



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MONTREAL WORLD FILM FESTIVAL 2014

**Keisuke Toyoshima's *A Courtesan with Flowered Skin*
to screen as world premiere in World Greats programme**



TOKYO, JAPAN – Japanese director Keisuke Toyoshima's *A Courtesan with Flowered Skin* (*Hanayoi Dochu*) has been invited as an official selection in the World Greats Out of Competition programme of the 2014 Montreal World Film Festival (August 21-September 1). *A Courtesan with Flowered Skin* will screen as a world premiere.

About the Film

A Courtesan with Flowered Skin is based on the award-winning 2006 adult novel by Ayako Miyagi. The spring 2014 announcement of a live-action adaptation with Yumi Adachi in her first lead role in 20 years immediately generated strong interest. Under Keisuke Toyoshima's direction, Adachi delivers a sexually audacious, emotionally devastating performance, completely shedding the wholesome child actor image that's stuck with her throughout her career. *A Courtesan with Flowered Skin*'s charged eroticism and cinematic poetry recall the golden age of boldly passionate Japanese film.

Synopsis

The New Yoshiwara pleasure district in the twilight years of the Edo Period (1860s). Although courtesans have status as entertainers of the nocturnal world they are societal outcasts who dream of being "rescued" from indentured sexual service by a benefactor. Popular courtesan

Asagiri (Yumi Adachi) is known for the flower-like markings on her skin which redden as her arousal swells, yet they symbolize a painful past. Although Asagiri will soon be freed from her service, she can't imagine any other existence. One day at a local festival, Asagiri falls and is helped to her feet by young artisan Hanjiro (Yasushi Fuchigami), who recognizes her clogs' dye work as his own. The fateful encounter changes Asagiri's destiny, with the love she feels for Hanjiro bringing hope for a new life. Hanjiro also happens to be the brother of former courtesan Kirisato, whom Asagiri feels indebted to for taking her in as an orphan. After being bought out by Asagiri's first ever client, Yoshidaya (Kanji Tsuda), Kirisato suffered a mysterious death. Concealing his background, Hanjiro proposes a business relationship with Yoshidaya to get closer to the truth, but when Yoshidaya decides to buy Asagiri's freedom next, it leads to tragic circumstances.



Director's Statement

*"Although this is a Japanese period drama, I'm convinced audiences in Montreal will appreciate **A Courtesan with Flowered Skin's** universal themes of feeling love for another person. I want people to enjoy the fascinating culture of the courtesans in the Yoshiwara pleasure quarter and Yumi Adachi's amazing performance!" - Keisuke Toyoshima*

Yumi Adachi comment

"A Courtesan with Flowered Skin's selection at the Montreal World Film Festival is truly an honour. Making this film was a great challenge in my acting career. I'm very pleased that audiences overseas will be able to see the beauty of Japan and the appeal of our period dramas."

**DIRECTOR KEISUKE TOYOSHIMA IS AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS
OR PHOTO SESSIONS UPON REQUEST**

PRESS & OFFICIAL SCREENING SCHEDULE: TBA

Downloads & Links:

Hi-res Images (4 film images + 1 director portrait, ZIP file, 2.6Mb):
http://www.loadedfilms.jp/downloads/COURTESAN_images.zip

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