



Soseiji

Gemini

Shinya Tsukamoto

JAPAN, 1999

84 minutes ■ Colour/35mm

Production Company: **Sedic International**

Executive Producer: **Toshiaki Nakazawa**

Producer: **Futoshi Nishimura**

Screenplay: **Shinya Tsukamoto**

Cinematographer: **Shinya Tsukamoto**

Editor: **Shinya Tsukamoto**

Production Designer: **Takashi Sasaki**

Sound: **Kenji Shibazaki**

Music: **Chu Ishikawa**

Principal Cast: **Masahiro Motoki, Ryo, Yasutaka Tsutsui, Shiho Fujimura, Akaji Maro**

Print Source/Foreign Sales Agent: **Sedic International, 505 Hayama Building, Hiroo 1-3-14, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan. T (81-3) 5792-7090 F (81-3) 5792-0937 E sedic@inter.office.ne.jp**

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For Shinya Tsukamoto's many fans, *Gemini* may come as something of a surprise. A costume drama set in the early part of this century, the film has a formal quality surprisingly close to a period melodrama of the forties. On the other hand, it's also a psychopathic twins horror film complete with bizarre murders and a very deep well, conveniently placed for imprisoning the wicked and unlucky.

Dr. Yukio Daitokuji is a successful doctor in a good Tokyo neighbourhood. He lives there with his father, mother and Rin, his beautiful new wife. The couple is happy, even if Rin is plagued by amnesia, denying her access to any information about her past. This mystery is compounded by their sense of being watched ... by something.

Their house is near a slum and a mysterious, rag-wearing man gradually begins killing off the family in increasingly gruesome ways. The terror takes on a new twist when Yukio is attacked and thrown into the dreaded well by a man identical in appearance to him. This man then gradually takes over the good doctor's life while the rightful inhabitant starves at the well's bottom. A battle for control looms.

It is difficult to emphasize how aesthetically different this film is from Tsukamoto's past work. Almost Gothic compositions, a lot of silence and strict attention to classical costume and music give the film an eerily epic flavour. Even the violence is shot in a radically different way, resembling Kon Ichikawa much more than the *Tetsuo* films.

Yet *Gemini* shares many of Tsukamoto's recent preoccupations, especially his fascination, so viscerally expressed in *Tokyo Fist* and *Bullet Ballet*, with male rage and revenge in its most extreme form.

■ **Noah Cowan**

Shinya Tsukamoto was born in Tokyo, Japan in 1960. He studied oil painting during his high school and college years, and graduated from Nippon University in 1982. Internationally recognized as a cult film writer-director, he also regularly works as designer, cinematographer, editor and actor in his own films. Selected filmography: *Tetsuo: Iron Man* (89), *Tetsuo 2: Body Hammer* (92), *Tokyo Fist* (95), *Bullet Ballet* (98) and *Gemini* (99).

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