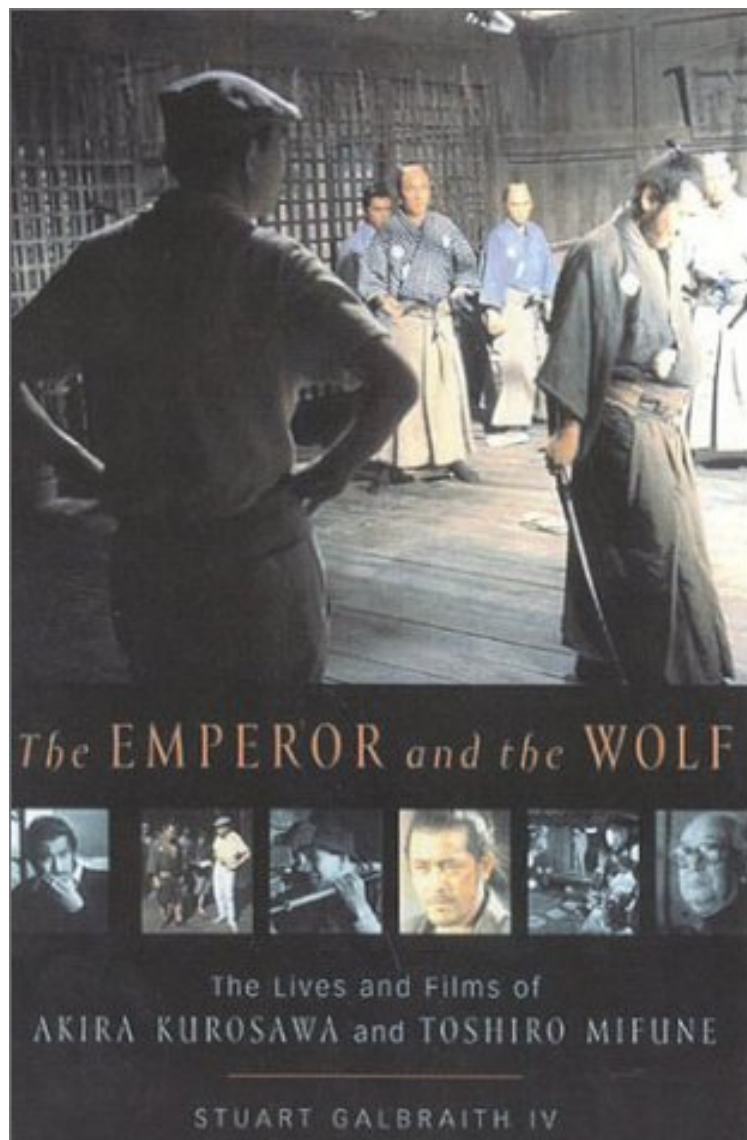


(Free and download) The Emperor and the Wolf: The Lives and Films of Akira Kurosawa and Toshiro Mifune

The Emperor and the Wolf: The Lives and Films of Akira Kurosawa and Toshiro Mifune

Stuart Galbraith IV

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Stuart Galbraith IV : The Emperor and the Wolf: The Lives and Films of Akira Kurosawa and Toshiro Mifune before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Emperor and the Wolf: The Lives and Films of Akira Kurosawa and Toshiro Mifune:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. ReferenceBy Samurai Girl"The Emperor and the Wolf" is a fine reference book, particularly useful in regards to filmography and timeline. The research is exhaustive. I learned quite a bit about the arc of both Kurosawa's and Mifune's careers.If you want more about Kurosawa the man, go read "Something Like an Autobiography". That's a lovely book-I've re-read it recently and felt quite close to Kurosawa as a human being...the book is quite intimate, and I am surprised at how willing Kurosawa is to criticize himself and display his less brilliant moments. I'm afraid to use the word "honest"-since Kurosawa insists we all fabricate. But, it FEELS very honest. It's just too darned bad that there is not a comparable book about Mifune!8 of 11 people found the following review helpful. TediousBy Jose ToledoThe subtitle of this book, The Lives and Films of Akira Kurosawa, is completely deceitful. There is nothing biographical in this book about either one of its main protagonists. It is rather a chronicle of the Japanese film industry, not without interest in itself. However, the voluminous facts, tid-bits of information about every minor actor, director, script-writer, and film composer, as well as the synopsis of every film mentioned, makes for incredibly tedious reading. While the book has its merit as a source of information, not much credit should be given to the author other than for his ability to put together facts that are available from a number of sources. Meanwhile, reading all these capsules of data will leave you dry when it comes to the lives of Kurosawa and Mifune. The author tells us nothing about how they lived, felt, thought, behaved,what motivated them; probably because he doesn't know himself. A simple gathering of public facts, none researched by the author himself because their sources are many and widely available, especially on the internet, do not make for a worthy book!0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. a man who rates Kurosawa and Mifune the greatest cinematic pairing EVERBy CustomerIt was a gift for my groomsman, a man who rates Kurosawa and Mifune the greatest cinematic pairing EVER, he was pleased by the gift, a book he never thought he could get his hands on.

The first -- and long overdue -- English-language biography of two of the world's great cinema figures. Akira Kurosawa and Toshiro Mifune made sixteen feature films together, including *Rashomon*, *Seven Samurai*, *Throne of Blood*, *Yojimbo*, and *High and Low* -- all undisputed masterworks of world cinema. Kurosawa's films inspired blockbuster remakes and influenced directors like George Lucas, Steven Spielberg, Francis Ford Coppola, and Martin Scorsese. Meanwhile, Mifune virtually invented the roaming warrior rogue, a character adapted with great success by actors like Clint Eastwood, Sean Connery, Bruce Willis, and countless others. Their impact on the international film world is undisputable, yet at the very height of their abilities, Kurosawa and Mifune went their separate ways. After *Red Beard* in 1965 they would never work together again -- nor would they ever achieve the same level of success apart as they had together. *The Emperor and the Wolf* is an in-depth look at the life and work of these two luminaries of cinema. Full of behind-the-scenes details about their tumultuous lives and stormy relationships with the studios and each other, it is also a provocative look at postwar American and Japanese culture and the different lenses through which the two societies viewed each other.

From Library JournalAkira Kurosawa dominated the landscape of post-World War II Japanese cinema with such internationally influential films as *Rashomon*, *Seven Samurai*, and *Ikiru*. Actor Toshiro Mifune collaborated with Kurosawa on 16 films, and despite his claim that he was "always true to the Japanese spirit," critics compare his visceral acting style to that of Brando or De Niro. This is a dual biography of two Japanese film greats who brought out the best in each other, and Galbraith (*The Japanese Filmography*) expertly weaves together their stories. As Galbraith recounts, the two men gradually grew apart because of drinking problems, egos, and the collapse of the Japanese film industry. Much space is devoted to Kurosawa's unhappy experience attempting to direct segments of the American Pearl Harbor epic *Tora! Tora! Tora!*, but as Galbraith shows, Kurosawa's overwhelming desire to create led to recovery and a distinguished body of work late in life. Meanwhile, Mifune squandered his talents in a futile bid for international stardom in overblown film and television efforts. This book tells a little-known, sometimes inspiring story and provides an astute reading of major themes in the work of Kurosawa and Mifune. Recommended for public and academic libraries as a companion to Donald Richie's *The Films of Akira Kurosawa* (Univ. of California, 1999. rev. ed.). Stephen Rees, Levittown Regional Lib., PA Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.From BooklistJapanese film director Akira Kurosawa and actor Toshiro Mifune might be thought of as John Ford and John Wayne for the world-cinema crowd. Although both had successes with other collaborators, they are best known for the 16 films they made together, the most famous being samurai-era dramas, such as *Rashomon* and *The Seven Samurai*, and the others including equally brilliant contemporary dramas. Their last work together was *Red Beard* (1965), and they each continued making films for another 30 years, until their deaths, nine months apart. Kurosawa has been the subject of numerous critical works, but no English-language biography predates this book. Furthermore, most of Mifune's 126 features remain unseen in the U.S. Thus Galbraith's dual biography fills two gaping holes in English-language filmography. Unable to meet with Mifune and interviewing Kurosawa only by fax, Galbraith did talk directly with coworkers and family members, and he uses published resources effectively. As one of world cinema's leading figures, Kurosawa is the more important subject here, but the information on Mifune is most welcome, too. Gordon FlaggCopyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "A terrific book, and long overdue: a well-

researched study of how a great director and a great actor fired each other up; an informative history of how high profile Japanese films were received at home and abroad; [and] a surprising genealogy of the modern action hero." -- Christopher Frayling, author of Sergio Leone "A monumental job of research [and] a rare feast for lovers of Japanese cinema infused throughout with an affection for its subjects that is contagious. Best of all, it does what all good film books should do: it returns us, with an enriched appreciation, to the movies themselves." --Peter Biskind, The New York Times Book "[A] splendid dual biography Where [Galbraith] really scores is in illuminating the two men's lives, and the lives of many of their close associates, as well as their work." --The Economist "Galbraith is an obvious enthusiast, and his love and encyclopedic knowledge of Japanese cinema radiate off every page. He is also a sensitive critic of Kurosawa's work who does not make the common mistake of viewing the master's films through a Western prism." --Nicholas Riccard, Variety "Not many film books deserve to have the adjective 'extraordinary' applied to them, but Stuart Galbraith's *The Emperor and the Wolf* is nothing less than that. In fact, it's more this 823-page achievement wants to be all things to all admirers of its twin subjects, and, incredibly, it succeeds. Reference work, scrupulously thorough filmography, exhaustive biography-all are here A graceful, economical writer, [Galbraith] is also a first-rate critic and film historian. [*The Emperor and the Wolf*] is a wonder of clarity and organization, and an enormous pleasure to read [a] magnificent book." --Bill Kelley, The Sarasota Herald Tribune "An important reference work on both men thanks to Galbraith and his inexhaustible research, the stature of both these artists has been reaffirmed." --Bob Leddy, The Providence Journal "An informative, intelligent and carefully considered study of one of the greatest actor-director teams in the history of cinema." --Martin Scorsese