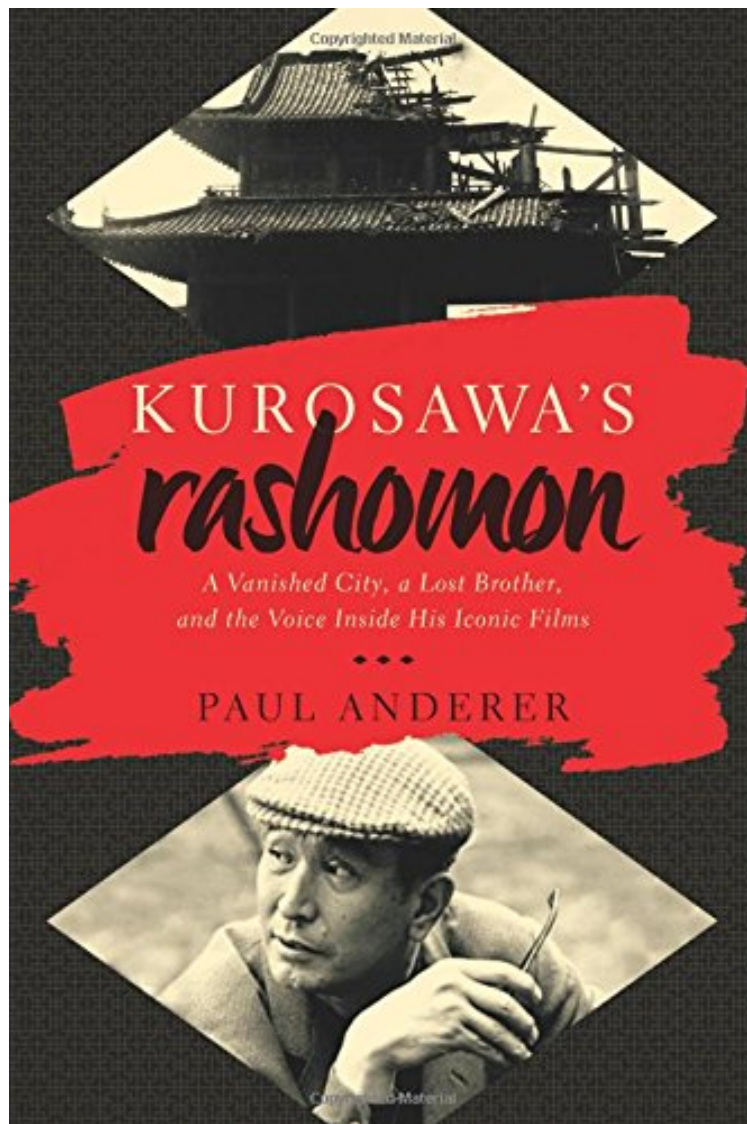


(Free and download) Kurosawa's Rashomon: A Vanished City, a Lost Brother, and the Voice Inside His Iconic Films

Kurosawa's Rashomon: A Vanished City, a Lost Brother, and the Voice Inside His Iconic Films

Paul Anderer

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blessed by the insight, prose, research and knowledge of an author who is bicultural, bilingual, and as well-educated as any person on our planet on not just Kurosawa, but in media, insight and the history of film. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating and uncannily timely By LiteraryTriathlete Fascinating and uncannily timely. Kurosawa's focus on truth and the "crime" of inaction and complicity resonate in our own era. Anderer's revelations with regards to his brother provides a haunting undercurrent. Pre-War Tokyo in the 1920's and 1930's was every bit as dynamic and explosive artistically and culturally as Europe, something I had never realized until reading this book. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Highly recommended. By Customer This is essential reading for anyone interested in Kurosawa's work and the political, cultural and social atmosphere that produced this seminal film. Full of fascinating detail about Kurosawa's personal life and relationship with his brother that will be new even for the most dedicated Kurosawa fan. And for the film buff new to Kurosawa, the book can serve as a helpful, deeply researched introduction to Kurosawa's world, his personal life and the unique moment in Japanese history that nurtured his genius. Highly recommended.

A groundbreaking investigation into the early life of the iconic Akira Kurosawa in connection to his most famous film taking us deeper into Kurosawa and his world. Although he is a filmmaker of international renown, Kurosawa and the story of his formative years remain as enigmatic as his own *Rashomon*. Paul Anderer looks back at Kurosawa before he became famous, taking us into the turbulent world that made him. We encounter Tokyo, Kurosawa's birthplace, which would be destroyed twice before his eyes; explore early twentieth-century Japan amid sweeping cross-cultural changes; and confront profound family tragedy alongside the horror of war. From these multiple angles we see how Kurosawa's life and work speak to the epic narrative of modern Japan's rise and fall. With fresh insights and vivid prose, Anderer engages the Great Earthquake of 1923, the dynamic energy that surged through Tokyo in its wake, and its impact on Kurosawa as a youth. When the city is destroyed again, in the fire-bombings of 1945, Anderer reveals how Kurosawa grappled with the trauma of war and its aftermath, and forged his artistic vision. Finally, he resurrects the specter and the voice of a gifted and troubled older brother himself a star in the silent film industry who took Kurosawa to see his first films, and who led a rebellious life until his desperate end. Bringing these formative forces into focus, Anderer looks beyond the aura of Kurosawa's fame and leads us deeper into the tragedies and the challenges of his past. Kurosawa's *Rashomon* uncovers how a film like *Rashomon* came to be, and why it endures to illuminate the shadows and the challenges of our present. BW illustrations throughout

A well-researched study that is part biography of Kurosawa, part cultural history of modern Japan and part film monograph. Energetic, straightforward, and free of academic jargon. - *New York Times Book Review* A prismatic look at the esteemed filmmaker's life. A sensitive investigation... Anderer also traces other dark forces in Kurosawa's life and the hollowed-out emptiness of postwar Japan. Perceptive insights about the mysterious heart of a legendary movie and its maker. - *Kirkus Reviews* *Rashomon* has become a key word of our time, referring to the impossibility of knowing the truth and instead being confronted with multiple perceptions of what might have happened. Anderer turns that *Rashomon* effect on the film itself, presenting the inspirations and histories that went into its creation, including the pivotal consequences of the youthful double suicide of Kurosawa's beloved older brother and his lover, writer Ryunosuke Akutagawa's original texts, Japanese film history, Kurosawa's films before and after, important collaborators' reminiscences, and much more. - *Library Journal* Paul Anderer offers us not only the spiritual, philosophical, and aesthetic evolution of one of the pre-eminent masters of world cinema but a close insightful analysis of his most seminal and influential film. Lucid, knowing and elegantly nuanced, Kurosawa's *Rashomon* is a pivotal read not only for film makers and film scholars but for anyone who is simply enraptured by the masterworks of this giant of twentieth century culture. - *Richard Price*, author of *'The Whites and Lush Life'* A powerful and deeply engrossing account of one of the greatest artists and greatest films of modern times. Paul Anderer, who wears his learning lightly, deftly brings to life Kurosawa's world, work, and influences. This is cultural history at its very best. - *James Shapiro*, author of *'The Year of Lear: Shakespeare in 1606'* Paul Anderer takes an altogether fresh look at Kurosawa's most famous film, finding its deep wellsprings in catastrophes both public and private. His book gives a rich sense of the turbulent modernist currents and formidable pre-war film culture that nurtured Kurosawa's art, and movingly conveys just how much was at stake in every frame of his greatest works. - *Geoffrey O'Brien*, author of *'Stolen Glimpses'* About the Author Paul Anderer is the author of *Other Worlds: Arishima Takeo and the Bounds of Modern Japanese Fiction*, and *Literature of the Lost Home: Kobayashi Hideo?* *Literary Criticism, 1924-1939*. He has written widely on Tokyo and the culture of cities. He teaches courses on Japanese literature and film at Columbia, where he is the Mack Professor of Humanities. Paul Anderer lives in New York City.