

# Freesia

## KUMAKIRI Kazuyoshi Introduction



Genre: Action & Drama

Format: 35mm

Estimated Running Time: 100min.

Budget:

US\$1,000,000 (HK\$7,800,000)

Funds Secured:

US\$500,000 (HK\$3,900,000)

Producer:

KUBOTA Suguru

Writing Credit:

MATSUMOTO Jiro (comics)

Production Company:

Office Shirous

HAF Goals:

Sales agents, Pre-sales, Funds

Contact:

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Based on the best-selling comics of the same title, *Freesia - Icy Tears* is a futuristic thriller with cult characters. Two professional executioners deprived of the ability to feel will now begin their journey to regain humanity in an action packed thriller with an undertone of sadness and sorrow. Gaining spotlights in various international film festivals with his previous films such as *Antenna* and *The Volatile Woman*, the Japanese new talent Kumakiri Kazuyoshi will helm the project with Kubota Suguru as producer.

### Synopsis

In the near future of a fictionalized Japan under wartime, the ancient "Act of Vengeance" is revived and professional executioners are permitted to kill criminals by the requests from their victims. People who are to be executed are notified of the execution time and date in advance and they are allowed to have their own guard.

Hiroshi, 29, is hired as an assassin at the "Katsumi Vengeance Agency" for his precise shooting skill and his cold calm nature. Hiroshi meets his colleague Higuchi, 24, another agent who has put a hit on a young man named Toshio as Toshio's father has committed an atrocious war crime as a scientist and killed her parents. Hiroshi and Higuchi soon come to rediscover a traumatic incident that they share in their past.

15 years ago, Hiroshi, then a 14-year-old boy soldier, was under survival training in the woods. As he was lost and separated from the troop, he found a certain section of the forest being frozen unnaturally and his colleagues' bodies all piled up in a mountain. This atrocity was the result of an experimental bomb conducted by Toshio's father. Hiroshi also found a lone girl who has survived the bomb and she turned out to be nonetheless Higuchi. After that day, both Hiroshi and Higuchi have lost their ability to feel as a side effect from the bomb's radiation and thus made them perfect candidates for the "Katsumi Vengeance Agency."

Not long, a warrant is also issued for Higuchi herself. Will Higuchi execute Toshio? Will Hiroshi be able to save Higuchi from being executed? But the most important question perhaps is will Hiroshi and Higuchi ever be able to regain their humanity?

### Director's Statement

During the Edo era (A.D. 1603-1867) in Japan, there used to be "Act of Vengeance." *Freesia - Icy Tears* is a drama about the

executioner and the executed set in a near contemporary Japan under the fictional hypothesis that the Act is revived.

The protagonist, Hiroshi, is an executioner hired for revenge. After being involved in an incident that stole his emotions as a human, Hiroshi meets someone with the same burden of fate and restores his once lost humanity. In other words, this is a poignant story of a human's journey regaining his lost ability to feel.

At the same time, this is essentially an entertaining movie. The first half of the film follows the course of the protagonist's journey with action scenes that will leave you breathless. The last half of the film will unfold in a way that you will feel the gradual pain and sorrow of the story as the protagonist recaptures his emotions as a human.

## Director

Born in Hokkaido, Japan, in 1974, Kumakiri Kazuyoshi made *KICHIKU: Banquet of the Beasts* (1998) as his graduation production at Osaka University of Arts and received the semi-Grand Prix at the 20th PIA Film Festival. With a sensational impact, the film soon made its way to the domestic cinemas and turned out to be a big hit. *KICHIKU* participated at the Berlin International Film Festival and won the Grand Prix at the Taormina International Film Festival. Kumakiri then completed *Hole in the Sky* (2001, starring Terashima Susumu) as a PFF scholarship production. *Antenna* (2003, starring Kase Ryo) was his first film adaptation of an acclaimed Japanese novel. *Antenna* gained international attention and was presented at the Venice International Film Festival. His following feature, *The Volatile Woman*, was selected for the 2005 Vancouver International Film Festival. His latest feature is *Green Mind, Metal Bats* (2005).

## Producer

Kubota Suguru was born in Tokyo, 1964. Kubota won the 16th Kido Prize Script Contest for Best Script in Japanese cinema for his screenplay *Kohei's Race* and subsequently made the film in

1992 as his directorial feature debut. After working for several Japanese production companies and as Imamura Shohei's assistant director on several films, he joined Office Shirous in 2000 and has been working eagerly on producing ambitious films.

## Production Company

Office Shirous is a Japanese film production / distribution company founded by its CEO Sasaki Shiro. For over a decade, the staff of Office Shirous consists of film producers who are actively seeking new talents and developing innovative projects in Japan.