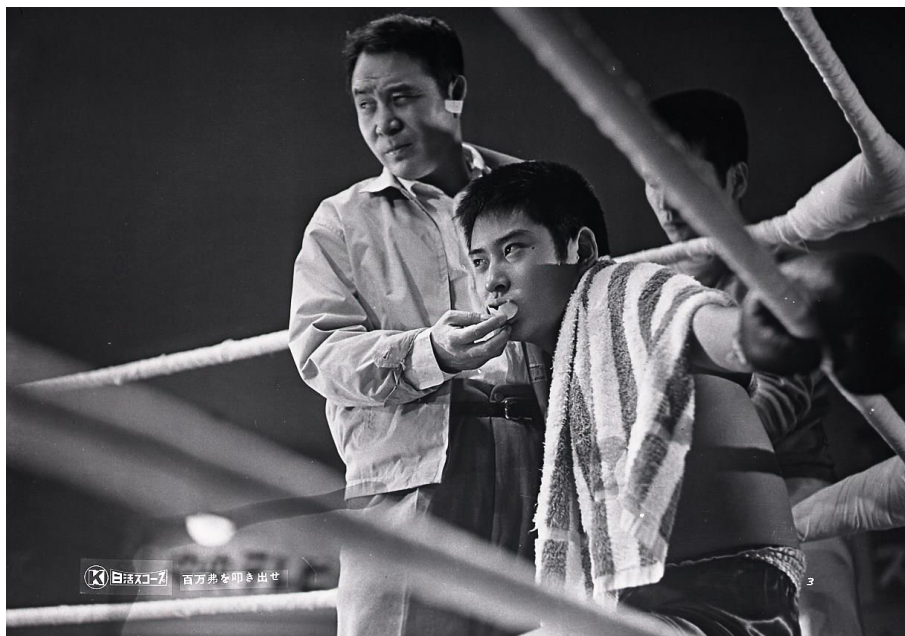


Million Dollar Smash-and-Grab



Director: Suzuki Seijun

Script: Ito Naohachi

Based on a novel by: Yagi Yasutaro

Cinematography: Mine Shigeyoshi

Production Design: Nakamura Kimihiko

Editing: Suzuki Akira

Music: Okumura Hajime

Producer: Ashida Shozo

Cast:

Mitsui Kinji ("Kin"): Wada Koji

Iino Hiroshi: Hirata Dazaburo

Haraguchi Kozo: Kaneko Nobuo

Tomiko, his wife: Watanabe Misako

Yasuda Tokuji: Yamada Goichi

Shimoyama Tokichi ("To"): Noro Keisuke

Koike Yoshiko: Sawa Michiko

Shiraishi: Abe Toru

Kin and his buddy To leave the small island of Hachijo for Tokyo to learn to box. They go to see a match and end up back at the OK Boxing Gym afterwards. As soon as Kin sees the yakuza who run the place however, he leaves. Planning to return to Hachijo, he comes across a boxing gym poster while he is still in Tokyo that says "Pound Your Way to a Million Dollars!" and decides to stay after all, making his way to the advertised Haraguchi Boxing Club. They don't usually accept live-in pupils but Kin convinces Haraguchi who runs the gym to take him on, and he starts training. The gym is a much more modest place than OK, and Haraguchi's significantly younger wife Tomiko is always taking in sewing for extra money.

In the meantime, To has joined the OK Boxing Gym and the gang that runs it. One day when out putting up the "Million Dollars!" posters for Haraguchi, Kin runs across To going around taking them down again. He tells Kin he should join OK, but is refused. lino is far and above the strongest boxer at Haraguchi's gym and one day he gets scouted and plucked away by OK. Hraguchi plans to groom Kin as lino's replacement. Kin passes the test for his boxing license and has his first match, coincidentally with his old buddy To, against whom he wins.

Haraguchi often chides Kin not to use his left fist so much, even though the young boxer is left-handed, and Kin slowly realizes that his trainer has an out-dated prejudice against left-handed boxers. They finally have a confrontation about it which ends with Kin knocking his trainer out cold. After they argue, Kin uncharacteristically goes out drinking with To, and he meets a girl named Yoshiko. Boxing Commisioner Shiraishi disagrees with Haraguchi's method of training Kin and tries to talk him into letting him teach the boxer in his own gym, but the trainer refuses. To stabs lino, who doesn't die but is merely injured. When Kin tries to go see To on his way into jail, Yoshiko intercepts him, seduces him, and they start going steady.

Kin is winning more and more. When To gets out of jail, he is on his way to see Kin at Haraguchi's place when he gets stabbed himself, dying. After his death Kin discovers that To had been in love with Yoshiko, and he breaks off their relationship. Shiraishi finally gets to talk to Kin directly, and the boxer agrees to switch over to the Shiraishi Gym, in order to beat lino in the upcoming champion match. Without a champion, Haraguchi is lonely, broke, and looking for a job.

On the day of the match, Haraguchi shows up and constantly badgers Kin from the sidelines, even though he is no longer his trainer. Telling him over and over again to lead with his right, Kin delivers the knockout punch to win the title with his left fist. After the bout, Kin tells his old trainer that even though he disagreed with his method, it was his presence that brought him the victory. He promises to return to Haraguchi's place in the future and invites him to his victory banquet.