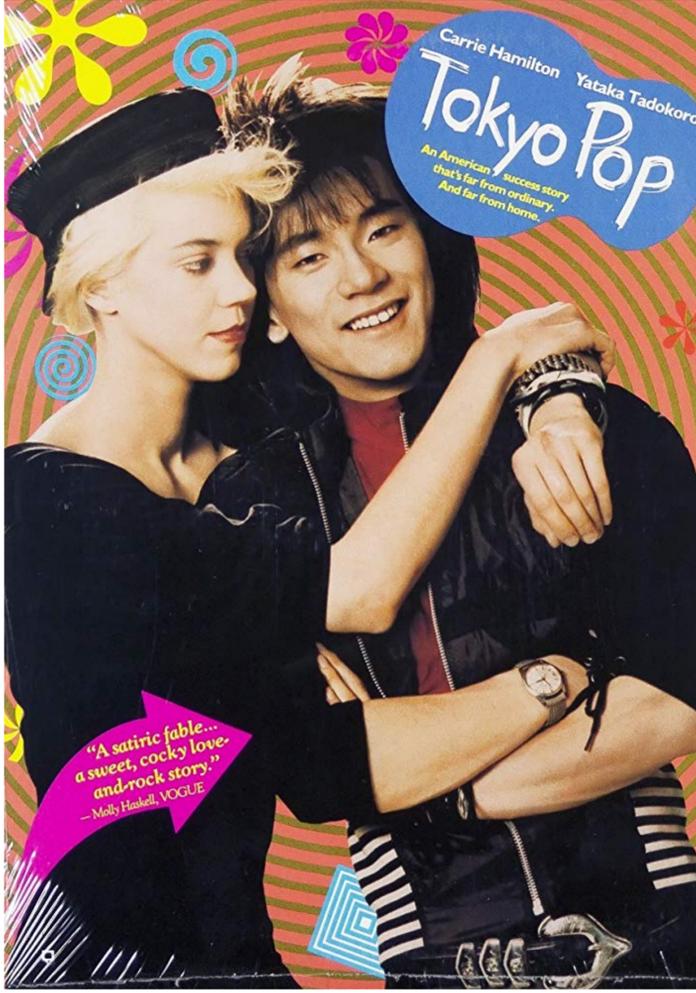


INDIECOLLECT

IndieCollect to restore TOKYO POP (1988) by Fran Kuzui



As Fran Kuzui tells it, once she decided to make TOKYO POP (from a script she co-wrote with Lynn Grossman) it wasn't that hard to pull together the financing from a gaggle of friends and acquaintances. New York's freewheeling downtown artistic community came through and so did Japanese colleagues.

The low budget was a blessing. Her friend Keith Haring contributed artwork for the poster and created the screen titles, famed photographer Bob Gruen showed up to shoot stills, and many others pitched in.



The fresh talents Fran cast as the two leads had never made a movie before. But Carrie Hamilton (the daughter of Carol Burnett) had made a name for herself as a cast member of the TV series, *Fame*. She had a terrific voice and rock 'n roll cred. Rocker Yutaka Tadokoro — now a huge star in Japan — plays her love interest. Michael Cerveris and Gina Belafonte appear in cameo roles.

Great Reviews but a U.S. Distribution SNAFU

As Walter Goodman wrote in his New York Times [review](#):

You don't have to be a fan of rock music to get a kick out of "Tokyo Pop," a wedding of American and Japanese youth cultures as seen through a fun-house mirror...Ms. Kuzui, an American, is married to a Japanese producer (Kaz Kuzui, a co-producer of "Tokyo Pop"), and her savvy about the territory where West meets East gives the movie its rhythm and zing.

A hit at the Cannes Film Festival, the film was licensed around the world. But sadly it's U.S. run was prematurely curtailed when its distributor went bankrupt. To this day, no digital version of the film exists and it can only be seen in a bootlegged version on YouTube. Fortunately, Fran has saved the original film and sound elements so a high-quality restoration will be possible.

TOKYO POP Special Screening at Japan Society

Fran Kuzui traveled from Tokyo to see TOKYO POP for the first time in 32 years on Nov 22, when the Japan Society screened a 35mm print provided by the Academy Film Archive. It was the occasion of a great reunion with friends Lynn Grossman, Bob Gruen, Charlie Ahearn (WILD STYLE), Jane Dickson, and many other fans, myself included.

To hear her very funny and revealing Japan Society talk, click [here](#).



TOKYO POP director Fran Kuzui (in blue scarf) surrounded by fans Charlie Ahearn, artist Jane Dickson, and Sandra Schulberg at Japan Society on November 22, 2019.

Fran's Buffy The Vampire Slayer Made Film & TV History

TOKYO POP's success enabled Fran and Kaz to finance a second movie for her to direct. She discovered a script by Joss Whedon — his first to be produced — and worked with him to develop its female empowerment theme. That movie was *Buffy The Vampire Slayer*. Fran also served as an Executive Producer of the TV series spin-off.

IndieCollect's Forthcoming 4K Restoration of TOKYO POP

TOKYO POP delighted the 2019 crowd at the Japan Society. Its feminist credo rings truer than ever. To get your own glimpse, here are two clips:

[Carrie Hamilton sings "Hiro's Song"](#)

[Original Trailer for TOKYO POP](#)

It will be so fun and rewarding to restore TOKYO POP, bring the movie to new audiences, and put Fran Kuzui onstage again!

Do You Want to Join our Jane Fonda Fund for Women Directors & Restore TOKYO POP?

It's not too late. We still have lots of money to raise, so feel to [join Jane Fonda](#) and her fellow donors. You'll be in great company.

Stay tuned to see list of other exciting films in the scanning queue!

Sandra Schulberg



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