

Longer version of Yasujiro Ozu's 'Straightforward Boy' film found



YOKOHAMA--A 16mm film print of an extended version of Yasujiro Ozu's 1929 silent film "A Straightforward Boy" has been found, containing about six minutes of long-lost footage.

A short version of the title edited into a 14-minute film for home viewing is currently housed at the National Film Archive of Japan.

"I was impressed to see scenes staged in a more Ozu-esque style" compared to the 14-minute version, said Hideo Tsukiyama, a professor at the University of Nagano, who also serves as vice chair of the Ozu Network and who discovered the longer version at an online auction site.

The news was announced on May 13 at the Kanagawa Museum of Modern Literature during a special exhibition devoted to the famed director, who died in 1963 at age 60.

"A Straightforward Boy" is the 12th film Ozu directed. It was produced by Shochiku Co.

Loosely adapted from U.S. writer O. Henry's short story, the comedy is about a kidnapper and his minion who find themselves at the mercy of a mischievous child they have snatched.

After playing the child in a freewheeling way, Tomio Aoki continued his acting career under the screen name of Tokkan Kozo in tribute to the original film title and the titular character.

The original running time is believed to be 38 minutes.

The newly found version contains extra scenes omitted from the 14-minute edition.

In one scene, the kidnapper played by Tatsuo Saito struggles to catch the boy. In another, the boy is seen playing with a net in a fountain and breaks into a run when one of the men calls him.

Although it remains undecided if the new version will have a public screening, the professor added: "I hope many fans of Ozu's films at home and abroad will see it."

Long-lost film by special effects wizard behind Godzilla found