fig tree and the local demon: Kijimuna, which deeply fascinates Misaki. Knowing that Misaki is entranced by the legend of Kijimuna, Jinsei introduces Misaki to a young female writer Kagemi Hiyajo to tell Misaki the darker side of the Kijimuna at Okinawa. As the local shaman and medium to the other world, Kagemi's knowledge in local lore gives Misaki much more to wonder about.

The quiet life in Okinawa takes a sharp turn with the arrival of Jinsei's ex-wife: Sanae Matsuda. She had lost her mind when she lost her second son in her miscarriage. As a result, she had to divorce and live separately from Jinsei and Jinta. Jinsei who is abhorrent of his ex-wife is outraged to see Sanae at his place. He beats and screams at Sanae when she tries to get close to their son. However, despite the beating and screaming, nothing seems to get through Sanae's head.

In the middle of the night, Sanae approaches the eerie bag with the cat's corpse and cuts it down with a scissor. She then embraces the bag as if it is her own child. Suddenly, something creeps up on Sanae from the tree. However, it is too dark for anyone to tell what it is.

A few days later, Misaki and Koichi visit Jinsei and meets up their friend. While the four are having a conversation, Sanae suddenly shows up. Without any warning, she charges at Jinsei with a scythe. The scene turns into a living hell when Koichi accidentally drives the scythe into Sanae in his attempt to stop her. The four stands dumbfounded in front of Sanae's corpse. They decide to dispose the corpse in the lake to hide their crime.

Although everything played out unintentionally, the guilt of taking a life turns the peaceful life at Okinawa into a nightmare. One by one, the parties involved begin to see the spirit of Sanae with her cold hateful stare. Hideto suddenly disappears and is later found losing his mind at the lake where they dumped Sanae's body. Next comes Jinse, who as if possessed, hangs himself leaving his son. Before long, Koichi and Misaki begins to see Sanae's spirit as well... They decide to go to Kagemi for help and.

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TECHNICAL CREDITS

-STAFF-

Director.....Tsukasa Kishimoto
Executive Producer.....Yoshinori Takazawa/ Tsukasa Oguro
Producer.....Kenro Tsushima/ Tsukasa Ariyoshi
Production.....Macrophage Communications Co. Ltd
Screenplay.....Tsukasa Kishimoto
Director of Photography.....Manabu Oshiro
Editor.....Shogo Morita
Production Designer.....Tomoyuki Hamada
Music.....ji ma ma
Original Story/Novel.....Tsukasa Kishimoto
Hair & Makeup.....Yumi Murata
Casting.....Hirotaka Asano

Director

Tsukasa Kishimoto

Born in Okinawa in 1968. As a student, took the role of assistant director for the anthology feature, "Pineapple Tours" (1992). Later, participated in production of various Indies films. Received the Grand Prix in Hayashi Kaizo Cup for the movie Eijirhythm (scriptwriter, director, editor) in 1993. Also received award at the Japanese Rookie's Scenario Writing Concours with "Sora ni Omou". Moreover, Kishimoto is active as a writer and wrote short novels such as "Anshin" which was published in "Masumasu Kimyo ni Kowai Hanashi Yoserareta 'Taiken'" (distributed by Kobunsha).

Returned to Okinawa in 2002 and worked as a freelance director for local TV shows and CMs. Participated in Indies film, "Boukyakushita Rakuen" (2006) as the scriptwriter, director, and editor. Twilight Phantom is Kishimoto's first full length feature as a director. Some of Kishimoto's future plans include film based off of the net thriller blog, "Search", and another anthology feature based off of works from Yasuo Kawabata (will be directing one of the chapters).

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- CAST -

Misaki Suzuki.....Maki Tamaru
Koichi Muramatsu.....Shugo Oshinari
Kagemi.....Hiyajo Erika
Jinsei.....Tokashiki Shogen
Hideto Kyan.....Takashi Yuki
Sanae Matsuda.....Nahana