



## Fudoh: The New Generation

**Takashi Miike**

**JAPAN, 1996**

99 minutes ■ Colour/35mm

Production Company: **Gaga Communications/Excellent Films**

Executive Producer: **Hiroshi Yamaji**

Producer: **Yoshinori Chiba,**

**Toshiki Kimura**

Screenplay: **Tosiyuki Morioka**

Cinematographer: **Hideo Yamamoto**

Production Designer: **Akira Ishige**

Music: **Chu Ishikawa**

Principal Cast: **Shosuke Tanihara, Kenji**

**Takano, Marie Jinno, Tamaki**

**Kenmochi, Miho Nomoto**

Print Source/Foreign Sales Agent:

**Gaga Communications, East Roppongi**

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Production: **Gaga Communications.**

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Yakuza films rarely get this good. *Fudoh: The New Generation* is an astonishingly violent, beautifully directed and utterly amoral tribute to a new generation of gangsters; it also marks the arrival of a major new talent on the fertile Japanese commercial film scene. Director Takashi Miike elegantly balances epic cinematography with self-conscious transgression and never lets the action stop for a second. He is ably assisted by an excellent cast of unknowns who internalize Takashi's razor-sharp, dark vision.

Ricki Fudoh is a good student and considered a handsome, well-rounded teenage guy. But a nastier side lurks within. He is haunted by the spectre of his dead brother, murdered by his sadistic father, a Yakuza crime lord. Out of a deep lust for revenge, Ricki assembles a gang of killers from his school and begins a series of imaginative and brutal killings of the old school crime bosses. Machinations within the various gang factions create a massive war in which all sides suffer heavy and unexpectedly creative casualties. With the streets in chaos, a final confrontation between father and son is inevitable.

While it would spoil the fun to give away the film's most outré moments – and there are many – a special mention must be made of Fudoh's (teenage) female lieutenant and her zip-lined panties, pea-shooter dagger and quite extraordinary muscle control.

*Fudoh* is full of subtly-deployed visual and narrative quotes. Lead actor Shosuke

Tanihara is a terrifyingly icy presence, reminiscent of Alain Delon's *Le Samourai*, while the film's fetishistic stance around tattoos and quirky sex is all Japanese. *Fudoh* is simply a must-see feast for all devotees of cinema's darkest and most perverse representations.

– Noah Cowan

**Takashi Miike** was born in Osaka, Japan, in 1960. He studied at the Yokohama Broadcasting Academy, where one of his instructors was Shohei Imamura. After graduating, he began to work as an assistant director. In 1991 he began directing his own works, specializing in direct-to-video action films. Films include: *Shinjuku Kuroshakai: China Mafia Senso* (95), *Fudoh: The New Generation* (96).

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